

THE FIFTY BEST BOOKS OF 1896.

The foregoing lists have been prepared with special reference to their adaptability as Summer reading. Many works of much popularity and special utility have been necessarily excluded; the purpose in making the selection was not so much to provide instructive books as to provide those which would entertain.

Of particular interest in connection with these works will be found the list of fifty books prepared by officials of the New York State Library as the result of replies to a circular letter sent to libraries all over the State last Winter. In the special double number of the Review of Books and Art, published on March 27, this list of fifty books was presented. It must be remembered that the voting librarians were restricted to books actually published during the year 1896. Furthermore, they were restricted to a selected list of 480 books sent out with the circular letter. Two hundred librarians made replies, the point in the letter having been: Which were the fifty books out of these 480 most valuable for a village library?

This list of fifty, classified after the plan adopted in the foregoing lists, would appear as in the following grouping. The number before each title indicates the rank of the book as one of the fifty, according to the number of votes. "Sentimental Tommy," which heads the list as No. 1, received 162 votes out of a possible 200, while "Sir George Tressady" (No. 2) received 126.

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

4. Morse, "Life and Letters of Oliver Wendell Holmes."
7. Barrie, "Margaret Ogilvy."
11. Edward Eggleston. "The Beginners of a Nation."
13. E. S. Brooks. "The Century Book of Famous Americans."
14. E. B. Andrews. "History of the Last Quarter Century in the United States."
21. George Saintsbury. "A History of Nineteenth Century Literature."
26. Nora Perry. "Three Little Daughters of the Revolution."
28. H. T. Peck. "Harper's Dictionary of Classical Literature and Antiquities."
29. Andrew D. White. "A History of the

Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom."

33. F. C. Lowell, "Joan of Arc."
34. Woodrow Wilson. "George Washington."
35. Mrs. Earle. "Colonial Days in Old New York."
37. W. J. Rolfe. "Shakespeare the Boy."
43. J. G. Bourinot. "The Story of Canada."
44. P. L. Ford. "The True George Washington."
49. Poultney Bigelow. "A History of the German Struggle for Liberty."

TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE.

31. R. L. Stevenson. "In the South Seas."
36. R. H. Davis. "Three Gringos in Venezuela and Central America."
40. Lafcadio Hearn. "Kokoro: Hints and Echoes of Japanese Inner Life."

NATURAL HISTORY.

30. Mrs. Dana. "Plants and Their Children."
45. E. S. Martin. "The Story of a Piece of Coal."

ESSAYS.

1. H. W. Mable. "Books and Culture."
2. E. L. Godkin. "Problems of Modern Democracy."

POETRY.

8. Kipling. "The Seven Seas."
24. Eugene Field. "Songs and Other Verse."

FICTION.

1. Barrie. "Sentimental Tommy."
2. Mrs. Ward. "Sir George Tressady."
3. Gilbert Parker. "Seats of the Mighty."
5. Hopkinson Smith. "Tom Grogan."
10. Mrs. Wiggin. "Marm Lisa."
16. John Watson. "Kate Carnegie."
18. S. O. Jewett. "The Country of the Pointed Firs."
19. Stimson. "King Noanett."
20. Mark Twain. "Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc."
22. Felix Gras. "Reds of the Midl."
23. R. L. Stevenson. "Weir of Hermiston."
25. F. R. Stockton. "Mrs. Cliff's Yacht."
47. Crockett. "Sweetheart Travelers."
50. G. A. Henty. "At Agincourt."

MISCELLANEOUS.

6. C. M. Skinner. "Myths and Legends of Our Own Land."
9. H. E. Krebbiel. "How to Listen to Music."
12. N. S. Shaler. "American Highways."
15. A. Lang. "The Animal Story Book."
17. D. C. Beard. "Outdoor Games for All Seasons."
27. F. A. Walker. "International Bimetallism."
32. Lyman Abbott. "Christianity and Social Problems."
38. John Watson. "The Mind of the Master."
39. Herbert Spencer. "The Principles of Sociology."
48. M. P. Follett. "The Speaker of the House of Representatives."