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"Rewards and Fairies." By Rudyard Kipling. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1910.

Mr. Kipling here continues his scenes from English history with renewed zeal in inspiring patriotism. Who does not, upon opening any volume of Kipling's now, suddenly recall the amazement with which he greeted twenty-one years ago the "Plain Tales from the Hills." What unabashed audacity, what cocksureness, what verve and vigor and genius the book showed! For a while the pace of popularity kept up, and then something happened. Instead of a young and buoyant genius, a grave and tremendously endowed genius began to send forth books, and the world was disappointed. To remain popular an author must stand still at the point where he caught the world's ear, and Kipling could not do it any more than Shakespeare at fifty could have written "Love's Labor's Lost" or "Much Ado" instead of "Antony and Cleopatra" or "Coriolanus." Mr. Kipling will never quite recapture the first fine rapture of the *Jungle Stories*. These had the inestimable advantage of a single hero to go forth upon adventure and concentrate the glow of the world's envy and admiration. Dan and Una are no more than spectators at the feast in "Puck o' Pook's Hill" and "Rewards and Fairies." England is the hero of the book, a hero too large and too impersonal for the child's mind; nor will the wonder and glow and vitality of the pictures take the place of the personal interest. As a work of art, a poetic sketch of a great personality, "Gloriana" is a wonderful bit of writing, but the romance is that of a subtle woman and does not even touch the fringe of the child's world.

In the songs of this volume Kipling once more wields the pen of the universal genius that he is. All his vigor and his magic go into such songs as the "Carol" at the end of the book, the poem "If," which every English-speaking boy should know by heart, and "The Astrologer's Song," which is not too reminiscent of Swinburne's "Hertha."

All Mr. Kipling's work will live, but it will be students and men rather than children who will be spellbound by the wonderful flashes of England's history done by this supreme genius of his generation.

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." By Mark Twain. Illustrated by Worth Breton. New York and London: Harper & Brothers, 1910.

This imperishable classic of boy-life, which in its buoyancy and vitality appeals to all ages with the same irresistible call as "Le Cid," "Don Quixote" and "Robinson Crusoe," is sent forth in new and beautiful garments for the holiday season. Well bound, printed and illustrated, here is the epic of American boyhood. The outward happenings of Tom Sawyer's life may belong to an order that is passing away, but the eternally renewed heart of a boy lives in the book and gives it a fresh vitality for each succeeding generation. There will never come a time when boys will cease to go forth as pirates and "black avengers of the Spanish Main"; when they will fail to build fires in any accessible cave and play at Guy of Gisborne in Sherwood Forest. The book, now a quarter of a century old and eternally young, reappears year after year, but this is the ideal edition, and has a claim to a place on the shelf with the world's great classics that treat of that imperishable kingdom, the imagination and play-world of the eternal boy.