

## CABIRIA

By VIVIAN AUSTIN.

One of the most picturesque and typical plays of Modern life, that has been presented to us recently is Cabiria. D. Annuzio that great Dramatist, Novelist and Poet, has made this beautiful historical novel so realistic that I feel there is a lesson and a moral to be taken from each character.

One of the greatest mistakes the young people of today make is, they see a play or read a book, they admire the great acting and beautiful scenery, and enjoy the intricacy of the plot, but fail to grasp the motive, or see the moral. We must learn to recognize the fact that in every book we read and every play we see, there is some moral, some lesson we can follow for good or reject and profit by the mistakes we see.

This play especially appealed to me for three reasons. Firstly—We are now living in a time of great wars, and in looking back in the third century and seeing the awful destruction of lives, one Nation fighting against the other for supremacy, away back there before Christ came to show the peaceful way of doing things, I wondered: are we really very far removed from them after all. When we stop to look at the War in Mexico and the great European War it makes you think and think deep. It seems that the only difference is: we have Modern and advanced machinery for taking more lives at one time than they.

Secondly—I was oh! so proud of that great and noble character Maciste, the African slave. He to my mind was the hero. He made me think of one of

those beautiful poems composed by the great Evangelist Mrs. Lena Mason entitled "The Negro always in it." To my mind he was not only in it, but as far as the romance was concerned he was IT.

Then thirdly the things that appealed to me were: How great the power of man has become. How realistic were those beautiful scenes, especially the burning of the beautiful palace of Batto, Cabiria's father. When Mt. Aetna of Catania Sicily erupted the statues of those great Gods that the people served in those days, Apollo, Jupiter, Vulcan and Hercules with their fair consorts Juno, Venus and Minerva were shorn from their pedestalled thrones and humbled in the dust to do homage to the works of the real and only living God, The One Power, The Spirit of Life and Death. It was so typical of human nature to see the slaves of Batto stop to pillage his treasure, when all above and around them were the flames that every moment were coming nearer to destroy them. I wonder are we not just a little like that today? Life uncertain, Sin and Death all around us and yet we are stopping to pillage the earth for treasures here, and fame for the eyes of the world to see. Never stopping to think and see that all these things are fleeting, while Death is sure. First get safe in the true Ark of Safety and if we watch and pray in the right spirit these earthly things will be added according to our needs.

The story showed that these same slaves' prosperity was short lived for they fell into the  
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