

## A GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL.

**"THE** Great American Novel" has rather too close a kinship with the Sea Serpent to warrant a new book's being so termed. But that Mr. Frank Norris's just-published "McTeague" is a Great American Novel is a fact which we feel sure must be realized by any reader with the least feeling for strong, forceful, and sustained writing.

It is largely about a herculean dentist who lives in an "accommodation street" of San Francisco and upon whom the veneer of civilization lies so thin that a series of misfortunes cause him to slough it off altogether. The development of this man's character is quite absorbing in its masterliness. Unusual and daring as is the conception of the man McTeague, he is always convincing and always interesting.

Moreover, every figure in the book *lives*. The old dog-doctor, whose romance with Miss Baker, the little dress-maker, is as delicate as Romance itself in spite of its sordid surroundings; the irresistibly humorous German-American Sieppes, whose thrift has such a dreary development in their daughter; quarrelsome Marcus Schouler;—all these become real people before one's eyes.

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