

*Notable Scottish Trials.* The Trial of Madeleine Smith, edited by A. DUNCAN SMITH, F.S.A. (Scot.), Advocate. Also, in a separate volume, the Trial of the City of Glasgow Bank Directors, edited by WILLIAM WALLACE, M.A., Advocate: Canada Law Book Company, Toronto.

Nearly fifty years ago one of the most remarkable and interesting criminal trials of modern times took place in Edinburgh, the memory of which has not yet passed away. The introductory chapter refers to it as follows: "A strangely fascinating cloud of mystery envelops the tragic and romantic story unfolded in the trial of Madeleine Smith; and to that story, in all its peculiar and distinctive features, it would be difficult to discover a parallel in the annals of our criminal jurisprudence. No criminal cause of modern times has more deeply absorbed the interest and attention of a whole empire; and day by day, during its nine days' progress, the public excitement, throughout Scotland in particular, was intensified, and the fate of the engaging and accomplished girl of one and twenty, whose life hung in the balance, formed the central if not the exclusive topic of current popular speculation."

It is this story that is given us by the Canada Law Book Company in the volume before us.

The other volume above referred to is the Trial of the City of Glasgow Bank Directors. Not so fascinating possibly as the trial of Madeleine Smith, but one which ranks in the estimation of laymen as well as lawyers, as probably the most important trial which ever took place in reference to financial frauds. The magnitude of the crisis brought about by the failure of the bank, the number of homes ruined thereby, the social standing of the directors, and the startling nature of the evidence of the rascality and recklessness of men of social position and religious pretension invested the trial with especial interest.

The disclosures now being made in the United States in connection with some of their insurance companies as well as some unsavoury evidence in a loan company enquiry in this country seem but a faint echo of the ghastly story of the Glasgow Bank failure nearly thirty years ago.

In these two volumes the Canada Law Book Company give most interesting reading for an idle hour or for Vacation. Of this the profession of the Dominion will, we doubt not, largely avail themselves.