

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

gives but a slight hint of the treat in store when he says.

The lovely capital which once reflected the wit and fashion of Europe has fallen into decay. The great streets no more echo with the rumble of coaches and gay chariots, and grass grows where busy merchants trod, stately ball-rooms, where beauty once reigned are cold and empty and mildewed; halls where laughter rang, are silent. Time was when every wide-throated chimney poured forth its cloud of smoke, when every anvil held a generous log—



ROBERT BARR.

Author of "The Adventures of Jennie Baxter, Journalist" The Copp, Clark Co., Limited

andirons which are now gone to decorate Mr. Centennial's home in New York or lie with a tag in the window of some curio shop. The mantel, carved in delicate wreaths, is boarded up, and an unsightly stove mocks the gilded ceiling. Children romp in that room with the silver doorknobs, where my master and his lady were wont to sit at cards in silks and brocade, while liveried blacks entered on tip toe. No marble Cupids or tall Dianas fill the niches in the staircases, and the mahogany board, round which has been gathered many a famous toast and wit, is gone from the dining room.

But Mr. Barr's town house in Annapolis stands to-day with its neighbors, a mournful relic of a glory that is past.

Such is the atmosphere of those ante-Revolutionary days with which this story deals. Of the political tone it may briefly be said that it is not likely to antagonize any true Briton, for the feeling of the writer is not of hatred for the Mother Country but of grief for the blunder of its Ministry, and admiration for those greater spirits whose words of warning were not heeded until too late.

The historical personages are introduced with unusual skill. The minor ones are depicted so lightly and yet so convincingly that we seem to see them before us. But with Paul Jones and immortal Charles Fox it is different. They seem to grow into our very lives. The latter, that precious marvel of England, who but a year before had taken the breath from the House of Commons, and had sent his fame flying over the channel and across the wide Atlantic, the talk of London who set the fashion, cringed not before white hairs, or royalty or customs or institutions, and was then, at one and twenty, Junior Lord of The Admiralty, does

not appear before us as the statesman, but simply as a most brilliant and lovable young man—the leader of a coterie of good fellows, who drank with him, played with him, paid his debts and adored him. It is in short so much more of a romance than a history, it is so very human, in spite of the rank of its characters, that it must appeal to all kind of readers. It is published at the usual price, \$1.25 for cloth and 75c. for paper, and contains several good illustrations.

Of a very different type is Robert Barr's latest novel "The Adventures of Jennie Baxter, Journalist," which The Copp, Clark Co., Limited have had the enterprise to bring out in sixpenny form, with the price to dealers at \$1.20 per doz., and which, on account of the great demand for cheap editions, is certain to have a large sale. Jennie Baxter's adventures are told in an exceedingly bright and racy fashion, and are most interesting. Jennie had tired of doing odd work in connection with various women's pages, and determined to secure a salaried position as a regular correspondent of a certain daily. Her conquest of a most hard headed editor is the first adventure, but those that follow are more interesting. They include the solution of a mystery about a diamond robbery, attending in the disguise of a princess a court ball from which all reporters were excluded, and the baffling of



MISS BEATRICE HARRADEN.

Author of "The Fowler" The Copp, Clark Co., Limited.

the Russian police in a piece of official roguery, all of which involve the most ingenious complications and make an unusually good Summer story.

"The Fowler" seems to have proved to the satisfaction of the majority of critics that Miss Harraden is not a writer of one book, and if one can judge by the way in which it is selling, the public seem to have endorsed their verdict.

"Many Cargoes," by W. W. Jacobs, (paper 50c. cloth \$1.00) is another book

which should sell this Summer. The highly original vein of humor which these stories contain is irresistible, and their variety is as marked as their originality.

In the second edition of "The Span o' Life" the publishers have produced a very creditable volume with a gilt top and deckle edge. We suggest that this improvement might be well made in all the \$1.50 novels, thereby distinguishing them from the regular \$1.25 cloth edition.

"The Great Company," Mr. Beckles Willson's book on The Hudson's Bay Company is not yet off the press, and so nothing can be added to what has already been said about the undoubted value of this work.

ENGLISH PUBLISHING NOTES.

From a correspondent.

Miss Kate Warren's transcription into modern prose of a part of Langland's "Vision of Pier's Plowman" passed into the second edition, which Mr. T. Fisher Unwin issued on June 19. Miss Warren has endeavored to bring it into touch with the latest scholarship. Perhaps, a good many people are honest enough to own that they can't take to Chaucer for the simple reason that bobbing about perpetually with a glossary distresses them. The *raison d'être* of such intelligent transcriptions is thus pretty clear.

"An Obstinate Parish" is the title of a new novel by Miss Maria L. Lord (Sydney Christian), which Mr. T. Fisher Unwin published on June 19. The author, who will be remembered for some novels entitled "Sarah," "Two Mistakes," etc., which have received favorable notice, condemns neither creed nor observance, and is, apparently, quite uncrotchety. But, when a congregation doesn't care about religion, and a priest is set over them who is an "ignorant shepherd" there is no prejudice shown in the assumption that unpleasant occurrences will take place. And they do. But the moral blame mainly attaches to the laymen, especially to the paterfamilias.

Mr. Lecky, the eminent historian has written from the House of Commons complimenting Mr. T. Fisher Unwin on his latest venture, "The Overseas Library." Says Mr. Lecky: "They are charmingly printed and the idea seems to me a very good one."

The volumes of the "Story of the Nations" are never out of print; they slide quietly from one edition to another. The second edition of "The Crusades: The Story of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem" is now announced. The authors are Mr. T. A. Archer and Mr. Charles Lethbridge Kingsford, and they wind up with a regret that Fate gave France a Louis the Treach-