

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

provincial Methodism. Elizabeth becomes a rich woman and "takes in" in due course both Art with a big A and Society with a big S, and there's a scene on the river describing an aristocratic picnic which is one of the brightest scenes in the records of fiction. The book contains everything from comedy to religion, but the golden thread of consistency in human nature runs through it all. It goes without saying that the success of this book in Canada is assured. Cloth, \$1.50; paper, 75c.

"Phenomenal" is the adjective that is being used on all hands with regard to "To Have and To Hold." The Critic publishes this month a big batch of reports from circulating libraries in Canada and the United States, from all the principal centres of population east and west, north and south. With one exception, this book is given the place of the most popular novel, while the progress of the book since publication is, perhaps, more astonishing than any in recent annals. In one week it reached 75,000; in three weeks 100,000; in six weeks 150,000, and, on Saturday, April 28, the tenth week from publication, it had made the record of 200,000 copies. No book that we can remember has sold quite so rapidly from the very commencement, for, though "David Harum" had a record sale, it was not so well developed from the very start. It now looks as though Miss Johnston's great novel would sell very freely, not to say tumultuously, through the entire summer. At present the latter adverb is descriptive and the telegraph wire is being kept hot with orders.

It was thought when "Resurrection" was first issued in this country that Tolstoy's great book would hardly hit the Canadian taste. The first edition was, however, sold in two weeks, and another had to be prepared, which is being taken up with great rapidity. The fact is that, in this and previously mentioned books, there is considerable quality and massiveness, and the public recognizes their greatness. There is a considerable difference between the entertaining novel which can be read in an evening and that fades from the mind of the reader like a cloud from a summer sky, and the book that touches the depths of human nature and introduces us to characters and scenes with which the reader feels that he has an organic and vital connection.

This quality is also manifest in Mary Johnston's other novel, "Prisoners of Hope," also listed by Morang & Co., inquiry for which has been much stimulated by the great success of the author's later book.

The name of A. Conan Doyle is one that always arouses grateful feelings in the

hearts of novel readers of to-day, and his collection of stories under the name of "The Green Flag" is not by any means a disappointing one. On the contrary, many of the stories have a dash and virility that lift them out of the common ruck of such productions. In fact, some of these tales may be truthfully described as among the best examples of the present day in that kind of literature.

THE COPP. "Joan of the Sword Hand" CLARK CO.'S BOOKS. has had large sales, and is quite up to the publishers' highest expectations.

It is said to be the best book Mr. Crockett has yet produced. A strongly written historical romance, it comes in refreshing contrast to the cloying character-dissection to be found in many modern novels. The scene is laid in the sixteenth century, before the days of chivalry had waned. Joan, the only daughter of the Duke of Hohenstein, at his death becomes ruler of the duchy—not only in name but in fact, leading her soldiers in the field, and so skilful with her blade as to win the title of "Joan of the Sword Hand." The Amazonian Duchess becomes pure womanly and yields to the tender passion. The edition is plentifully illustrated, generally a well-made sample of the book-maker's craft.

Mr. Ernest Seton-Thompson, author of "Wild Animals I Have Known," is a Canadian whose fame is wide. His latest work, "The Biography of a Grizzly," is one of the finest pieces of writing he has ever done. The "biography" reminds one forcibly of Kipling's "Jungle Stories." One feels that if a bear could write he would write just in that way. The Copp, Clark Co. have produced a work which is in all respects a very beautiful specimen of the book-making art. The illustrations—75 of them—by the author-artist, are as good in their way as the text is. In reading his biography you grow to love that great grey grizzly, Wabbi, whose life-story is so affectionately and faithfully told by Mr. Thompson, from that night—the first after Mother Grizzly's death, when the forlorn little cub crawled into a hollow log, and tried to dream that his mother's huge arms of fur still encircled him, and he "snuffled himself to sleep"—until, at the end of his eventful life, he bravely entered Death Gulch, where, on the "rocky herbless floor," he lay him gently down and passed into a possibly dreamless sleep. Mr. Thompson appears to suggest the probability of suicide in the animal world. Would you thus interpret the closing chapter of the Biography?

"Sophia" will be picked up eagerly at the bookstores by all admirers of Stanley Weyman. The story is delightful reading,

the plot laid in a time when men and maidens were yet picturesque in powdered wigs and courtly manners. The appointed heroine, Sophia Maitland, is an heiress, and, of course, has suitors for her hand. Two stand out in the foreground—an honest suitor, a noble gentleman who milady is late in appreciating, and a villain to tangle the threads, bringing difficulty and danger to all in his path. It always increases the interest of a book, if there is anything in it to cause discussion. So with this book of Mr. Weyman's. Sophia's right to the heroineship has been questioned by critics, daring to say that the author erred in not calling the novel in honor of Lady Betty, who they believe to be the more-deserving character.

Talking of controversies, what endless argument has been aroused, since time began, by the discussion of that old story of Adam and Eve. The interest in it never grows dull, each new comment upon the subject being eagerly listened to. Blanche Willis Howard, author of "Gwenn," and "One Summer," has recently modernized that first romance of Paradise in her new novel, "The Garden of Eden," interpreting the facts to fit present century environments. The story is a pretty and most interesting love story, yet containing much for the thoughtful, involving as it does, vexed social and moral questions which are treated with a masterly hand and with great refinement of touch. This book is one of the latest from the Copp, Clark publishing house, and is very attractive in appearance, with fine paper and clear type.

There is deplorably little humorous fiction, that is, humorous yet clean. Booksellers complain of this. They are constantly being asked for it, yet have not much to conscientiously give in response. Therefore, they will be grateful to Jerome K. Jerome for his "Three Men On Wheels" brought out by Copp, Clark Co. this week in Toronto. "Three Men in a Boat," by the same author, still lingers in the minds of many as one of the most cheerfully entertaining books of recent years. Equally good for reading aloud is this other book, "Three Men On Wheels," relating later chapters in the lives of the same three men whose acquaintance was so pleasantly made in Jerome's former fiction. Its contagious humor carries you to the heights, above the dull routine and care of daily life. It is an effective brain tonic, the like of which no physician can administer.

Mr. W. W. Jacobs is also a delightful humorist, already surrounded with a host of friends for having written "Many Cargoes" and "More Cargoes." His new book, "A Master of Craft," is full of purest fun, and will be hailed from afar by the healthy-