

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

The rascally brother and timid sister, the British scoundrel who loves her, are subordinated to Philip, who is described as the American Bayard. Among them the various characters discuss the Whig and Tory arguments very freely, presenting both strongly, and it is only justice to say that no author who has attempted the work has treated the two parties with greater impartiality."

The Canadian edition of Joseph Hocking's new story, 'The Purple Robe,' is announced as ready. The Birmingham Gazette, in reviewing the book, says: "It is a grand book, brilliantly clever, absorbingly interesting, and absolutely convincing. Mr. Hocking has written many powerful novels, but 'The Purple Robe' exceeds them all."

Mr. A. W. Marchmont's latest novel, 'Madeline Power,' will add to that writer's reputation. Mr. Marchmont is particularly happy in his delineation of character. This story is one that will hold the attention of the reader from the first to the last. It should be one of the popular Summer novels of the year.

"Enoch Willoughby," by J. A. Wicksam, is another claimant for popular favor. It is a story with an historical background. The human element pervades it with great intensity. The characters are well drawn, and it is full of interesting and exciting incident.

It is some time since Miss Corelli, who, in point of popularity, belongs in the front rank of living writers, has written a long novel. It is, therefore, safe to say that her new story "The Master-Christian," will have an extraordinary sale. This is said to be a serious novel in her earlier manner, and it is predicted by those who are in the author's confidence, that it will be as absorbing and as popular as anything which she has ever written.

Anthony Hope's new story, "Quisante," is not to be published as a serial. The author prefers that it should find its first publication in book form. It will be placed on the market during the coming Autumn. It is said to display the versatility and strength of the author in a decidedly new light.

In "The Isle of Unrest" Mr. H. S. Merriman returns to the more virile strength of "The Sowers," and has given us a thrilling story of life in Corsica and Southern France. It is a particularly picturesque tale of adventure, and is bound to be one of the popular books of the year.

The publisher reports large advance orders for Dr. Bryce's work, "The Remarkable History of The Hudson's Bay Company." The book will be ready early this month. It is a large, handsome volume, demy 8vo,

with 32 full-page illustrations and maps. The cover design is very handsome and appropriate, the British flag in colors, surmounted by the company's arms.

Mr. Fitzpatrick's "The Transvaal From Within" has had, perhaps, the most remarkable sale of any book in recent times. No less than 530,000 copies have been sold. This would be a phenomenal sale for a popular novel, and, when it comes to a book of sober history, it shows that the book is one of exceptional merit and strength. The Canadian publisher has added to his last edition an important prefatory chapter by the author dealing with the immediate causes which led up to the present war.

Not a little interest has been created in the collection of the poems of Alexander McLachlan, published last month. With the exception of Lampman's book, which preceded it by about a week, this was the first complete collection of the poems of any Canadian writer. McLachlan may be called the father of Canadian poetry, as he was one of the earliest and truest of our singers. His book must find its way into every Canadian library, public or private, that is intended to be inclusive of the best of Canadian books. The publisher has done his work well, and has turned out a very attractive volume.

"The Redemption of David Corson," by Charles Frederick Goss, has met with a remarkable reception in the United States. Six editions of the book were printed within two months. The Canadian edition is now ready, and the publisher, William Briggs, reports heavy advance orders from the trade. No book of recent issue has had more flattering notices than this. Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, of Brooklyn, when he read it, telegraphed his appreciation to Mr. Goss in these words: "Have just finished 'David Corson' with wet eyes and weeping heart. My warmest congratulations." In a further review he writes:

"The historical novels, like 'To Have and To Hold' and 'Richard Carvel,' have their limitations, clear and sharp, and are easily placed. But it is not easy to classify such a story as 'The Redemption of David Corson.' Perhaps we shall understand the scope, the strength, and charm of this book the better if we contrast it with 'David Grieve,' or 'Tess of D'Urbeville,' or the 'Damnation of Theron Ware.'

"Mrs. Humphrey Ward portrays David Grieve as the child of artless beauty, clothed with fascination. Like David, that other shepherd boy, he marches forward with his flute, singing as he leads his flocks. Then, like David of old, he leaves the sheep cote

and enters that stage named the city. But passion and sin come in to mar his life. Soon, like the singers in Haydn's Symphony, one by one the joys go out, until the last singer drops his harp, the stage is empty, and darkness and desolation reign supreme. 'Tess of Urbeville' represents life as a comedy, with which Zeus & Co. amuse themselves. Tess, the child of a great family, represents an apple tree that, strangely enough, is found growing in a forest of tangled thorns and briars. Thomas Hardy breaks off one bough of apple blossoms, thrusts it into an oven, and, when the bough is baked and parched, exhibits the result. Therefore, we expect the last word of the book to be the picture of Tess hanging on the scaffold, 'the president of the Immortals having brought to an end his sport with Tess.' Frederick Harold's 'Theron Ware' is a youth carrying a flaming torch, representing the noblest ideals of life and service. But the torch is unfed, uncared for, and burns lower, until it seems like a feeble taper, and at length the flame flickers, trembles a moment, then dies out in the socket forever.

"Now, our age has grown weary of these studies in pessimism and degeneration. Our people want to see the clusters on the tree of life, but our generation wants a David Corson, with the clusters ripening, instead of a Jude the Obscure, with the clusters rotting upon life's bough. At the psychological moment comes 'The Redemption of David Corson.' It strikes a strong, healthy, buoyant note. If there are stormy elements in the scene, there is also a bow of promise in the black cloud. If there is the life-long story of human frailty and trouble, there is also victory over trouble. If this youth and maiden finally eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and are driven out of the paradise to wander amidst thorns and thickets, they soon revolt from the thorny path, and, leaving the desert, they turn eagerly back towards the lost Eden, and, in the cool of the evening, they find again the old paths that lead to happiness and peace. This Quaker boy enters the scene clothed with the fascination that only the strong possess. He dreams, he sings, he sees visions of the future, he is tempted, he loves, he hesitates, he sins, he falls, he wakes with a shock of horror, he climbs slowly upward upon the rounds down which he descended, he conquers our admiration and our love."

The MacDougall, McKen Co., Limited, has been formed with a capital of \$40,000 to carry on a wholesale and retail business in books, stationery, wall paper and fancy goods in Halifax. The principals of the new concern are A. Roy MacDougall, formerly with J. S. Patillo & Co., Truro; George K. McKen, Windsor; Alexander H. Hatfield, Bedford; Herbert MacDougall, Truro, and A. L. McKen, Windsor. The new firm will open on Barrington street, Halifax, about July 1.