

## BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

THE COPP, CLARK CO.'S BOOKS.

That Dr. Goldwin Smith's "United Kingdom" is the most important book of the month goes without saying. It is really the literary event of the year; in fact, of several years. In the mad rush for fiction, many serious writers of infinitely greater ability are scarcely known to the reading public. But Dr. Smith's nom de plume of "By-stander" is familiar to the whole Dominion, and any article on current events which appears over it is eagerly read by all thinking people. And this fact greatly adds to the value of his work from the bookseller's point of view, while the space which the daily press has devoted to comments on it and extracts from it proves that it is considered "hot stuff." The opinion of the English press will be awaited with interest, but without trepidation, for, throughout the English-speaking world Dr. Goldwin Smith's name stands as one of the greatest, probably the greatest, of the masters of English literary style. There can be no doubt that this is Dr. Smith's life work. How long he has been engaged upon it is not generally known, but it is certain that he has spared no pains to secure accuracy of information, while his style has been polished to the utmost degree of fineness. And the boldly drawn pictures of kings and statesmen, the calm analysis of great movements, the flashings of the searchlight of a great intellect upon the life of the nation, with an occasional touch of humor or of sarcasm, make it difficult to lay down the book until the last page is reached.

Both "The United Kingdom" and Mr. Beckles Willson's "Great Company" are sure to be in large demand at the Christmas season by that class of bookmen who desire something of more permanent value than the latest novel or a pretty book of verse for presentation purposes. However, even the publication of these two notable books will probably not place The Copp, Clark Co. as high in the estimation of the bookseller as the prominent position which their novels are taking among the best-selling

books. "Richard Carvel" having held first place for three successive months, is now equalled in popularity by "Janice Meredith," another of this firm's publications, a book which, besides its undoubted literary merit is in great demand at this season on account of its attractive appearance, with the dainty tinted miniature of the fair Janice on the cover. The publishers also consider it of sufficient importance to



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warrant the publication of a very handsome two volume edition, containing 58 illustrations by Howard Pyle and his pupils, and 14 reproductions of old prints, etc., and two colored miniatures, the price of the set being \$5.

Fifth on the list of best-selling books comes Egerton Castle's "Young April," a romance as fascinating as it is impossible. The New York Tribune very aptly says of it: "In his first chapter the author strikes a note of happy youth, of sunny experience, of sweet sentiment, and to that note he is

faithful to a degree extremely rare in contemporary fiction. The life of his hero, during one short month, is caught up in a glamor of love and loveliness, a glamor too perfect to last for more than that brief space of time. Mr. Castle contrives to keep it unblemished for the reader by the exercise of an art that is as self-possessed as it is subtle. The style is in keeping with the spirit of the book, being graceful and vivacious, the fitting vehicle for the expression of fleeting sensations, tenderness, gallantry and wit. The aim of the writer would appear to have been to make everything in his book contribute to one rare impression of exquisite romance. Such an impression

he unquestionably conveys. He has painted youth in all its chivalry and ideality, and has preserved its delicate bloom to the end, only deepening its magical effect by the epilogue in which he touches on its poignant place in the recollections of maturity."

F. Marion Crawford's latest novel "Via Crucis," a tale of the Second Crusade, is really a strong piece of fiction, and gives its author ample opportunity to draw upon his vast knowledge of men and events in the time depicted. The 12 illustrations, by Louis Loeb, are beautifully done and make it one of the handsomest volumes of the year.

Both "The Scarlet Woman" and "Ione March" are having large sales. The Americans, of course, refuse to recognize the type of American girl in the latter work, but they are none the less entertaining.

The Copp, Clark Co. expect to have on the market, by the time this issue reaches its readers, three new books now on the press. They are "Signors of the Night," a volume of Venetian stories, by Max Pemberton, author of "The Garden of Swords," "Kronstadt," etc.; "Old France and New," a collection of 17 short stories on the French Revolution and on the French-Canadian and his surroundings, by Wm. McLennan, author of "Spanish John," "The Span o' Life," etc.; and a new novel by Guy Boothby entitled "The Red Rat's Daughter." The Red Rat is a celebrated diamond thief, and his supposed daughter, Katherine, is the heroine. The plot centres around the love story of Katherine and John Grantham Browne.