

LAURENCE OLIPHANT's forthcoming novel, "Masolam: a Problem of the Period," is said to deal largely with a class of subjects in which he shows an increasing interest. The "problem" of which Mr. Oliphant treats is "psychometrical," and in the view that he takes of phenomena which have engaged the attention of Spiritualists, Esoteric Buddhists, and the members of the Psychical Research Society, he differs, so far as the *Athenæum* has been able to gather, from them all.

WILLIAM BLACK has completed a new novel, the chief scenes of which are laid in London and Brighton. "The story," says the *London Academy*, "deals in some measure with artistic life in the metropolis, while one of the characters is of a sporting turn, and a good deal of racing is introduced. The heroine, Sabina, whose name gives the title to the story, is the daughter of a rich M. P., who quits her father's house and lives in lodgings, so as to devote hereelf entirely to labour among the London poor."

RICHARD BENTLEY & SON, London, will issue in October next Mr. George Augustus Sala's Autobiography.

ELEANOR MARX AVELING has translated into English Lissagary's "Histoire de la Commune." For this work the Socialists make claim that is the only authentic account of the Commune.

THE niece of Thomas Carlyle, Mrs Alexander Carlyle, dissatisfied with Mr. Froude's work as her uncle's literary executor, entrusted all the Carlyle papers to Prof. Charles Eliot Norton, of Harvard College. To dispel the false opinions of Carlyle's nature and temper, which he thinks were misrepresented by the course which Froude followed, the American editor has published two volumes of Carlyle's correspondence, and now completes his work by a collection of his personal reminiscences of Carlyle, and an arraignment of Froude. The temper of the article, which is in the *New Princeton Review*, is calm and judicious, and sets forth Carlyle in a light which will be new to many. It is believed that Mr. Froude must either produce facts not generally known or suffer greatly in reputation for candour and literary honesty.

[A large number of the items under this heading are from exchanges, and, being so small, credit is not always given to the journal from which they are taken. The greater number this month are from the *Publishers' Weekly*.]

THE FAR WEST.

Two Toronto men, the one on business solely intent, the other with a view to pleasure as well, have lately returned from a trip to British Columbia. The latter referred to, W. Williamson (Williamson & Co.), speaks enthusiastically of the resources of our extreme western province—the large variety of minerals, the forests, as yet hardly explored, and the inexhaustible fisheries—which will be rapidly developed now that direct and rapid communication is opened up. He speaks of our trade as being well housed in commodious stores, and doing a good business. Prices

have been high, thus enabling the old houses to be fairly well off in this world's goods. The visitor on his way home went south through Southern California, where he found his old acquaintance, Alfred Piddington, hale and hearty among his grape vines.

P. T. Perrott, of the Barber & Ellis Co., was the man on business intent. He coincides with the views already given of the Pacific Province, believing that it has a great future. On his way back he stopped, among other places, at Calgary, which he prophesies is to be the metropolis of the North-West.

Surrounded by a magnificent country, it has every advantage, except frosts a little too early; it will be a rival of Winnipeg for commercial prosperity.

He was the first commercial traveller, in any line, to go through to British Columbia by rail, travelling the 400 lines west of Donald, part of the way in a cabasse, the remainder in a hand-car.

Just now there does not appear to be any opening in our trade in British Columbia, except possibly in a small way in some of the new towns up country on the mainland. Therefore, he who imagine that far off lands are but to be tried and wealth will flow, should act with caution.

OVER THE BORDER.

The seventh annual meeting of the Booksellers' and Stationers' Provident Association was held in New York early in June. A favourable report was presented, showing present membership, 855. The good health of the members is shown in the fact that only one died during the year. C. T. Dillingham and Andrew Geyer were re-elected president and secretary respectively.

There is a likelihood of the establishment in New York of a Business Men's Club for members of the publishing and bookselling trades.

Books for summer reading are very plentiful. Some of the best works of the most popular authors, such as Crawford, Warner, Aldrich, Lowell, and Mrs. Oliphant, are being republished in cheap and attractive form.

The Wall Paper Pool has been reorganized for another year, notwithstanding the objections and threatened withdrawal of one or two prominent members.

The Newsdealers' and Stationers' Association of the United States assembled at Chicago on the 15th instant.

The question whether or not to use Mr. on visiting cards is being talked of. *Geyer's Stationer* asks how plain John Smith and wife would suit the ultra democracy.

THERE is great complaint in Germany that members of the trade will give more than ten per cent. to the buyers of books. Combinations are being effected to stop the practice, but, as in England such attempts have always failed, there is not much chance of success.