

CURRENT NOTES—Continued.

Increasing sale of novels, it is sometimes feared that the limit will soon be reached. But it must be remembered that the taste for fiction is becoming more and more pronounced every year. If there are more novels produced, there are more readers to buy them. The bookseller need not have much fear of stocking too heavily in novels, if he selects well and keeps in close touch with his customers. A recent feature is the issue of novels by Canadian writers. Some of these are well written, and there is no reason to doubt that in time a school of Canadian writers of fiction will spring into vigorous life.

A rather notable thing about fiction during the last two years is that several United States writers have competed for popularity with British writers. Even in Canada some of the most successful of recent novels have been by American writers. This indicates a certain amount of similarity in the tastes of Canadian and American people. By noting the kind of book in this class which has been successful, the dealer will know whether or not to believe the partiality of the United States papers for their own writers.

Another matter which the trade cannot fail to note is that the giving of books at holiday time for presents, both in the family and to friends, is very much on the increase. There has also come into vogue the practice of buying small Christmas booklets, prettily bound in cloth, and retailing all the way from 25 to 75c., for Christmas gifts. The larger sales of expensive books, to which reference has been made, may not impress some dealers who feel their trade does not warrant the purchase of expensive books. They should, however, keep in mind that costly books or sets can be sold by booksellers who are willing to accept payment by instalment. There is no reason why the instalment system should be monopolized by the subscription book men altogether. It can be made to work well by the ordinary city or town dealer who has a personal knowledge of his customers and can afford to trust them. The lists of Canadian publishers whose announcements for 1900 contain a number of interesting works, the description of which the dealer will do well to read.

BEST SELLING BOOKS.

Reported by Leading Members of the Trade for
THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER.

*** These lists are of value in showing what books are selling in various large centres of Canada. The following lists are for the month of August.

TORONTO.

1. "The Heart's Highway" (Wilkins).
2. "The Redemption of David Corson" (Goss).
3. "Boy" (Corelli).
4. "Fables in Slang" (Ade).
5. "Unleavened Bread" (Grant).
6. "The Master Christian" (Corelli).

OTTAWA.

1. "The Reign of Law" (Allen).
2. "To Have and To Hold" (Johnston).
3. "Prisoners of Hope" (Johnston).
4. "The Redemption of David Corson" (Goss).
5. "The English in Africa" (Miller).
6. "History of the H. B. Company" (Bryce).

MONTREAL.

1. "Boy" (Corelli).
2. "The Heart's Highway" (Wilkins).
3. "Three Men on Wheels" (Jerome).
4. "Robert Orange" (Hobbes).
5. "Unleavened Bread" (Grant).
6. "The Reign of Law" (Allen).

HALIFAX.

1. "By the Marshes of Minas" (Roberts).
2. "The Redemption of David Corson" (Goss).
3. "A Bid for Fortune" (Boothby).
4. "Jewel Mysteries I Have Known" (Pemberton).
5. "Little Anna Mark" (Crockett).
6. "The Garden of Eden" (Howard).

WINNIPEG.

1. "The Reign of Law" (Allen).
2. "Boy" (Corelli).
3. "The Redemption of David Corson" (Goss).
4. "To Have and To Hold" (Johnston).
5. "Prisoners of Hope" (Johnston).
6. "Philip Winwood" (Stephens).

ST. JOHN.

1. "The Farringtons" (Fowler).
2. "To Have and To Hold" (Johnston).
3. "Three Men on Wheels" (Jerome).
4. "The Reign of Law" (Allen).
5. "Janice Meredith" (Ford).
6. "Prisoners of Hope" (Johnston).

VANCOUVER.

1. "Boy" (Corelli).
2. "To Have and To Hold" (Johnston).
3. "The Reign of Law" (Allen).
4. "Unleavened Bread" (Grant).
5. "The Redemption of David Corson" (Goss).
6. "Red Pottage" (Cholmondeley).

VICTORIA.

1. "Chicamoon Stone."
2. "The Heart's Highway" (Wilkins).
3. "To Have and To Hold" (Johnston).
4. "The Reign of Law" (Allen).
5. "From London to Ladysmith" (Churchill).
6. "Prisoners of Hope" (Johnston).

ENGLAND.

1. "The Increasing Purpose" ["The Reign of Law"] (Allen).
2. "The Farringtons" (Fowler).
3. "Little Anna Mark" (Crockett).
4. "Nude Souls" (Swift).
5. "The West End" (White).
6. "Boy" (Corelli).

SCOTLAND.

1. "Robert Orange" (Corelli).
2. "Unleavened Bread" (Grant).
3. "The Increasing Purpose" (Allen).
4. "Voices in the Night" (Steel).
5. "The West End" (White).
6. "Boy" (Corelli).

THE UNITED STATES.

1. "The Reign of Law" (Allen).
2. "To Have and To Hold" (Johnston).
3. "The Redemption of David Corson" (Goss).
4. "Unleavened Bread" (Grant).
5. "Voice of the People" (Glasgow).
6. "Philip Winwood" (Stephens).

THE CANADIAN MAGAZINE.

LAST year The Canadian Magazine made quite a hit with its Christmas number, both cover and contents being superior to anything it had ever before given to the public. The publishers now announce that they intend to excel last year's attempt with a handsome Christmas number for this year. The cover design will be by Mr. D. F. Thomson, who has so successfully designed its special covers for this year. In addition to this the magazine will contain a series of colored illustrations, and this is the point at which it is expected that this year's Christmas number will be superior to last year's.

Among the persons who have already promised to contribute are Dr. W. H. Drummond, W. A. Fraser, Hon. J. W. Longley, William Wilfrid Campbell, J. Macdonald Oxley, Virna Sheard and Jean Blewett.

It is gratifying to note that The Canadian Magazine will, in October, complete its 15th volume. Only one or two Canadian magazines had anything like the length of days that has been given to the present Canadian Magazine, and none of them ever had half the circulation the present one has attained. This is gratifying to Canadians, because it insures a permanent national publication for which a patriotic citizen may pay in advance without fear of its stopping publication before his subscription expires. It is gratifying also because it indicates that Canadian patriotism is growing. There is increasing sentiment in favor of giving the native literary article a chance, and the native literary article is benefiting very much by the public's attitude. No doubt the publishers of The Canadian Magazine will find that it pays to issue a Christmas number which will compare favorably with anything published in London or New York at the same price.

Last year dealers doubled their sales, and there is no doubt that three times as many Canadian Magazines will be sold this year as were sold two years ago, presuming, of course, that the publishers realize their promises as to contents and appearance.