

## BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

"The Great Boer War," by MORANG & CO.'S BOOKS. Conan Doyle, was an immensely successful book when brought out in cloth cover, and now Mr. Morang has just issued the first paper-covered edition, for which a renewed demand will probably spring up.

The edition of James Bain's "Travels and Adventures of Alexander Henry" was limited to 700 copies, of which American firms bought 250. These they sold out and ordered more, which brings the edition down to a very small one. This book is likely to become a much more valuable one very soon, as no more copies will be printed. The publishers have reserved the right to increase the price at any time without notice, and as soon as only 100 copies remain the price, now \$3.50, will be increased to \$5.

Advance orders for Hall Caine's "Eternal City" are coming in rapidly, and indications point to a sale equal to that of "The Christian," also published by Morang & Co.

"The Visits of Elizabeth" still continues a popular favorite. Brisk, sparkling and unconventional, it makes an ideal Summer book.

## BEST SELLING MUSIC.

Messrs. Whaley, Royce & Co., Limited, report the following to be the six best selling pieces of music:

1. "Good-Bye, Dolly Gray"; song, by Paul Barnes.
2. "Are You a Buffalo?"; song, by Harry Von Tilzer.
3. "His Majesty the King"; song, by Edward St. Quentin.
4. "In a Garden of Roses"; waltz, by Arthur Wellesley.
5. "The Strollers"; march and two-step, by A. B. Chasseur.
6. "The Rosedale"; three-step, by Arthur Wellesley.

The Anglo-Canadian Music Publishers' Association, Limited, find these to sell best:

1. "Violets"; song, by Ellen Wright.
2. "Come, Sweet Morning"; song, by "A. L."
3. "Heavenly Promise"; song, by Collingwood.
4. "Lady Ursula"; intermezzo, by Therese.
5. "Spanish Dance"; piano, by Sarskowsky.
6. "Mazurka Naturaliste"; piano, by L. Ganne.

## NOTES FROM THE WEST.

Winnipeg, June 29, 1901.

WINNIPEG has been quite revelling in visits from journalists and authors during the leafy month of June. First to arrive and longest to tarry was Mrs. Jean Blewett, who came as the guest of Mrs. Leonard, wife of the new superintendent of the C.P.R. As Mrs. Leonard was herself a stranger and not sufficiently settled to receive formally, the courtesies and attentions to Mrs. Blewett were necessarily of a somewhat informal character, but were none the less hearty and perhaps also she enjoyed them more on that account. It is always a great pleasure to meet face to face the author of words that have the power to help and inspire and this is particularly true of Mrs. Blewett.

After five minutes' conversation it seems the most natural thing in the world that she should have written "Heart Songs." Strength and sweetness are in her personified. Speaking of her first impressions of the West, she said, in effect: "God must have something very wonderful in view for this country, it is planned on so grand a scale, there is so much room." All who have read "My Canada" will hope that to her poet's vision she may add the prophet's tongue of flame, and proclaim to us something at least of the possible future of the West, some verse that will ring in our ears and stimulate our hearts to purer patriotism for

"For this our country, strong and broad and grand."

Another visitor of note was Mr. Bernard McEvoy, the author of "Away from Newspaperdom," who is making a trip partly for pleasure and partly for business through to the Pacific Coast. In addition to the serial letters in The Mail and Empire, which will help Eastern Canada to better comprehend the West, Mr. McEvoy is also writing similar articles for several English papers, and, in addition, is introducing "The Monthly Review," the new magazine for intelligent Canadians. It is a positive pleasure to look at anything so well gotten up in every particular to say nothing of the value of the letterpress.

The book trade has been active during the month, and purchases have been chiefly along the line of fiction, as becomes the hot weather. Jerome's "The Observations of Henry," have been and are popular, as, in fact, Jerome's humor always has been in the West. Every sketch is a gem, but perhaps the best is the scene of the old lady when the maid opens the basket and discloses a well-grown infant instead of the pup she was taking to the dog show.

"The Helmet of Navarre" has been very popular and Miss Runkle may safely count on a Manitoba audience for any future work. She may do, the general verdict being that once having taken up the book it was impossible to lay it down until it was finished.

"Lord of the North" shows a very considerably revived sale, especially to Summer tourists. "God's Puppets" has been a fair success here, and sales are increasing. The description of the Dutch minister's garden and the old pastor going to visit his church in the dead of night, and returning to find on his table the cruel sign of

dismissal are wonderful bits of word-painting.

"In the Palace of the King" has found many admirers, but the book that is meeting with the largest sale is "The Crisis," by Winston Churchill. The many admirers of "Richard Carvel" are loud in their praises of the book.

A book of a different type is Croly's "Tarry Thou Till I Come," with its introduction by Gen. Lew Wallace. It is called for in cloth only as it is pre-eminently a book to read and keep.

E. C. H.

## EARLY CLOSING.

THE practice of early closing is growing among all classes of merchants, and stationers have been among the foremost in the movement. There is no doubt as to the beneficial results of closing early at night to both the merchant and his assistants. Especially in these long, warm Summer evenings is it most desirable to allow the clerks to get out into the open air, away from their daily surroundings, and obtain that change and recreation which will make them all the better workmen in the morning.

The employer, too, can take the evenings off with profit. Summer is comparatively a dull season for the stationer; and though there may be exceptions, due to certain localities or particular class of trade, it is very questionable whether the cost of keeping open at night is covered by the amount of business done at that time.

In many of the smaller towns the only stationers are the druggists, and in their cases it is hardly to be expected that early closing can be the rule, but, even where the drug business necessitates keeping open, there is little need for the services of more than one of the staff, and the employer and employee could take alternate nights off, without losing anything.

In many city stores a half holiday on Saturdays of the warm months is the rule, and where this can be applied it will be found a success. It makes it much easier to keep open on Saturday night, a time when the average stationery and book store does a good business and needs bright, quick salesmen, qualities that are apt to desert the most willing of assistants when they must work till late on Saturday night after putting in a long day's work in the heat of the Summer.

Here again, many country stores must be excepted, for Saturday, especially the afternoon, is the day when the people from the surrounding districts come to town to do their purchasing for the following week, and if the stationer is shorthanded he soon is made to feel the effects of it on his trade.

But although the different conditions make it impossible for some stationers to close early when others do, or to allow themselves and their assistants the same amount of time off, there are always means, when it is wished, to allow those working in the store to get some evenings or an afternoon off now and then, which, as I have said, make them all the better salesmen, taking a livelier interest in their work and adding probably more to the volume of sales than they would have had they been confined in the store all day as well as in the evenings.