

home of the beaver, and for over two hundred years this animal has contributed to Canada's most substantial advancement; inspiring adventures, stimulating enterprise, and laying the strong foundation of her commercial development. In this book Mr. Martin has combined all the romance connected with the beaver with a great deal of knowledge with regard to its history and its habits. Canada's national totem is the beaver, and no Canadian should be unfamiliar with its true significance. The author has treated the subject in a clear yet learned manner, but pleasing in its thoroughness. The book is dedicated to Sir Wm. Dawson. It contains over fifty illustrations, while the letterpress is beautifully clear. It is bound in gilt cloth and is one of the most handsome productions that has yet appeared from the Canadian press. Montreal: Wm. Drysdale & Co.; Desbarats & Co., printers.

AN ISLAND PARADISE, and *Reminiscences of Travel*, by H. Spencer Howells. This well known Canadian writer has travelled a great deal, and being of an observant turn has noticed many things which an ordinary traveller would miss. During one of his trips across the Pacific he stayed for a few weeks at Honolulu, the capital of the Hawaiian Islands. The first chapter takes up the history of the islands, the second describes Honolulu, and the next three describe the people and islands more generally, with special reference to the volcanoes. The second part of this volume is full of reminiscences of travel, told in ten chapters, and in a manner so interesting and with descriptions so vivid, that one is carried along in thought with the author as he visits western Canada, California, India, Malta, Gibraltar, Belgium, Edinburgh and Australia. The observations are those of the learned stranger who tells those things which each traveller would like to know first and best. Such books as these will remove the narrowness of people's thoughts if they are but read. The author has here clothed much useful information in a bright and entrancing garment of language. The book is handsomely illustrated with twenty full-page half-tone photographs of pretty scenes in the Hawaiian Islands, and is magnificently bound in cloth and gold. Altogether it is a model volume. Hart & Kiddle, publishers, Toronto.

LIFE OF GENERAL JACKSON, by Oliver Dyer, author of *Great Senators of the United States*, is published in the Ledger Library. While not so interesting to Canadians as to the fellow countrymen of the great general, yet it possesses much that Canadians will appreciate. A hero in his youth, a general during his early manhood, and mature age, dignified by being twice elected President of the Republic, all must admire General Andrew Jackson, who died in 1845. Robert Bonner's Sons, publishers.

MESSAGES FROM MAES, by Robt. D. Irvine, is a work which should find many readers at a time when the liveliest interest is being taken in this great planet. The hero of the story starts out with his violin, much like Goldsmith and his flute, winning people's hearts with his boyish playing. He is shipwrecked after a time and lands alone on a strange island. Here he goes through startling experiences

and makes rich discoveries, the chief one being that by means of a lens-plant the inhabitants of Mars could be seen, and also conversed with. The tale is well told. J. S. Ogilvie, publisher.

A SON OF OLD HARRY, by Albion W. Tourjee, is a genuine American story. It breathes a life different essentially from that across either oceans. It is a tale of home. The author has evidently been thinking deeply on the subject of heredity, and between the lines of a stirring, yet graceful tale, one can read his thoughts on this subject. The difference between the way in which man inherits the qualities of his forefathers, and the way in which the horse inherits, is clearly set out. The first part of the plot reminds one of "The County Fair" and the "Kerry Gow," being the training of a horse for a race, the stake being necessary to pay off the mortgage on the farm. The plot is lengthy but not intricate, and carries one through glimpses of farm and city life, with a passing view of the civil war in the United States, and closing with a description of the opening of the great western country about Denver. No native American can read this tale without being delighted. Robert Bonner's Sons, publishers.

TIOMANE, by Jacques Vincent, is an English translation of a high class French novel. This is a pretty tale, with its plot laid partly in France and partly in Smyrna. The picture of Eastern life from its aristocratic side is one of the most vivid and interesting that has ever been drawn by the pen of any writer. Its indolent and pleasure-loving females are portrayed in a clear and decisive manner, the lines being drawn by a master hand. Some of the peculiarities of French youth are also displayed by some of the characters which the author has placed on his stage. The tale is full of thrilling interest, and no flagging is allowed until the story is finished. Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago. Globe Library No. 173.

MISS DIVIDENDS, by A. C. Gunter, author of *Mr. Barnes of New York*, is one of the brightest pieces of fiction that has been offered to the reading public for some time. The plot is laid in the United States among the stirring events of 1871; but what is most remarkable about the plot is its unity. The whole novel is like one anecdote told in a superb and finished manner, by an author who can be playfully humorous one moment and deeply pathetic the next. Incidentally the polygamy of the Utah Mormons is critically analyzed and crushingly rebuked. Their degraded and grasping character as a sect is shown in all its horribleness, and the light of truth penetrates its utmost recesses, only to condemn it. Moreover, the author has written a story which exalts love in its truest form, which shows the barrenness of life without it, and which shows dramatically and touchingly the power of love to make men die for their fairer companions. Powerful and dramatic scenes make the work intensely interesting, especially when Miss Dividends, the millionaire beauty, is placed where her wealth avails her not and where love alone can save her. Wealth, its usefulness and its uselessness, is here analyzed by a master hand. Toronto: The National Publishing Company.

BOOK AND LITERARY NOTES.

The handlers of toy books are acquainted with the name John Kendrick Bangs and his *Tiddledywink Tales*. The De Wirt Publishing House has issued a volume of *Tiddledywink Poetry*, handsomely bound in colored waterproof covers. They have also issued a new book for boys, entitled *In Savage Africa*, being descriptive of six years of adventure in Congo land. Mr. Slave, the author, was one of Stanley's pioneer officers.

The Toronto Humane Society have published a neat illustrated volume showing the work accomplished by the society during the four years from 1887 to 1891. It contains a great deal of interesting and educative information on such topics as care of horses and other animals, dehorning, treatment of newsboys, Bands of Mercy, etc., which shows that this society is performing a function much needed in society.

The National Publishing Co. have now in press the following books, which will be issued during October:—*The Children of the King*, by F. Marion Crawford; *Ascendancy of the Ford*, by Rita; *The Last Signal*, by Dora Russell; *The Old Mill Mystery*, by A. W. Marchmont; *On the Beach at Falesa*, by Robt. Louis Stevenson; and *The Ivory Gate*, by Walter Besant.

Messrs. Hart & Kiddle will publish in December a volume of the proceedings of the Pan-Presbyterian Council, to be edited by Rev. Geo. D. Mathews. It will be a handsome memorial work, and will contain about twenty illustrations. It will be the only complete and accurate report published.

The new R. T. S. publications received by the Copp, Clark Co. are:—*The Deacon Light*, a tale of the Covenanters; *Seven Times in the Fire*, a story of France in Revolution times, by C. Mand Battersby; *Young Smallshoes*, by Joseph Johnson; *Worthy of His Name*, by Eglington Thorne; *A Hero in the Strife*, by Louisa C. Silke; *Heroes of the Goodwin Sands*, by Rev. Thomas Stanley Treanor, M.A.; *Uncle Tower*, a story for boys young and old, by Rev. A. N. Malan, M.A., F.G.S.; *Bush Lack*, an Australian story, by W. H. Timperley. Warne's new shilling toy books are also carried by this firm.

FREE TEXT-BOOKS.

The Educational Committee of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council have reported that in their opinion students attending night schools were entitled to free text-books just as much as those going to day schools. Yes, and pupils going to high schools and collegiate institutes, even those attending the Technical School, have a right. One step downward often means three or four, as the people of Toronto will yet learn.

The Trades and Labor Council have stated the publisher of the text-books for not paying legitimate wages to employees, and this is to be brought to the notice of the Public School Board. This is another step down the incline. Are the laboring men of the city, in their Council, to hold the sceptre of wisdom and might, and say: These are the proper wages, because we know all about your business?

Again, the City Solicitor will be asked to give his interpretation of the free text-book law.