

## BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

### W. J. GAGE & CO.'S LIST

W. J. Gage & Co. have secured an unusually strong book in "God's Puppets," by Imogen Clark. A story of 18th century life, it is a strikingly romantic tale. The title is taken from a line in "Pippa Passes," "God's Puppets Best and Worst are We." In the delineation of her characters she illustrates this title and weaves a most fascinating story. An English officer, an old Dutch minister and his daughter, and Peggy Crewe—a New York society belle, are the principal characters. "Peggy," gay, piquant, charming and wayward, causes many complications. The horse race and the duel form highly dramatic scenes in a book which overflows with vigorous life.

The announcement is made of the publication on this continent of Miss Fowler's new novel, which Gage & Co., will issue in Canada. Her wonderful success in "Concerning Isabel Carnaby," "The Farringdons," and "A Double Thread," assure a wide sale for anything from her pen. It is a social study of life in the upper middle class of English society.

A rising Canadian writer whose work will surely win great popularity is A. R. Kopes. His new book is a thrilling story of Russia entitled, "On Peter's Island," which Gage & Co. will issue immediately.

The leading book in New York and Montreal is Zangwill's "Mantle of Elijah." "Stringtown on the Pike" is steadily increasing in popularity, and the United States publishers expect it will be a leader in the Summer fiction sale. It is already the best selling book in a number of southern and western cities.

### MORANG & CO.'S LIST.

A remarkable novel is "The Octopus," by Frank Norris, shortly to be issued by Morang. A Californian railway is the "Octopus," and the story—which is long, exciting and full of varied incident—brings before us the whole question of "the railway problem," now so common a theme in Canada. In fact, it would not be at all surprising if the book got talked about a great deal during the next six months, so that the sale would be affected, in the same way that "Peter Sterling" and similar novels—half-political, half-love story—have become the vogue. The heroine in "The Octopus" is Hilma, a magnificent specimen of womanhood, and the hard phases of corporation greed are thrown into strong relief by one of the characters in the story, a poetic mystical chap. The fight of popular interests against tyrannical railways makes this quite a captivating book and we expect to see it sell well. Norris' other books are "McTeague,"

"Moran of the Lady Letty," etc., but this is his strongest piece of work.

"The Visits of Elizabeth," purport to be the letters of a bright, innocent, handsome girl of 17, who, for the first time, goes out into the world on a succession of visits to her aristocratic relatives. A sentence or two at the very start explains that Elizabeth's family tree went back to the Conqueror and she numbered two countesses and one duchess among her relatives. This clever opening sentence at once localizes the story. We know we are to expect English country houses with smart, rich, leisurely people killing the time in various ways, and we are taken across the Strait of Dover to visit Elizabeth's relatives, equally fashionable in the country in which the capacity to be "chic" is perhaps ranked higher than the faculty of being virtuous. Elizabeth is a mere mouthpiece through which the authoress, Elinor Glyn, gives us a picture of the follies and flippancies and supposed passions and intrigues of the idle rich. The volume is lively and clever all the way through, and it adopts the popular craze for writing novels by means of letters, perhaps with more ability than is shown even in "The Englishwoman's Love Letters." The frontispiece is a portrait of the heroine.

Morang & Co. also announce for early publication, "Every Inch a King," by Josephine Caroline Sawyer. This is different from many modern historical novels, in that it is not a story of duels and hairbreadth escapes, but is more a study of character. The hero is Henry V. of England. It is not only a charming story, but gives an accurate picture of mediæval life. It is dramatically told and the powers of good and evil strive for the mastery, while love runs through it all. The scene is laid in the English court and among the old nobility, the Royal Beauforts and Mortimers, the Hollands and the Nevilles.

The Monthly Review for April keeps up its character with some fine editorials and articles, among the subjects being "Civil Service and Reform," "Sir R. Hart on China," by Capt. Younghusband; "Native Problems in New Colonies," "In Defence of Reynolds," and "Reflections on the Art of Life." It also contains an interesting examination of the distribution of British ability throughout the various localities of the British Isles.

The edition in paper at 75 cents of Colonel Denison's "Soldiering in Canada" is now ready. It contains the illustrations which accompanied the cloth edition, and is in every way an attractive book. It should sell well through the Summer, as it makes good reading, being as lively and interest-

ing as many a novel, and will now be obtainable by those who felt indisposed to pay \$2 for it.

"A new edition of "The Travels and Adventures of Alexander Henry"—with notes and a biographical introduction by Mr. James Bain, jr., the accomplished librarian of the Toronto Public Library, is shortly to come from the Morang press. Henry's book is one of the most intensely interesting narratives ever written by an adventurous fur trader among the Indians. It has long been out of print and practically inaccessible to the general reader. To those who collect Canadian books, the new edition will be in the nature of an event. Mr. Bain's notes and biographical data are valuable and on a par with the merits of Henry's book. The edition will be a fine one, retailing at \$3.50. Every library will need one.

### WM. BRIGGS' LIST.

There will be many to declare Eden Phillpotts' "The Good Red Earth," the most charming love-story written since "The Lilac Sunbonnet." Indeed, the story is one to take its place along with that delightful idyll and Blackmore's matchless "Lorna Doone." Like the latter, it is a tale of Devonshire, full of the scents of the apple orchards, among which the story moves. Nothing could be more alluring than the love-making between Sibella Hattaway and her lover, Richard Gilbert, with its romantic denouement. A new character is added to literature in the sleek and rubicund peddler and preacher, Alpheus Nerote, a sanctimonious but exceedingly clever-scheming rascal, whose encounters with the choleric Squire make good reading. The mingling of wit and wisdom, of caution and audacity, of craft and cunning, is decidedly rich. Indeed, it is doubtful if a better piece of character-sketching has been done since Dickens laid down his immortal pen. The characters all are more than commonly good, and the delightful descriptive passages with which the book abounds give it a charm that does not soon close its spell on the reader.

The Canadian edition of "Ralph Marlowe," by James Ball Naylor, a book that has been an instant success in the United States, will be ready early this month. The story is a worthy successor to "David Harum" and "Eben Holden." A competent critic considers it one of the best real, humor modern stories that has been written for a long time, and declares that "Ralph Marlowe" is as homely and pleasing as "David Harum," and has the sweetness and richness of "Eben Holden."

A remarkable feature in the literature of recent years is the brief existence of the popular novel. With hardly an exception the stories pass within a year or two or even a few months out of sight and mind. Their course is as the comet's, brilliant but brief. Short lived glories, they are written hurriedly, read with feverish haste, and buried quickly. It would