

## MONTREAL BOOK TRADE.

THE tourist trade in Montreal has commenced, and every bookseller considers the prospects for Summer quite bright. Some new Canadian books of recent publication are doing very well. John Lovell & Sons have published "*Histrionic Montreal; Plays and Players of the Last Century*," a book written by Franklin Graham, who was for some time a reporter on the Montreal Herald. It is well illustrated with many of the portraits of the best known celebrities of the drama and lecture platform, who have visited Montreal in past years up to the beginning of this century, containing annals of the Montreal stage and biographical and critical notes of a great many actors and others who have entertained audiences of this city.

"The Life and Work of Donald Harvey MacVicar," by his son, John H. MacVicar, of Melville Church, Fergus, Ont., is selling very well in Montreal, where the reverend gentleman, as principal of Montreal Presbyterian College, made for himself a great many friends.

Another story of old Quebec has appeared here, "*The Ploughshare and the Sword*," by Ernest George Henham, and the sales are very gratifying. This book, though of but recent publication, is also doing well with American visitors to the city, who are commencing now to come in numbers.

Scotsmen cannot but be taken by "*The Heather in Lore, Lyric and Lay*," by Alexander Wallace. The title of this book is an explanation of its contents, which are quotations from poems and prose appreciations of the heather from many Scottish authors. It is illustrated with photographs of heather in its most useful and attractive forms, (as, for instance, a Highland cottage thatched with heather), while the frontispiece is a beautiful three-color photograph of the heather in its several natural shades.

Of the other books which are taking the public fancy there are: "*When Wilderness was King*," which is perhaps the best selling novel of the month in Montreal, "*The Bright Face of Danger*," "*Anna, the Adventuress*," "*The Effendi*," and "*Odd Craft*."

A welcome addition to Appleton's business series is "*The Modern Bank*," by Amos K. Fiske. This is a concise and clear exposition of the banking system of to-day in the United States, showing its functions and methods; and a brief account of the development of this system from the beginning is included. Montreal booksellers tell us that this book is in better demand than might have been expected, considering its apparently limited field.

F. E. Grafton & Sons have now had their "*Glimpses of Montreal*" album on the market for some weeks, and with the commencement of the tourist trade the demand for it is reaching satisfactory proportions. The photo engravings in this are excellent. They show up well against grounds of cover papers of various colors, and the whole production is very creditable indeed.

## SOME NEW CANADIAN BOOKS.

There is now in the press of William Briggs a volume of unique interest, a selection from a remarkable series of reminiscence sketches contributed to the press by the Hon. D. W. Higgins, of Victoria, late Speaker of the Legislature of British Columbia. The interest excited by the stories while running serially was so spontaneous and so widespread that publication in permanent form became a necessity to meet the demand from all quarters. Mr. Higgins, who is a native of Nova Scotia, went to California in 1856, and (according to Morgan) founded the San Francisco "*Morning Call*," which he published until his removal to British Columbia in 1858, where he founded, in Victoria, the "*Morning Chronicle*," which was afterwards amalgamated with the "*Victoria Colonist*." He continued to edit the latter paper until 1886, when he sold out to engage in other interests. For nine years he presided as Speaker over the Provincial Legislature, and served his city and province in various other capacities. Entering the province while it was yet in the Hudson Bay Company's hands, Mr. Higgins has been closely identified with the social, industrial and political changes that have since occurred, and has had quite exceptional opportunities of gathering material for the vivid sketches with which he has enriched western literature. Mr. Higgins presents pen-pictures of interesting events and incidents that, but for his rare descriptive power and industry, would never have been preserved.

The volume, which is to be entitled, "*The Mystic Spring, and other Stories of Western Life*," will comprise over four hundred pages, and will sell at \$1.50. Mr. John Innes, who has made a specialty of depicting western life, is engaged on a series of illustrations for the book. The faith in the book shown in the author's own province is evidenced by advance orders that call for a first edition of 2,000 copies for British Columbia alone.

A Toronto lady whose work has steadily grown in strength and literary quality is Mrs. Sheard, wife of the Medical Health Officer, and known to the reading public as Virna Sheard. Mrs. Sheard's first essay at authorship, "*Trevelyan's Little Daughters*," was an unambitious tale for children, but it showed promise of a capacity for better work. Since then such leisure hours as she has been able to snatch from the oversight of her home, and her family of boys—of whom she is very fond and proud—have been devoted to writing in both prose and verse for the magazines and current press. Last year a second story of Mrs. Sheard's appeared, with the title, "*A Maid of Many Moods*," (James Pott & Co., New York), and passed through successive editions, materially enhancing the author's reputation. We now hear that she has completed another story, which has been accepted for publication by the Frederick Stokes Company, of New York, and William Briggs, of Toronto. The story is entitled "*By the Queen's Grace*," and is said to be a very charming and delightful romance of London, in the stirring times of "*Good Queen Bess*." The Canadian edition will be published early in September. It should make a popular Christmas book.