

by the publication of such a crude and confused story as 'Thankful Blossom,' upon a popularity already somewhat on the wane.

KATE DANTON; OR CAPTAIN DANTON'S DAUGHTERS: A Novel. By May Agnes Fleming. Toronto: Belford Bros. 1877.

This work is, we believe, from the pen of a compatriot, a daughter of New Brunswick, therefore, following Prior's advice, its readers will no doubt—

Be to its virtues very kind;  
Be to its faults a little blind.

The story opens in an old-fashioned country-house (in Lower Canada we suppose), whose inmates are two girls, Eeny, and Grace Danton, a poor relative, who plays the part of half mother, half sister to her motherless companion. Rose, Eeny's sister, another member of the household, and a very disturbing element, is absent on a visit. Captain Danton, their father, after leading a nomadic life for many years, suddenly returns to the bosom of his family, with a highly accomplished and beautiful daughter, who has been educated in England, and is the heroine of the story. With them comes a Mr. Richards, a mysterious stranger, an invalid, who is said never to leave his room, and is only seen by the Captain, Kate, and his valet Ogden.

Kate Danton, though a little too superfine, is a most admirable girl, deserving a more worthy lover than the Hon. Lieut. Reginald Stanford, of Stanford Royals, Northumberland, England, younger son of Lord Reeves, a fickle swain who eventually elopes with and marries the piquant Rose, a wicked, but alas! too fascinating little sprite, one of the best drawn characters in the book. Such a marriage could hardly turn out happily, and accordingly Rose meets with retributive justice by being deserted in her turn for some less exacting fair one, and she and her child are rescued from poverty and starvation in a London lodging-house, and are restored to her sorrowing but forgiving relatives in Canada. Here her punishment is completed by the mortification and envy which she feels at the marriage of her sister, Eeny, to Jules La Touche, an old and discarded lover of Rose's, who since his rejection by her has come in to a vast fortune. In the meantime, Kate, having recovered from the loss of her worthless lover, consoles herself with Dr. Frank Danton, Grace's brother, a penniless physician (the best character in the book), who also falls most opportunely into a large fortune.

The mysterious Mr. Richards proves to be Captain Danton's only son, a wild youth, supposed to have been killed in a duel in New

York. It seems however, that his opponent had been the victim, and Richards, impelled by remorse and by fear of the terrors of the law, lives hidden away in his father's house, from which he only ventures out at night, accompanied by his devoted sister Kate, whose character for a time suffers much misconstruction in consequence. Eventually, through the unwearied exertions of Dr. Frank, the supposed victim is discovered alive and well in New York, and Harry Danton, thus freed from the imputation of guilt, is restored to the arms of a loving and long-lost wife, and the curtain falls amidst great and general rejoicing.

There are some good points about the book: the plot, though improbable and sensational, is well contrived, the characters are fairly drawn, and there is no lack of interest. The descriptions of Canadian life and scenery, too, are excellent. Notwithstanding these merits, however, Mr. Fleming's novel has nothing in it to place it outside or above the general run of novels of average merit which are poured from the press in a perennial stream, to be read, laid aside, and forgotten. If Mrs. Fleming wishes to leave a permanent impress upon Canadian literature and to make for herself a name therein, she will do well to engage in a profounder study of human nature than she yet appears to have done, to write less, and to take greater pains with what she does write. If, on the other hand, her aim is merely to enable her readers to pass away a few idle hours pleasantly and without fatigue, then novels of the calibre of 'Kate Danton' will very well answer her purpose.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

STUDENT-LIFE AT HARVARD. Boston: Lockwood, Brooks, & Co. 1876. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

FRAGMENTS OF SCIENCE; A Series of detached Essays, Addresses, and Reviews. By John Tyndall, F. R. S. Fifth edition. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1877. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

A YACHT VOYAGE. Letters from High Latitudes. By Lord Dufferin; New Edition. New York: Lovell, Adam, Wesson, & Co.

SIDONIE. (Fromont Jeune et Rister Aine). From the French of Alphonse Daudet. Montreal: Lovell, Adam, Wesson, & Co. 1877.

THE HERITAGE OF LANGDALE. By Mrs. Alexander. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1877. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

MAJORICA AND FAYENCE: Italian, Sicilian, Majorcan, Hispano-Moresque, and Persian. By Arthur Beckwith. With Photo-engraved Illustrations. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1877. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.