

Books of the Month.

IN British Columbia the book trade is brisk, and some of the largest orders that come in are from that Province. The increased postage rate, however, is going to be hard on the Far West book business, as dealers who were in a hurry would send in an order to be rushed on by mail. The increased postage rate will either increase the price of the book or the dealer will have to order in larger quantities and have his goods come on by freight, which is probably what will be done.

Some of the best selling books in British Columbia have been "The Velvet Glove," by S. Merriman; "Audrey," by Mary Johnston; "Sir Richard Calmady," by L. Malet; "The Man from Glengarry," by Ralph Connor; "Sarita the Carlist," by W. Marchmont, and "The Battleground," by E. T. Fowler.

William Briggs will publish this month a notable volume of interest to all who care for Canadian affairs entitled "Public Men and Public Life in Canada: Recollections of Parliament and the Press, 1853-1867." The work is by Hon. James Young, late member of the Dominion and Ontario Parliaments. The period covered by this important book, which opens with the year 1853 when the author issued the first number of *The Galt Reformer*, and closes with the consummation of Confederation in 1867, was one of the most momentous in Canadian history. Mr. Young, modelling his work somewhat after Justin McCarthy's "History of Our Own Times," has embodied in it the recollections of these eventful years. Interesting pen portraits abound, and glimpses into the inner history of the time are afforded. The work at the same time possesses a dramatic unity as describing the events leading to Confederation (of which indeed it forms a compact history) and traces most interestingly the course of the struggle of constitutional Government.

Another new book to be published immediately by William Briggs is a romance by Marie Corelli, entitled "Temporal Power, a Study in Supremacy." The story is a singularly striking and powerful one, dealing with a subject which has never before been treated in fiction, and intimately touching upon certain topics which have for some time been uppermost in the minds of many people. In length this book is

only slightly shorter than "The Master Christian."

The success of Marie Corelli's last romance was so extraordinary that William Briggs will be glad if book dealers will order their copies of "Temporal Power" as early as possible. Much inconvenience will thus be saved both to the publishers and to the trade. The price will be, paper, 75c., and cloth, \$1.25. The author desires that it be known that the above romance does not treat of the ruling passion of the Pope, but of a still more powerful potentate.

The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, have just published Wm. Stearns Davis' new novel "Belshazzar." It is a superbly dramatic and picturesque romance of Babylon and its hanging gardens. The story turns upon the writing on the wall, one of the most dramatic events of history. This novel will be one of the most talked about books of the year.

"Chimmie Fadden and Mr. Paul," by Edward W. Townsend (The Copp, Clark Co.). More humor and less dialect characterize this new collection of the latest and best of the popular "Chimmie Fadden" books. The charm of Chimmie's utterances in these 27 stories is that humor is spontaneous—not a bit forced or mechanical. A connected long story runs through them giving a continuous interest. In addition to Chimmie, the "Duchess," his Whiskers and Miss Fannie, several new characters are added.

The Copp, Clark Co. are publishing Graham Travers' new book "The Way of Escape"; it is at present one of the leading books in England and Scotland, and those who have read "Maud McLean" will know what to anticipate. Clinton Scollard's "The Cloistering of Ursula" will also be ready this month. The title of "The Victors," which is the most important work Mr. Barr has ever written, is taken from W. L. Marcy's famous phrase: "To the victors belong the spoils." Mr. Barr's principal character is the political leader of his party in New York, and is a frank unscrupulous exponent of the spoils system. Mr. Barr paints a realistic but absorbing picture of his hero's career as a "boss" and the result is one of the

strongest political novels that has been written in years.

"A Speckled Bird," by Augusta Evans Wilson (The Copp, Clark Co.). As 16 years have elapsed since the publication of Mrs. Augusta Evans Wilson's last work, "At the Mercy of Tiberius," her retirement appeared final. The appearance, therefore, of "A Speckled Bird" comes in the nature of a surprise, and this surprise is sure to deepen with the discovery that in this new novel the author's imagination blossoms forth with all the glow and glamor that took the public captive in "St. Elmo," 30 odd years ago, and still works a spell as potent upon the generation of to day. This new story may challenge comparison with any previous work from the author's pen and lose nothing in nerve feeling or fancy, while, on the other hand, there is a gain in breadth of view which brings this remarkable woman quite into touch with the present time and the things that have occupied the thinking world since she last laid down her pen. As with all her previous novels the scenes of this one are laid mainly in the South.

"Godfrey Merivale," by H. B. Marriott Watson. George Bell & Sons, London and Bombay. Mr. Watson is one of the modern English writers, who is as yet unfortunately little read in this country. His earlier work was in the field of romance, wherein he blended many of the strong qualities of Anthony Hope and Stanley J. Weyman, but in "Godfrey Merivale" he has struck into the domain of the modern society novel, at present a rising favorite in public esteem. The hero is, in many respects, an estimable personality and before the reader has covered many pages he becomes aware that the handsome young fellow has gained a firm footing in his affections. His earlier love affairs are so skillfully penned that their freshness at no time languishes. However, Godfrey is left early a penniless orphan and drifts to London, there to be rudely repulsed by his relatives of noble blood. Nothing daunted he enters journalism and ultimately succeeds to a baronetcy. The skill with which Mr. Watson has colored the London life of to-day, political, social and professional, makes this work a powerful contribution to the list of novels dealing with modern English society.

"Between the Dark and the Daylight," by Richard Marsh. George Bell & Sons, London and Bombay. This book forms a collection of a dozen short stories of the variety familiar to the readers of the lighter English magazines. Accustomed in the