

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

of keen delineation of character, bright and witty dialogue, and the skill with which she can interest us in Indian life. The story is original and of vivid interest, and all the critics find in it some of this writer's best work.

An event in Canadian bookdom of no common interest attaches to the announcement of W. J. Gage & Co., Limited, that they have ready for immediate publication a Canadian edition of "Houses of Glass," by "Wallace Lloyd," the pseudonym, as is now well known, of Dr. James Algie, of Alton, Ont., a practising physician whose leisure hours have been devoted, with remarkable success, to the production of a novel. The book was published in the United States only, and there met with decided favor. It was recognized at once as a story of exceptional strength. It attracted some attention from a number of Canadian readers who follow the new fiction with care, and was reviewed by several Canadian editors in a laudatory strain. Being hailed as the work of a new writer, who happened, fortunately, also to be a Canadian, the book would, undoubtedly, have secured a large sale here but for the fact that it appeared only in the expensive cloth United States edition at \$1.50. The possibility of a large sale for it in this market was retarded, until now W. J. Gage & Co., Limited, promise an attractive edition in cloth and in paper at a reasonable price (\$1 and 50c.) The appearance of "Houses of Glass" will be greeted with much curiosity.

"The Barrys," by Shan F. Bullock (cloth \$1, and paper 75c.), has an atmosphere of freshness and humanity about it which betoken Irish origin. Frank Barry is a type from real life. The son of his father, his weaknesses are a tendency to drink and love for a pretty face. Brought up in London to earn his living in literary work, he journeys to Ireland to see the home of his forebears. Although engaged to Marian Dent, he promptly proceeds to make love to lovely Nan Butler, who is already "bespoken," but who, innocent of flirtation, is drawn toward Frank before she is aware of it. Frank goes back to London after a little "philandering"—there is humor of an engaging kind in this part of the book—and marries Marian. The Butlers, evicted from their home, migrate to London. The mother finds Frank, who weakly conceals his marriage. After a few meetings with Nan he is found out, his wife casts him off, and not all his explanations can bring her back. He then proceeds, weakly as he does so many things, to go to the devil in the foot steps of his father. But

a kind hand rescues him and husband and wife are reconciled.

It is also announced by Messrs. Gage that they will place a new book by Frank R. Stockton on this market the latter part of the month. Its title is "The Vizier of the Two Horned Alexander"—a work of fiction in the humorous vein for which this writer is noted.

THE COMP "The Great Company" just CLARK CO'S appeared as our last issue was BOOKS.

going to press, so that little more could be done than to note the very creditable form of this handsome volume, which was then bound in two styles, one with an artistic cloth cover emblazoned with the arms of the company, selling for \$3, and the other in splendid red half-morocco binding at \$5. Since then, a full morocco edition has been added at the same price as the latter, having the arms of the company on the cover as in the cloth edition. The publishers seem to have no doubt that there will be considerable demand for both of these editions de luxe, as the present financial condition of the country makes it possible for the man of artistic and literary tastes to indulge in handsome bindings.

"The Great Company" is without doubt the most important Canadian historical work that has appeared for years, and it is particularly gratifying to those who are inclined to deplore the fiction-loving tendency of the age to find that Mr. Willson has so handled his subject that, without omitting anything of historic value, the very interest of the narrative would satisfy the most dissipated taste.

It is impossible in a brief review to give any adequate idea of the vastness of the task which the Hudson's Bay Company accomplished in shaping the destiny of half a continent for over two centuries. And the fact that so inspiring a theme has remained so long untouched in the field of literature is only explained by the unwillingness of the company's officers to give access to its archives, whence alone the bulk of the material for such a work could be obtained. Through the courtesy of the present governor of the company, Lord Strathcona, this difficulty has been removed, and every facility granted the author to render the narrative complete.

The result is one of the most fascinating histories ever written. The reader is charmed at the very outset by the romantic career of those two intrepid fur-traders, Radisson and Groseilliers, who, having traveled far and wide through the great Northwest, first realized something of the enormous wealth to be obtained from the furry denizens of this vast region, and then,

being unable to arouse an aggressive spirit in their countrymen at Quebec, conceived the idea of circumventing French authority by using the Hudson Bay route, and of turning to the English for support. On failing to find patrons in New England, the dauntless pair set out for Paris, but to meet with no better success. While there, however, they were joined by a certain Colonel Carr, who in Boston had strongly advised them to go to the English King, and now furnished Groseilliers with a letter to Prince Rupert. This adventurous spirit, of whom Mr. Willson paints a most attractive picture, entered heartily into the enterprise, and The Honorable Company of Merchants-Adventurers Trading into Hudson Bay came into being, an institution which survived nearly all conditions and all regimes, and for two full centuries existed unshorn of its greatness, and endures still, as Mr. Willson says, the one enduring pillar in the New World mansion.

It is noticeable that, from the very outset, the object of the company was to make its trade permanent. And, in order to accomplish this, the company from the beginning rejected the plan of seeking to exchange "glass beads and gilded kickshaws" for furs, and endeavored to provide the Indians with weapons for killing or ensnaring the game, as well as with knives, hatchets and kettles, which were indispensable for dressing it and for preparing pemmican. And to such an extent was this policy successful that within a few years the natives had lost the use of the bow and arrow, and when half a century later Fort Nelson was captured by a French military party not equipped with trading supplies, hundreds of the aborigines died from starvation within twenty leagues of the fort.

Perhaps no part of Mr. Willson's book is more intensely interesting than his accounts of the expeditions of Verandrye, Hearne, and Mackenzie, those intrepid explorers, who with little or no encouragement from others, in the face of terrible difficulties and dangers at every turn, and in spite of the faint-heartedness and treachery of their followers, carried all before them by their indomitable courage, and, finally, each in a different direction, reached the utmost limits of this vast country. In describing their journeys Mr. Willson has caught the true spirit of the explorer and carries the reader with him, now despairing, now hopeful, until their object is accomplished. In fact the author's style throughout is rapid, easy and flowing, and he handles his subject in a masterly manner. Mr. Heming's drawings are the finishing touch, for no other living artist is so well able to depict the Northwest, its scenes and its people, as this young Canadian.