

NEW BOOKS.

America not Discovered by Columbus. An Historical Sketch of the Discovery of America by the Norsemen in the Tenth Century. By RASMUS B. ANDERSON. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Company. 12mo., pp. 164.

This small volume deals with a subject which is naturally attracting a good deal of attention at the present time. The author, who is Professor of the Scandinavian Languages in the University of Wisconsin, has the advantage of having read the original accounts of the events which he describes; and he has evidently treated the subject in the true historical spirit. He has made no attempt to make a great book out of the matter at his disposal, but has told his story in a simple straightforward manner, well calculated to carry conviction to the minds of his readers.

Vitus Bering: The Discovery of Bering Strait.

By PETER LAURIDSON, Member of the Council of the Royal Danish Geographical Society, Editor of Jens Munk's "Navigatio Septentrionalis." Translated by Julius E. Olson, Assistant Professor of Scandinavian Languages in the University of Wisconsin. With an Introduction, by Frederick Schwalka. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Company. 12mo., pp. 215.

This little book is sure to have a large number of readers among those who are fond of history, travel, and adventure. Though it has other qualities to commend it, it has a romantic interest which ought to secure it many readers, especially among the young. In addition to the light which it sheds upon the character and career of the hero of the story, and incidentally upon the general subject of Russian explorations, it contains chapters of great interest to the general reader, including descriptions of the remarkable forms of animal life on Bering Island, and of the tragic events which brought this great geographical enterprise to a close.

Two Knapsacks. By J. CAWDORE BELL. Toronto: The Williamson Publishing Co. Crown octavo, 490 pp.

This is a Canadian story of a kind not often seen, and doubly pleasing on account of its novelty. It is the story of two companions, women-haters, a Toronto lawyer and a pedagogue, who set off for a summer pedestrian tour from the shores of Lake Simcoe, and up and over the Blue Mountains, down into the Beaver Valley and up and away on the uplands of Grey, where they meet a fate little dreamed of as possible when they left Toronto. The plot of the story largely centres around the doings of a swamp whiskey gang in the lake settlements of Grey, and it has its thrilling and even awful incidents, which are well told. But for the most part the volume is full of racy, chatty, character-sketching, in which the sunny side and the foibles of human nature are dealt with in a manner that has scarcely been rivalled by any Canadian writer. The humor pervading the book is exquisite, and the reader on almost every page finds a bit of excellent wit or a delicate pun, dropped so naturally and unexpectedly

as to excite a smile or a laugh. It is emphatically a summer holiday book, very like in its vein to Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat," but in its peculiar humor, as well as in its plot, much superior. As to its authorship, there are suspicions that the lively and cultured pen from which it comes is that of a prominent divine well-known for scholarly attainments and great versatility. But whoever the author may be, the intrinsic merit of "Two Knapsacks" is such as to ensure it a wide popularity.

The Early Bibliography of the Province of Ontario. A supplemental chapter of Canadian Archeology. By WILLIAM KINGSFORD, LL.D., F.R.S.C. Toronto: Rowse & Hutchison; Montreal: Eden Pickin. 12mo, 140 pp

This little book is supplemental to Mr. Kingsford's work on Canadian Archeology, which was published in 1886, and gave a history of the first printed works in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The present volume represents a vast amount of patient investigation, such as the author has shown in his History of Canada, and gives much additional light in regard to the early books and pamphlets published in Ontario. While primarily intended for the literary and political student, it is full of interest to any intelligent Canadian, inasmuch as it sheds side lights on the social and political condition of the country from year to year. In fact, the work is not only invaluable to the student, but in itself is almost an education on Canadian politics. It is interesting and well written.

An Island Paradise and Reminiscences of Travel.

By H. SPENCER HOWELL. Toronto: Hart & Riddell. Royal octavo, 300 pp.

In these days of travel, when almost every corner of the globe is described by many pens, to write a book of travel at once interesting and trustworthy is no easy task. But Mr. Howell has accomplished this work in the present volume with marked success. His description of the Hawaiian Islands is one of the best that has yet been published. The style is light and graceful and a keen eye for the beautiful and novel both in scenery, customs, and legends, is evident on every page. Little of importance to the general reader is omitted, yet the narrative of travel is never tedious, but always fresh and entertaining, the author realizing that a traveller, in order to make his descriptions attractive, must now have something new to tell, or must tell his story in a new way. Moreover, unlike many travellers, Mr. Howell has taken pains to carefully verify his quotations of facts and figures, of history and legendary story. A portion of the volume is given to glimpses of Australian, Asiatic, and European cities, and here, as in the portions given to the "Island Paradise," the scenes are viewed from the standpoint of a cultured Canadian, and in this respect are all the more interesting to Canadian readers. The work is well printed on the best of paper. The illustrations are good, and in every way the volume is one of the most entertaining of recent Canadian books.