

BOOKS AND THEIR ... MAKERS ...

"Richard Carvel."

THE popular novel of the year is beyond question Winston Churchill's romance of Maryland, "Richard Carvel." This book was published early in June and by the middle of July it was announced that the sales were approaching 40,000. The figure has now reached 110,000, and the call for the book is apparently undiminished. Of course, one cannot judge of the intrinsic worth of any publication by its popularity, which



WINSTON CHURCHILL.

may be due to a mere craze. But in this instance there is a great deal of real merit, we believe, behind the boom which Mr. Churchill's clever story is enjoying.

"Richard Carvel" deals with the period of the American Revolution, and with contemporary life and manners in the political and fashionable circles of London society. In many respects it is genuinely instructive—the author

having a sympathetic and scientific understanding of the people and events he writes about; but it is, in addition, thrillingly entertaining, being full of incident from cover to cover. It is not hard to discover the causes of the remarkable enthusiasm with which "Richard Carvel" has been received by the English world. The book, though a novel, appeals to a much wider clientele than the class of readers who read nothing but fiction. Some people may like it because they enjoy a tremendously good story; other people—and we sympathize with them—because they really like to have history and biography interpreted for them by this method of the historical novel; and still others for different reasons, as, for example, because it is an excellent instance of its kind of descriptive English, and in that sense a noteworthy contribution to literature. It is a tale of stirring adventure, where incident crowds upon incident, and the interest is never allowed to lag. The chronicle ends in so conventional a way, as regards the hero, that the feelings of the most sentimental of readers will not be wrong.

The author permits "Richard Carvel" to narrate his experiences for himself. Narrators are often insufferable bores, but from the opening sentence, in this case, the hero wins the interest and devotion of the reader, who, thereafter follows him with keen sympathy through all his wanderings and adventures. Among his earlier experiences of public affairs is the reception accorded the King's Stamp Distributor, immediately after the Stamp Act had gone into effect. A barque sails into the harbor having on board, among other passengers, Mr. Zachariah Hood, a colonial merchant returning from London where he had sought and obtained from King George the office of Stamp Distributor. A large concourse of people who awaited the coming of the barque grew strangely silent as it "came nearer and nearer, until Mr. Hood showed himself on the poop, when there arose a storm of hisses, mingled with shouts of derision. 'How goes it at St. James, Mr. Hood?'

and 'Have you tasted his Majesty's barley?' And some asked him if he was come as their member of Parliament. Mr. Hood dropped a bow, though what he said was drowned. The barque came in prettily enough, men in the crowd even catching her lines and making them fast to the piles. A gang-plank was thrown over. 'Come out, Mr. Hood,' they cried; 'we are here to do you honor, and to welcome you home again.' There were leather breeches with staves a-plenty around that plank, and faces that meant no trifling. 'McNeir, the rogue,' exclaimed Mr. Carvel, 'and that hulk of a tanner, Brown. And I would know those smith's shoulders in a thousand.' 'Right, sir,' says Pryse, 'and 'twill serve them proper when the King's troops come among them for quartering.' Pryse being the gentry's patron, shaped his politics according to the company he was in; he could be ill expected to seize one of his own ash spokes and join the resistance." Such is the style of the narrative.

The Canadian publishers of "Richard Carvel" are The Copp, Clark Company, Limited, Toronto.

BOOK NOTES

The new cabinet edition of Dr. Holmes' poetry contains everything which has appeared in verse from his hand—even the early poems, which have sometimes been left out of other editions.

Ouida's new book is called "The Waters of Edera." Other forthcoming novels are Mrs. Alexander's "Through Fire to Fortune", "The Doctor," by Mr. Stapoole, the author of "The Rapin", Mr. Anthony Hope's "The King's Mirror", "The Crown of Life," by George Gissing, and "The Path of a Star," by Sara Jeanette Duncan.

"The Adventures of Louis de Rougemont—As Told by Himself," have just appeared in book form, from the press of George Newnes. The "as told by himself," is supposed to be the saving clause under the examination of the sceptic. The book is dedicated to his devoted wife "Yamba." An American edition is to be published by the Lippincott Company.

"The book trade," says The Montreal News Company, "will be pleased to learn that a new collection of Dr. Drummond's poems in French-Canadian dialect, will soon be issued."

and the Rindley has, promised to keep an eye upon you.
She took up the darling mechanically.
"I shall not spare a word to keep you, Richard," she said, softly. "I would have wished it," she said, softly. "And every thing you wish to be done will be done. We shall think of you, and pray for you daily."
I said about for a cheerful reply.
I think when they discover how dear a mind we are they will reverse their sentence in a hurry. Before you know it, Percy I shall be back again making the ground in my broad rim, and waiting in your net for Captain Cook.
It was a pitiful attempt. She shook her head sadly. "Oh dear! Oh dear! Oh dear! and she was smiling through them. The sorrow of that smile!
"I have something to say to you before

PAGE OF MR. CHURCHILL'S MANUSCRIPT.

The British Museum has lately become the richer by the gift of forty-eight autograph letters of Charles Lamb to Bernard Barton, and of ninety letters addressed by Coleridge to Thomas Poole.