

where, our women are well to the fore. Miss Blanche Lucile Macdonell and Miss Lily Dougall have both made contributions to this branch of fiction, as have also W. D. Lighthall, Edgar Maurice Smith, and William McLennan.

Miss Macdonell's book is called "Diare of Ville Marie," and is her first serious attempt in fiction. It is a romance of French Canada in the days when Frontenac was Governor, and the burly Dollier de Casson ruled over the Seminary at Ville Marie. Though the plot is rather slim, the sketches of the men and women who made up the curious little community of Ville Marie are particularly vivid; and the author gives the reader an excellent picture of one of the most picturesque periods of Canadian history.

Another romance of old French Canada is Mr. Lighthall's "False Chevalier." This story is founded on a "packet of worm-eaten letters and documents found in an old French-Canadian house on the banks of the St. Lawrence." With these as a foundation, Mr. Lighthall has built up a well-constructed and fascinating story.

Miss Dougall needs no introduction. She is already on terms of easy familiarity with most general readers, as the author of "Zeit Geist" and a number of other stories. Her last book, "The Mormon Prophet," is a curious composition. Miss Dougall believes that there exists a great deal of misapprehension as to the real origin of Mormonism; and as to the character and aims of its first prophet, Joseph Smith. In her novel she endeavors to dissipate this cloud, and, at the same time, to give a faithful and interesting picture of the period.

Edgar M. Smith's "Aneroestes the Gaul" first appeared as a serial in "The Canadian Magazine." It is a story of the Second Punic War, and is perhaps of even greater interest to the student of the period than to the mere novel-reader. The descriptions of the manners and customs of the time show deep research; and the account of Hannibal's famous march across the Alps, and the subsequent campaign in Italy, is altogether excellent.

William McLennan has lately published two historical novels, one, "Spanish John," written by himself, and the second, "The Span o' Life," in collaboration with J. N. McIlwraith, another Canadian. Both books have appeared as serials in "Harper's." "Spanish John" is a record of the stirring adventures of Col. John Macdonell, while a lieutenant in the Company of St. James of the Regiment Irlandia, in the service of the King of Spain. This story, like "The False Chevalier," is founded on family records; but it strikes me that the ma-