

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

CANADIAN BOOKS AND WRITERS.

TWO books of a widely different nature, but both of unusual interest to Canadians are being published this month by The Copp, Clark Co., Limited. One is a historical review by Sir John G. Bourinot, K.C.M.G., entitled "Builders of Nova Scotia," with an appendix containing copies of rare documents relating to the early days of the Province. The book is of royal octavo size, handsomely bound in cloth with a special design by the Canadian artist, J. W. L. Forster, A.R.C.A., and contains somewhat more than 50 capital illustrations and portraits. Sir John Bourinot's ability as a historian is well known throughout the Dominion, while the purport of his present work is best given in the closing words of the author's preface:

In conclusion I shall only say that I have had no other desire, in the preparation of this monograph, which comprises in as small a compass as possible the results of the studies and investigations of years, than to recall the names and services of men who did good work for their country in the most critical periods of its history. Many of these men are now almost forgotten, but it is my hope that the youth of Nova Scotia will be inspired even by so imperfect a sketch as this to revive their memories and do them some justice even at this late date. I should also like to think that some readers in the other Provinces of the Dominion will be induced to take an interest in the record of the makers of a Province, of whose history and eminent men of ante-federation days Canadians outside of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have still relatively little knowledge. Canada can never be a nation until the peoples, who live either by the sea, or in the valley of the St. Lawrence, or by the great lakes, or on the western prairies, or on the Pacific slope, take a common interest and pride in each other's history and in the achievements of the men who reflect lustre on the respective Provinces that make up the federation to the north of the ambitious American Republic.

The price of the work is \$1.50.

The other is a volume of "Practical Studies in the History and Biography of the Old Testament," by George Hague, for many years general manager of the Merchants Bank of Canada, with a preface by Dean Carmichael. This important book is the expression of the life-long study and experience of the author, who, from his wide business experience and knowledge of men and things, has been enabled to throw new light upon the history and biography of the Old Testament in a way most valuable to every student of the Bible, and particularly to Bible class teachers. The high commendation which Mr. Hague has received

from many prominent Anglican clergyman and his own prominence as a layman and a man of business, assure a very large sale to this book not only among members of the Anglican Church but among all intelligent Bible students.

A new book, entitled "3 800 Miles Across Canada," has been written by J. W. C. Haldane, C. E., of Liverpool, England. It is a volume of travel through the Dominion by an observant Englishman and is copiously



"JANICE,"

The Lovely Heroine in "Janice Meredith."

illustrated by photographs. It is published at \$1.25 by Simpkin, Marshall & Co., London.

A. M. Belding, of The St. John Sun, has published a pretty and tasteful pamphlet entitled "A Transvaal Souvenir." It is exceedingly attractive, the letter press in prose and poetry being most creditable, and the cuts, throughout, above the ordinary. In the inside of the covers are names of the members of the New Brunswick contingent. This pamphlet sells for 10c.

The series of letters on the Doukhobor settlements in the Canadian Northwest, written by "Lally Bernard" (Mrs. Fitzgibbon) and published in The Toronto Globe, have been reprinted in pamphlet form, with a map and two illustrations of Doukhobor types. Those who make a collection of Canadian material, economic, historical and political, will be glad to add

this treatise of Mrs. Fitzgibbon, which can be had of Wm. Briggs.

Since the announcement of its coming issue, William Briggs reports receiving numerous orders for Dr. Bryce's work on The Hudson's Bay Company. The publisher expects to have it on the market before March. No man living has had better opportunity for gathering material for a reliable, comprehensive, realistic history of this great company. A residence of 30 years in the Northwest, familiar intercourse during those years with the officers, visits to outlying posts—all these have given an intimate knowledge of the conditions of life and the operations of the traders, and when joined to studious research of the records, to which every aid was given by the company's leading officials, and to a natural aptitude for historical writing, they give promise of a masterly work.

Mr. Walter A. Ratcliffe, the blind poet, whose "Morning Songs in the Night," has many appreciative readers, recently took up his residence in Port Hope, where he will employ himself in basket-making—an occupation learned in The Brantford Institute. Basket-weaving will be varied occasionally by the weaving of fancies into verse. We hope Mr. Ratcliffe will be able to maintain himself in comfort.

THE COPP, CLARK CO.'S of best selling books on BOOKS.

As will be seen from the list another page, "Janice Meredith" and "Richard Carvel" are the most popular books in America. And as that popularity is undoubtedly founded on real merit, and no other star has yet appeared above the horizon which is at all likely to eclipse them, it is probable that they will hold their place for some time to come. But how do those who cry out that the historical novel has had its day explain the success of these two distinctly historical romances? Or is theirs a false alarm? The secret of the success and failure of this class of fiction is well brought out in a review of "Janice Meredith" which recently appeared in The Atlanta Constitution:

The poles are not more widely sundered than are the two types of historical novels: the one for the writing of which the author has "read up," the other written because the author's mind has reached the saturation point. The one is a manufacture, the other is a precipitation. In the one, we are introduced into the valley of dry bones, in the other, they have been clothed with flesh, and breathe and move before us. In the one, the insistence is upon the speech, the customs, the ideas, that differentiate the past from the present; in the other, upon the thread of common human nature running through all times and peoples. From the one the reader is remote and alien, in the other he