

BOOK REVIEWS.

WE quote an amusing instance of inappropriate metaphor taken from H. T. Hasting's essay on "The Inspiration of the Bible."

"Every little while somebody blows up the Bible, but when it comes down it always lights on its feet and runs faster than ever through the world."

A crisp and readable book of short stories and sketches is that entitled "A Gentleman Vagabond" by F. Hopkinson Smith. These have appeared at different times in various magazines, as is the manner of them, and are now collected under the title of the first sketch. "A Gentleman Vagabond" suggests the inevitable Colonel Carter in type, but the mendacious Major Slocomb whose picturesque personality is the theme of the sketch wins our amusement and indulgence only, without the love which we gave the former dear and simple gentleman.

"A Knight of the Legion of Honor," and "The Lady of Lucerne" are both little outline stories, in which the novelty of foreign experience and the touch of human nature combine to charm the reader. "Baader" is an amusing portrait of a French courier, and "Brock-away's Hulk" is dramatic.

But the best of the collection are "Jonathan" and "Another Dog."

The author has an outdoor touch, which puts him at his best when portraying nature or the simple personalities that are in close kinship with nature.

"Jonathan" recalls "Fishin' Jemmie." It is less of a story than that lovely little tale, and more of a sketch; nay it is hardly that, but "only Jonathan" as the writer says; yet if Jonathan were realized upon the stage the lovable old hero in "Shore Acres" would pale before him. Here is the manner in which the author introduces him:

"He was so ugly—outside I mean: long and lank, flat-chested, shrunken, round-shouldered, stooping when he walked; body like a plank, arms and legs like split rails, feet immense, hands like paddles, head set on a neck screwy as a picked chicken's, hair badly put on and in patches, some about his head, some around his jaw, some under his chin in a half moon, a good deal on the back of his hands and on his chest. Nature had been him in the rough and had left him with every axe-mark showing."

"Another Dog" is a delicious little interpretation of the mind of one dog—fanciful it may be, yet written in such observation and sympathy that we believe every word of it.

Mr. Hopkinson Smith earns our gratitude for the impetus he gives to all that is humane. His book is to be commended as one that will delightfully fill our leisure hour.

"The Seal Skin Cape" is an entertaining novel by Ralph Bolderwood, the Australian writer. It deals with the ad-

"A Gentleman Vagabond" by F. Hopkinson Smith. Macmillan & Co., London, Coppi Clark, Toronto.

"The Seal Skin Cape" by Ralph Bolderwood. Macmillan & Co., Coppi Clark, Toronto.

ventures of a fabulously wealthy Australian, who goes abroad with his family and happens to be "doing" the Upper Nile, at the time of the rising in which Gordon lost his life. Wealth and war combine to give the writer large scope for adventure, and he takes happy advantage of this to give his readers interesting descriptions of the East and much information concerning the Egyptian problem.

All book reviewers will be interested in the outcome of Mrs. Humphrey Ward's suit against Mr. Stead of the *Review of Reviews* for publishing a review of her new novel "Sir George Trevelyan," with extracts from the book so copious and lengthy that the author considers it an infringement upon her copyright.

The decision of the court in this test case will define just how much a reviewer may quote of any work under his hands.

Justice to the author should prevent any reviewer from quoting enough to give the reader a knowledge of the book, so that he has no need to purchase a copy. Anything as extensive as a lengthy summary or abridgment is taking unfair advantage of the author and publisher.

Quotations should be given simply as "tasters" to woo or warn the public, or to justify any detail of criticism; but not to give inclusive knowledge of the book.

Rev. Dr. Rand, of McMaster University, has in the press of William Briggs a volume of poems to be entitled, "At Minas Basin and Other Poems." Before coming to Toronto to take the principalship of McMaster University Dr. Rand's home had been in the storied land of Evangeline, and much of his verse had at once its subject and its inspiration amid the romantic surroundings of the "shores of the Basin of Minas," where "to the northward Blomidon rose" and "the mists of the mighty Atlantic looked on the happy valley." Dr. Rand is well-known, by his contributions to the magazines, to write graceful and polished verse, and we may expect this forthcoming collection will give him high rank among our Canadian bards.

There is matter for congratulation in the large number of valuable contributions to Canadian historical literature issued within the last three years. Of recent works Bourinot's "Canada," Kirby's "Annals of Niagara," the Lizars sisters' "In the Days of the Canada Company," are particularly notable. We are glad to learn that a local history that is more than local in interest, a comprehensive history of the "County of Annapolis," Nova Scotia, is about to be issued by William Briggs. This work was undertaken by the late W. A. Calver, a writer of considerable repute, who, unfortunately, died before he had finished it. After the lapse of some years, Judge Savary, of Annapolis Royal, took up the story where its author had left it, and has now brought it to completion. Perhaps no part of Canada is more interesting to the student of history than this grand old county which dates its settlement back to the beginning of the seven-

teen century, when Champlain and De Mont visited it and built a fort on a site within six miles of the present town of Annapolis Royal.

What memories cluster about the remains of old Fort Royal! And what antiquity, too, for this young country,—built as it was, when Oliver Cromwell was a boy of seven, not dreaming of the part he should play in the drama of life. No town in all North America has been the scene of more stirring events extending over a longer period of time. In both of the gentlemen to whose hand successively has fallen the compilation of the records of the county, these have found capable and sympathetic narrators. The work will comprise some 650 large pages, and is sure to prove a mine of interest to the reader.

The mystery that has enshrouded the great section of our North-west, lying between Great Slave and Athabasca Lakes and Hudson's Bay, and known as the "Barren Lands," has been pierced, and the silence of those great solitudes broken by the echoes of the white man's rifle, through the enterprise and adventure of two intrepid Canadians, Messrs J. B. and J. W. Tyrrell, of Hamilton, who made a journey extending, in all, over some 3,200 miles in canoes and on snowshoes. Of this great journey 800 miles lay through the heart of a wilderness never before trodden by the foot of a white man. The adventures and hardships of the travellers are narrated by Mr. J. W. Tyrrell, who enriches the narrative with a wealth of information concerning the animal life of the country, its nomadic inhabitants, etc. Mr. Arthur Heming, the well-known artist and explorer, has been engaged to illustrate the book, which will be issued in the best style of the enterprising publisher, Mr. William Briggs, of Toronto.

Miss FitzGibbon has received from Lord Edmond Pelham Clinton, Private Secretary to the Queen, a letter conveying Her Majesty's acceptance of a copy of the Cabot Calendar, which Her Majesty found "very interesting."

Mr. Chas. G. D. Roberts, whose pen has signally enriched the literature of Canada, has in press a historical novel of the seventeenth century entitled, "The Forge in the Forest; being the story of the Acadian Ranger, J'en de Mer, Seigneur de Briart, and how he crossed the Black Abbi, and of his adventures in a strange fellowship." A formidable title, indeed, but a story, we may be sure, full of life and force, and in the exquisite literary style of our poet-novelist.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Three Boys in the Wild North-West," by Egerton R. Young, Briggs' Publishing Company.

REVIEWER.

How dear is eyesight to everyone, yet few realize the penalties of neglecting it. "My Optician," as Mr. N. M. Devan, of 159 Yonge Street, is familiarly known, has made optics and the testing of sight his life study, and is able to fit glasses to any eye professionally, also to give needed advice with regard to the eyes.

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