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CHAT ABOUT BOOKS.

THE first Canadian "Fadazine" is to hand. A Fadazine—for people who are unfamiliar with the term—is a fad idea in periodical production, illustrated in *The Philistine*, *The Bohemian*, *The Blue Sky*, and others similar. "The Scroll," as the Canadian fadazine is called, is devoted to the reprinting of literary selections from masters past and present. The first number contains "The Tale of King Constans, the Emperor," by William Morris. This production is very neat, and should please the literary taste well.

Charles G. D. Roberts' new book has had a great sale in Halifax, due to a more than ordinary interest in an author who is known here personally as well as through his work. It is a tale of Acadie, and has a particularly romantic interest for our own people. The title, "The Heart of the Ancient Wood," is suggestive, but the book really is unique, striking an entirely new note in literature. It is an animal story different from those of Kipling and Seton-Thompson.

A new addition to the book world that will be highly appreciated by the people who have read "The Choir Invisible," and James Lane Allen's recent writings, is a volume containing two comparatively early stories by this author, namely, "Aftermath" and "A Kentucky Cardinal." The book is illustrated by a hundred charming drawings from the pen of Hugh Thomson, the English artist, and is rendered more valuable by a new preface, in which Mr. Allen tells the circumstances of his childhood.

Miss M. E. Braddon undoubtedly stands foremost among the prolific writers of the century. Since 1862 her output has been sixty novels. This will probably eclipse F. Marion Crawford, whom Americans accuse of turning out novels by some process akin to machinery. Miss Braddon's stage career, previous to her entrance into the literary world, must have materially assisted in broadening her range of character and situation. It is on record that during the five months following her initial performance at Brighton Royal, in 1861, she impersonated fifty-eight different characters. The authoress' real name is Mrs. Maxwell, and she is a widow.

From a successful sale in novel form David Harum attained the distinction of stage production, and now makes its appearance in a nicely illustrated edition. B. West Cundinist, the artist, seems imbued with the spirit of the book, and the pictures are thoroughly successful. There are no elaborate plate reproductions; in fact, there are few full-page drawings, the bulk of the illustrations consisting of little pen-and-ink drawings set in the text, and almost, in many cases, of a marginal nature. The total number of sketches is two or three hundred, yet from the manner of their arrangement, the story remains the chief thing. The volume is not expensive. It will no doubt have a large Christmas circulation among admirers of the David Harum type.



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