

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

MARY JOHNSTON.

A woman who is being most talked about in the United States at the present time is undoubtedly Miss Mary Johnston, who, at the early age of 29, has suddenly found herself famous as the author of a fine novel. When we say that within 16 or 17 days of publication the advance orders amounted to the surprising number of 120,000, it will be understood that the book is one of no common merit, and that it has "caught on" with the efficacy of a barb No. 3 on the gill of a codfish. The story appeared, first of all, as a serial in *The Atlantic Monthly*, the editor of which appears to have been attracted by Miss Johnston's previous story, which was her first—"Prisoners of Hope." It is said that the appearance of "To Have and to Hold," the happy title chosen for her latest effort—increased the circulation of the magazine by 50,000 copies monthly. "To Have and to Hold" is the work of a born story-teller. It is full of deeply interesting situations, and it deals with the romantic period in American life when Virginia had only been for a few years colonized by Englishmen. What is amazing about the book is the powerful grip in which the characters are held while the circumstances of the story are developed. Miss Johnston is full of invention, resource, and imagination, and the book will, no doubt, be one of the great strikes of the bookselling year. Members of the trade should lose no time in placing their orders for this exceptional book, which will, no doubt, sell ahead of many competitors. It is finely illustrated by several artists, among whom is Howard Pyle, the undoubted leader of the best school of American art in this direction.

Wm. Briggs' NEW BOOKS. "The Lords of the North," the powerful story of the rival fur traders of the Hudson's Bay and Northwest Companies, to which reference has before been made in this journal, and the author of which is a Canadian young lady, Miss Agnes C. Laut, is shortly to be published in the United States by Messrs. J. F. Taylor & Co., of New York, and in Canada by William Briggs. Miss Laut is a brilliant writer, who has done excellent work for *The New York Herald and Post*, chiefly in the Northwest and British Columbia, and is at present residing in Ottawa. We understand she is

now engaged on special literary work for the McClure Company.

Dr. F. J. Livingston, the plucky Canadian medical missionary, who was captured by a commando of Boers raiding in Zululand last October, and by making a bold dash for liberty in the darkness of night succeeded in escaping from his captors, has written the story of his adventures, adding to the personal narrative much that is interesting of the Boer character and giving a succinct sketch of the history of the South-African colonies and republics. This has been published by William Briggs under the title "My Escape from the Boers." It is having a rapid sale.

William Briggs has made a good hit in securing the new Corelli book. The title is not yet announced, but the London publishers predict for the book a sale far in excess of any of this popular author's previous stories.

A huge sale is assured of a cheap popular history of the Transvaal War, by Edgar Sanderson, M.A., the Canadian market for which is in the hands of William Briggs. The book is entitled "The Fight for the Flag in South Africa," and covers the narrative of the war from the Boer ultimatum to the advance of Lord Roberts. It is a paper-covered book, with over 100 excellent illustrations and maps, and sells at 35c. A portrait of Lieut.-Col. Otter and a picture of a part of the first Canadian contingent are among the engravings that embellish it. Mr. Sanderson is the author of "Africa in the Nineteenth Century," and "The British Empire in the Nineteenth Century."

The new carefully selected and edited volume of Alexander McLachlan's poems is announced by William Briggs for issue in April. It will be a volume of well onto 400 pages, with portraits of the author and a picture of his residence. The book will be issued in attractive style, and will be a welcome addition to the shelves of Canadian libraries—private as well as public.

Dr. Rand's "Treasury of Canadian Verse" will be published not later than May. We can congratulate him on having secured so tasteful as well as energetic publishers as J. M. Dent & Co. for the English edition. It is, indeed, a happy event that a volume so representative of the best work of the Canadian poets should be placed before the British public at a time when the appetite for things Canadian has been keenly whetted by Canada's

service to the Imperial arms in South Africa. It will be a book that Canadians may regard with complacent pride. Many of the finest poems in the collection will, in this book, have their first publication. The arrangement is an admirable one. The authors follow in alphabetical order, the poems of each appearing consecutively. An index of first lines will be a useful feature. Dr. Rand also has given a series of brief biographical notes of the authors when obtainable. This work alone entailed a vast amount of research and correspondence. The Canadian edition, published by William Briggs, will appear in cloth binding at \$1.25 net, and in half calf at \$2.50 net.

The Canadian copyright edition of Mr. Chas. G. D. Roberts' new book, "By the Marshes of Minas," will be ready this month, and a new book by Mr. Roberts, whether of fiction, history, or verse, is a noteworthy event. Perhaps there is no other living writer who has shown himself equally a master in the three fields. "By the Marshes of Minas" is a volume of connected romances of love and adventure in that picturesque period when Nova Scotia was passing from the French to the English regime. In several of the tales the evil Black Abbe—a memorable figure from the author's previous works—again appears, with his savages at his heels, but to be thwarted always by a woman's wit or a soldier's courage. The titles are distinctly alluring—among them the following: "By the Thickness of a Door," "The Blue Dwarf of Belle Marie," "Brown Witch and Black Abbe," "The Maid of the Drift," "A Tragedy of the Tides," etc.

One of the best strokes of business done by Mr. S. B. Gundy for the William Briggs' publishing house, during his recent visit to London, was the securing of the Canadian market for Mr. J. P. FitzPatrick's already famous book, "The Transvaal from Within."

This book has, even at the stiff English price of 10s. 6d., had an enormous sale in Great Britain. In the United States it is sold by the Frederick A. Stokes Co. at \$3, and has run rapidly through successive editions. Mr. Briggs has the Canadian copyright edition now in the press, and will publish in paper at 75c. and in cloth at \$1.25. He reports a wonderful demand from the trade, approaching that of the most popular works of fiction.

The work is one of extraordinary interest, and would be even if war were not now on. It has had commendation in high quarters. Mr. Chamberlain, replying to a correspondent who complained of the want of a printed defence of the Government's policy