

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

non-resistance. Leaving the army soon after the close of the Crimean War, he devoted himself to literature, and began to write his great stories. The Russians think his great masterpiece is his "War and Peace," a tale of the invasion of Russia by Napoleon in 1812. Other nations regard "Anna Karenina" as his best story. Mathew Arnold reviewed it enthusiastically. George Meredith says that Anne, the beautiful but unfaithful wife, who ends her sorrows by suicide, is the most perfectly depicted character in all fiction. But Tolstoi, for the last 20 years, has been trying to think out the meaning of things and the end of life.

During 15 of these years, he has been working at the last work, "What is Art?" It has been translated recently by Mr. Aylmer Maude, an English Quaker, who is a friend of Tolstoi's, and, on its publication in London, was received by a discordant chorus of criticism. Well it might be; Tolstoi is not bound by tradition. He follows his thought straight on. His strong, rugged nature is not much swayed by the softer passions. He is the reverse of a "grosvenor, gallery, greenery, yallery, foot-in-the-grave young man." He can't bear stained-glass attitudes.

Nor is Tolstoi less uncompromising when he speaks of novels—especially French ones. "From Boccaccio to Marcel Prevost, all the novels, poems and verses invariably transmit the feeling of sexual love in different forms. Adultery is not only the favorite, but almost the only, theme of all the novels."

* * * They are all the productions of persons suffering from erotic mania, and these people are evidently convinced that, as their whole life, in consequence of their diseased condition, is concentrated on amplifying various sexual abominations, therefore the life of the world is similarly concentrated. And these people, suffering from erotic mania, are imitated throughout the whole artistic world of Europe and America." Of music, he has to say: "To what an extent people of our circle and time have lost the capacity to receive real art, and have become accustomed to accept as art things that have nothing in common with it, is best seen from the works of Richard Wagner, which have latterly come to be more and more esteemed." He scores the decadent French poets without mercy. But he says: "If I were asked to give examples of the highest art in literature, I should name 'The Robbers,' by Schiller, Victor Hugo's 'Les Pauvres Gens' and 'Les Misérables', the novels and stories of Dickens—'The Tale of Two Cities,' 'The Christmas Carol,' 'The Chimes,' and others, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' Dostoiévsky's works,

especially his 'Memoirs from the House of Death,' and 'Adam Bede,' by George Eliot." It may be said that, throughout, the book is a well-reasoned indictment of modern theory of "Art for Art's Sake."

The Canadian edition will be issued in cloth at the price of \$1.25. It contains a fine colored portrait of its distinguished author.

THE W. J. GAGE CO.'S BOOKS

"Ragged Lady," by William Dean Howells. The Academy says of Mr. Howells and his "Ragged Lady," the Canadian edition of which, from the press of The W. J. Gage Co., Limited, has had such a wide sale: "Mr. Howells is a master, and the master, no matter what his medium, always commands respect or admiration. In selection of material and in



William Dean Howells, author of "Ragged Lady."

arrangement thereof, Mr. Howells never falters. * * * The book before us is superb * * * To us "Ragged Lady" has more attraction than any of Mr. Howells' books. It contains the portrait most dexterously and delicately painted, of a New England girl, Clementina Cloxon. The book shows her triumphant emergence from relations with selfish and worldly persons, both at home and abroad. This is almost all there is to say; and to quote is impossible, for Mr. Howells' stories are not a matter of individual pages and purple patches."

READERS AND COPY BOOKS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

The Royal Gazette, the official organ of the Government in the Province of New Brunswick, announces in its last issue the adoption by the Government for exclusive use in that Province of a new series of readers and vertical copy books.

The former is an adaptation of that excellent series, "The Canadian Readers,"

published by The W. J. Gage Company, Limited, Toronto. The vertical copies adopted are also those published by The W. J. Gage Company, Limited. They are issued for New Brunswick as "McMillan's Vertical Copy Books," and are now authorized in every Province of the Dominion, while an American edition has been adopted for exclusive use by one of the largest States in the Union, and is at present in use in some of the leading cities of the United States.

MR. SHELDON'S NEW BOOK.

Seasonable books which are good sellers are the bookseller's favorites.

When "In His Steps" made its appearance, although its popularity was not very great at first, it awakened more than ordinary interest, until at length the people began to talk about it, and, according to the latest statistics, over 3,000,000 copies have been sold in England and America. This is a book which the dealers did not have to push. It was put on their tables and it sold itself.

The announcement of a new book by Mr. Sheldon is hailed with delight by all who have read his previous works.

The W. J. Gage Co., Limited, have been so fortunate as to secure the Canadian rights of Mr. Sheldon's latest book, and, on August 15, they will place upon the market "John King's Question Class," which bids fair to be the most popular of all his books. No living writer has united in an equal degree popular interest with moral and religious lessons for the conduct of practical life. "John King's Question Class" is an advance on the author's previous works inasmuch as it is less open to any unfavorable criticism, and competent critics pronounce it in many respects superior to "In His Steps."

The W. J. Gage Co., Limited, are placing this book on the market in a Canadian copyright edition, and there will be simultaneous publications in England and the United States. It is a compact volume of 290 pages, with a decidedly striking cover design. It will not be a cheaply put-together book, but one printed on good paper, neatly bound, and in every way attractive. It sells for 75c. in cloth and 30c. in paper.

GAGE'S VERTICAL WRITING SYSTEM FOR ONTARIO.

The Minister of Education for Ontario has authorized, for use in the schools of that Province, "Gage's Vertical System of Writing."

This system is already authorized in all the other Provinces, and, because of its superiority over other systems, the Minister has determined that the schools of Ontario shall also use the book.

The new series will be called "The