

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

George Moore. Offices, Army and Navy Mansions, Victoria street.

"This company has been formed to acquire and trade in all the writings, prose, verse, or private letters of the celebrated author, Mr. Rudyard Kipling. Mr. Kipling, who is at this moment the most famous writer now living, is still young, and there is promise that he has before him a considerable period of active productivity. Negotiations are now afoot for the acquisition of letters written by Kipling as a child, for copy books containing his earliest attempts at pot hooks and hangers, and for a vast amount of other immature penmanship. The company also view with much satisfaction the circumstance that the action now being brought by Mr. Kipling against an American firm is not likely to be heard for 18 months. This insures a continual succession of articles and paragraphs in the public press during the early stages of the company's career." Other amusing paragraphs appear. It is evident the Kipling hysteria has reached its height.

WILLIAM BRIGGS' NEW BOOKS.

The phenomenal sale of "David Harum" continues without abatement. Another week or two will see the disposal of the enormous total of 200,000 copies—and this within nine months of issue. When we consider that more than nine-tenths of the sales are of the American cloth edition published at \$1.50, we begin to realize how popular the story is, and reach the conclusion that there is money in a good book. Poor Westcott passed away before the rewards of his genius reached him, but his orphaned children are reaping the harvest his clever pen had sowed. A recent writer in The Saturday Evening Post tell us "Mr. Westcott was nearly 50 years of age when he began its composition. He had been stricken with mortal illness which unfitted him for his other work, when he took up literature purely as a diversion. After it was finished he submitted it to two Chicago publishers, to two New York firms, and to one in Boston and one in Philadelphia, before it was accepted by a third, a New York publisher."

Everyone interested in the success of Canadian writers will note with satisfaction

the splendid tributes to the work of W. A. Fraser that have appeared in the public press. This is more marked in the United States even than in Canada. Some of the reviewers do not hesitate to invite comparison with Kipling, and maintain that our Canadian does not suffer in the comparison. The two men are firm friends, and have been for years. When the author of "Soldiers Three" and a hundred other works sprang into fame he was the first to give his Canadian friend "a leg up," in the literary market. "When you get there," wrote Kipling to Fraser, "You'll find me shouting," and Mr. Fraser bears

The scene is laid in Europe. This will reassure the public, who might naturally fear that the story deals with the recent Yanko-Spanko war, in which Mr. Crane figured as a war correspondent. Those who read his "Red Badge of Courage" know the vivid strength of Mr. Crane's pen in describing battle scenes.

A new writer of great promise is Robert Nelson Stephens, whose new story, "A Gentleman Player," is to be published this month by William Briggs. The story has its scene in the time of Queen Elizabeth. Mr. Briggs reports large advance orders.

Lovers of the "wildings of the woods" are enthusiastic over Miss Lounsbury's "A Guide to the Wild Flowers." The colored illustrations are greatly admired. The Canadian publisher, William Briggs, reports gratifying sales. Half of the first edition was taken up on the day of publication.

The booksellers find Marchmont's new story, "A Dash for a Throne," one of the best sellers of the many good books on their counter this Spring. A handsome poster, designed by Mr. Fred. Bridgen, has been sent out by the publisher.

William Briggs is to be congratulated on the artistic cover of his edition of Harold Frederic's "The Market Place." The paper cover is the handsomest we have yet seen, and must materially help the sales.

TREASURY OF CANADIAN VERSE.

We understand the delay in the publication of Dr. Rand's "Treasury of Canadian Verse" is due to the failure of Lamson, Wolfe & Co., of Boston, who had secured the book for the American market. Arrangements for another publisher are being made, and we expect the book to appear during the coming Autumn.

THE COPP, CLARK CO.'S BOOKS.

It has not been an unusual thing in the past for different English publishing houses to bring out in sixpenny form some popular book which has passed its first bloom. "With Kitchener to Khartoum" was brought out in this form and the first edition of 100,000 was sold within a few weeks. But The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, have taken an important step further, and are bringing out Robert Barr's latest novel, "The Adventures of Jennie Baxter, Journalist," in



"I MADE A JUMP AND RAN TO MEET SIMPLE" Page 38
Specimen illustration from "The Market Place"

witness that Kipling's shouting did a great deal to help him.

A second edition of Miss Fowler's, "A Double Thread," has been issued. This story leads in the sales of popular English novels, as reported in the book journals.

Robert Barr's new novel, "The Strong Arm," introduces the reader to the further doings and adventures of the leading characters in "Tekla." William Briggs announces its issue about the 20th of this month.

William Briggs has secured for Canada, and will publish in August, a new story by Stephen Crane, entitled "Active Service."