

CANADIAN WRITERS AND BOOKS.

A PAMPHLET on "The Railway Question in Canada" has just been issued by Mr. J. S. Willison, managing editor of The Toronto Globe. Mr. Willison thoroughly understands this question and he embodies in the present treatise his experience and investigation of the conditions in Western Canada two years ago. Mr. Willison writes with conspicuous lucidity and fairness, marshalls his facts with a journalist's skill, and has produced, on the whole, the best monograph on the subject which has yet appeared in Canada.

Miss Marshall Saunders, the talented Nova Scotian whose "Beautiful Joe" scored such an immense success, is issuing another book "The King of the Park," the story of a homeless cat, and appealing, as her other work did, to the humanitarian sentiment of the day. Crowell & Co., of Boston, are the publishers.

Mr. W. H. Holmes has written, and the Copp, Clark Co. will publish in a few days, "A Short History of the Union Jack." This is an admirable literary contribution by a Canadian to the Victorian year. It will give a chronological list of British victories by land and sea from Sluys to Tel-el-Kebir with much carefully compiled information about them. The author deals with his subject concisely. The Canadian vic-

tories, Queenston, Chateauguay, etc., will be dealt with with exceptional vividness owing to the author's familiarity with the battle grounds themselves and his devoted patriotism. Mr. Holmes, who now resides in Nova Scotia, is a barrister by profession and well versed in history. He has many friends in Ontario and the West.

A work, the announcement of which is sure to create wide interest, the "Life and Work of D. J. Macdonnell," late pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, is to appear about the 1st of June from the Wm. Briggs publishing house. The volume is being edited by Professor J. F. McCurdy, of Toronto University, author of "History, Prophecy, and the Monuments." A considerable part of the biographical matter is being prepared by Mrs. Campbell, of Montreal, sister of Mr. Macdonnell. We understand this volume will include a number of extracts from sermons by Mr. Macdonnell, than whom few preachers in Canada were more widely known, respected and esteemed, or more powerful in their pulpit utterances.

A page of Canadian history hitherto unwritten is that describing the inner life of the Scottish emigrants who were settled along the Red River at Kildonan and other points by Lord Selkirk. The descendants of these sturdy men will be pleased to learn that the Rev. R. G. MacBeth, of Winnipeg,

son of the late Hon. Robt. MacBeth, one of the original settlers, yielding to many urgent requests, has prepared and placed in the press of Wm. Briggs a volume describing in a most interesting way the peculiar phase of life that existed in the early settlement. Sir Donald Smith, the Canadian High Commissioner to England, in consenting to write an introduction to the book, wrote the author: "Your father . . . was one of my most esteemed friends, and it is indeed well that his life work and that of other Kildonan men who so materially aided in the opening up of the great Northwest should be given to the public, and it is certainly appropriate this should be done by one so fully conversant with the whole subject as yourself."

"Polson's Probation: A Story of Manitoba," by James Morton, a clever young farmer of the Prairie Province, is among this month's coming issues of the busy press of William Briggs. The publisher declares the story to be a genuine Canadian "Hoo-sier Schoolmaster" in its way. Most of the characters are very droll. Solomon Cragg, and Uncle Nathan, and Mr. Scroggott, the farm cook, are drawn with a skilful pen, and their adventures provide no end of mirth. Gorman O'Neill, the blacksmith, too, is a grotesque figure, who might do credit to Charles Lever's pages. While there are pages of roaring fun, the book has also its chapters wherein tragedy the most powerful is effectively presented. Altogether it is a capital story, and should be widely popular.



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