

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

MONTREAL BOOK NOTES.

THE new book mentioned in last issue of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, "David Harum," has proved to be the best seller during the past month is the almost universal report of Montreal booksellers. Its quaint humor is being more and more appreciated by the reading public, and it is said that the publishers have difficulty in supplying the demand.

When speaking about this book, one bookseller of many years' experience said that the taste for books changes every little while, and that now the historical novel is rapidly giving way before the more popular books with a humorous tendency.

The almost universal interest in and widespread publicity given throughout the English-speaking world to the circumstances surrounding the recent serious illness of Rudyard Kipling has proved to be an exceptionally good advertisement for the writings of that famous author. His books have had a tremendous sale during the past few weeks, and many who previous to that illness knew little or nothing of Kipling are now reading or have read most of his writings. The United States publishers are said to be hard pressed to meet the demand for Kipling's books.

As the golfing season approaches there is an increased demand for books bearing on that ever popular sport.

Montreal booksellers report a very good Easter trade, and name the following as among the best sellers: "David Harum," by Edward Noyes Westcott, in paper at 75c., cloth at \$1.25; "Life of Drummond," by G. Adam Smith, in cloth at \$2; "What is Art?" by Tolstoi, in cloth at \$1.25; "Investment of Influence," by D. Wight Hillis, in cloth at \$1.25; "Friendship," by Hugh Black, in cloth at \$1.25; "Black Rock," by S. R. Crockett, in paper at 75c., cloth at \$1.25.

The late American war with Cuba gave many opportunities for the publication of stories and books descriptive of incidents in connection therewith, and these opportunities were made the most of throughout the whole American continent, in fact, the land has become so flooded with literature bearing on that subject that it was recently remarked by one who had had ample chances for observation that it seemed that the war had been gotten up in the interest of certain magazine publishers. This class of books has, however, been overdone, and

it is now difficult to dispose of the stock of books on hand bearing on that subject.

Very favorable critiques are appearing of "The Vision of the Seasons" and other verses, by Dorothy W. Knight, a young lady of 18 summers, who has published a former work, and has received letters from John Burroughs, Whittier and others predicting much for her future place as one of our Canadian poets.

The joint book by Wm. McLennan and Miss J. N. McIlwraith, "The Span o' Life," paper 75c., cloth \$1.50, is just in and freely called for, notwithstanding the fact that it has already appeared serially in Harper's.

The Champlain edition of Parkman's Works, 20 vols., illustrated, is being put on the market by subscription. Only a limited number have been issued by Little, Brown & Co., of Boston.

THE W. J. GAGE CO.'S BOOKS.

The first few issues of Gage's fiction series have now appeared, and the booksellers and the reading public have now an opportunity of judging the quality of this new addition to the list of Canadian books. These preliminary issues, it may be said, are nicely printed and tastefully bound, and furnish satisfactory evidence of what the publishers intend to do in this respect.

From the standpoint of interest, the books indicate a wise choice on the part of the publishers as to what will be readable and attractive in this market. "Two Men O' Mendip," by Walter Raymond (cloth, \$1; paper, 50c.) is a tale of Somersetshire, and the author seems to have made a study of the district and its people and to have embodied the results of his observations in this book with an absolute fidelity to nature. The interest of the story centres round the misfortunes of the two Mendip men. John Winterhead, whose pretty daughter, Patty, is the heroine of the tale, and Giles Standerwick her lover. Giles' father has been hanged for stealing a sheep, and the son is under a cloud on that account. A farmer named Pierce, from whom the sheep was stolen, is found murdered, and Winterhead alone knows who the guilty man is. The story ends unhappily, but the interest and sympathy of the reader are deeply aroused. The descriptions of scenery are very fine.

"The Mormon Prophet," by Miss Dougall, is, without doubt, one of the most successful books which this talented Canadian lady has written. Selecting for the

central figure in her story the character of Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon people, Miss Dougall presents what appears to be a truthful and sympathetic picture of the early struggles and difficulties which beset the "latter-day saints." Sushanna, a beautiful girl, is the adopted daughter of a prosperous New York farmer named Croom. While still a girl, she falls in love with and marries a delicate young man named Halsey, one of Joseph Smith's converts. She follows her husband into the Mormon camp, and, through loyalty to him, becomes attached to Joseph Smith and his wife. Thus, we get a friendly view of this extraordinary man, whose delusions were so firmly believed in by himself that he won to his standard many earnest people, notwithstanding the persecutions that befel them. Sushanna's husband dies, and she desires to escape from the Mormons. This she does finally. At this time Mormonism did not involve polygamy, and the "saints" had not removed to their far western settlement in Utah. The story is one of striking interest and power, and will be read from the first page to the last. Miss Dougall is to be congratulated upon the fairness and kindly spirit in which she exhibits the delusions of the sect which had its origin in the mental aberrations of a simple minded, ignorant fanatic.

Another volume in the series is "Hugh Gwyeth—a Roundhead Cavalier," by Beulah Marie Dix, a pleasantly written tale, full of incident and movement, dealing with England in the time of the Civil War. Hugh is a stirring lad who leaves the home of his grandfather, a Roundhead, to join his father, whom he has never seen, and who is a captain of horse in the service of Charles I. The adventures of Hugh are many and he is overtaken with almost every ill usage and ill fortune. His father will not have him, the troopers abuse him, he kills an enemy of his father in a duel, but the latter is not grateful. He falls into the hands of his Roundhead relatives again and is about to be tortured. Escaping to his father again, Hugh performs an important service and is given a commission in his parent's troop. The narrative is vivid throughout, and does not profess to follow the course of the war, only the fortunes of the hero.

G. N. MORANG & CO.'S NEW BOOKS.

Morang & Company have a highly attractive list of forthcoming books which will maintain their reputation for catering in a judicious way to the trade and to the public.

Among other lucky items on the list is "A Ken of Kipling," by Will M. Clemen. This is a biographical sketch of the world's most famous living author with an appre-