

### MRS. KINGSLEY'S BOOK

THE David C. Cook Publishing Company, of Chicago, when they offered the prize of one thousand dollars that brought them Mrs. Kingsley's "Titus: A Comrade of the Cross" could scarcely have anticipated that within a year from their own presses they should have issued and sold a million copies of the book. The fate of a book is said to be as uncertain as a horse race or an election contest. Many a clever work has made its appearance backed by the confident expectation of its publisher that his presses would scarcely be able to keep the supply up to the demand, but—alas for his expectations!--has been doomed to drag its way through two or three small editions in as many years. Popular favor is capricious to a degree. But whatever are the subtle qualities in a book that strike the chord of popularity, it must be that "Titus" is fairly saturated with them, if we may judge by its enormous sale.

One wonders why the publishers had not the sagacity to secure another book from the same author, or, if they did try, only to find that the Philadelphia angler had hung out a more tempting bait. Mr. Henry Altemus did a good day's work when he secured Mrs. Kingsley's second book, "Stephen: A Soldier of the Cross," which a prominent American bookseller has predicted will reach a sale of 50,000 copies (at \$1.25) within a year. We learn that Mr. Altemus has succeeded in securing still another story from the same writer, which, under the title of "Paul: A Herald of the Cross," will appear next January, and carry on the series begun with "Titus." This astute publisher must have conducted his negotiations with rare tact, and supported them with a substantial consideration, for it is said that propositions already had been made to Mrs. Kingsley by a number of other publishers. The author of "Titus" has in the life of Paul and his co-workers material for a powerful historical novel, and those who have read either of her two books will believe her "equal to the occasion."

Canada has furnished an exceptionally good market for these books. Many thousands of the cheap paper edition of "Titus" must have been sent into this country by the American publishers. A limited number of their elegant cloth edition have also found Canadian purchasers. We are informed that a special Canadian edition, printed from the original plates, will very shortly appear, bearing the imprint of William Briggs. This edition will sell at 90c., and should find a large constituency in the Sunday Schools and the Public Libraries, as well as the "little corner bookshelf."

"Stephen," issued by this same enterprising Toronto house, has proved to be one

of its best ventures. Advance orders for some 1,200 copies awaited publication. Mr. Briggs has also secured Mrs. Kingsley's next story, and will have his copyright edition ready for publication simultaneously with the American and English editions.

We are enabled to give our readers a portrait of this writer, who so suddenly has become famous. The face is a pleasing one, and in our next issue we hope to give a personal sketch of its possessor.

### CANADIAN HISTORICAL PORTRAITS.

The descriptive and illustrated catalogue of old portraits and historical prints relating to America, issued by Godefroy Mayer, 15 rue Pigalle, Paris, contains some items of interest to Canada. Among the portraits are those of General Abercromby, (75c.),



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General Amherst, (75c.), Col. Barre, who fought with Wolfe at Quebec, (\$6), Marquis de Beauharnois, Governor of Canada, (\$1.25), Lord Dorchester, (\$2), Jacques Cartier, (\$2), Lord Durham, (50c.), General Gage, (\$2), Sir William Grant, (50c.), Viscount de Lery, (\$2c.), Sir Alexander Mackenzie, (\$1), Marie de l'Incarnation, first superior of the Ursulines, Quebec, (\$8), Montmorency, (75c. and others), Soissons, (75c. etc.), Wolfe, (\$1. etc.). A folio volume of 140 Canadian portraits and historical prints is priced at \$300. It contains 9 maps of Canada.

### WHY LEND AT ALL?

It is a wise lender of books who writes her name on the inner margin of the forty-seventh page as well as on the fly leaf. She has in this way been enabled to identify her

own books in friends' houses when the fly-leaves have mysteriously disappeared. — British and Colonial Printer.

### A THRIVING STORE.

The Bain Book and Stationery Company, 51 King street east, successors to Jas. Bain & Son, have issued a very unique little book-mark list of "The Best Recent Novels," which they are distributing broadcast. This firm makes a specialty of the latest fiction and certainly enjoys the reputation of having the latest novel always on their counters. Under the new management Bain's promises to be one of the leading book stores in Canada.

### QUEBEC'S TEXT BOOKS.

The Text Book Committee of the Quebec Council of Public Instruction had a conference last week with Messrs. Hughes and Gundy, of Toronto, in regard to the Readers to be used in the province of Quebec. Professor Kneeland, of the McGill Normal School, stated that the report would be considered at the meeting of the Council to be held on the 20th of the month. He told BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER that he could not say anything regarding the tenor of the report until it had been considered by the Council. After that, of course, it became public property. It was learned outside, however, that several revisions to the Readers, to adopt them for use in the province of Quebec, had been recommended, and, of course, the Council is certain to authorize them in accordance with the recommendations of its committee. It is understood, also, that the vexed question of Copy Books came up and that revisions to them were recommended, such as the double line, which, if adopted, will make the series acceptable to the Text Book Committee. It was also asserted that arrangements are on the tapis to have both the Readers and Copy Books published by a Montreal publishing house, in agreement, of course, with the Gage Co., of Toronto.

### AN UP-TO-DATE IDEA.

The Bain Book and Stationery Company, 53 King street east, Toronto, had a very attractive window during Horse Show week. The window was draped with the Horse Show colors—blue and gold, in crepe tissue—and crowded with these colors in rolls of tissue. Bain's window was considered by many one of the most attractive of the many gay windows on King street.

Mr. Gladstone, when ordering book from a local bookseller, gives his order subject to ten per cent. discount, even when the order includes a copy of one of his own early works.