

it. Lord Blachford (Frederic Rogers) was Under Secretary for the Colonies from 1866 to 1870. For many years previously he was assistant Under Secretary, so that during the most interesting period of colonial history (and certainly as far as Canada is concerned, the most important period under British rule), we have, in a series of letters to his friends and relatives, a long narrative of colonial policy as viewed by one of the highly-placed and confidential advisers of the Imperial Government. The feeling that moved Britain's colonial policy in those days during the ascendancy of the "Manchester School" is correctly portrayed. Rogers himself believed that independence was the ultimate goal of the colonies. He gives his reason for this view. There is a highly interesting account also of Sir John Macdonald and the Canadian Confederation proposals. The Under Secretary was present during the private discussions, and his recital is very good reading. These are the chief features of the book, which will appeal to Canadian readers, and render it a necessary addition to the libraries. But, in other respects, particularly the portion relating his experiences as an editorial writer for *The London Times*, the volume will be found diverting. The letters are put together with much skill by the editor, so that it is really an autobiography. Owing to the fact that in some unaccountable way Lord Blachford's Letters have not been dealt with by the Canadian press, we would suggest that booksellers bring the book to the notice of the proper persons, i.e., librarians and literary people.

**THE WHIRLPOOL.**—By George Gissing. Paper, 424 pp.; 75c. Toronto News Co., Toronto. A study of social life, showing the lights and shadows, is what one expects from Mr. Gissing. He has written some strong and vivid representations of the seamy side of London life, not bringing out the evil so as to disgust, but rather ignoring the more displeasing characteristics of the struggle. The marriage of two people who are not exactly suited to one another is the main theme. The wife, in whose early life an unpleasant episode has occurred, develops, after being safely married, an ambition to shine as a musician. Her experiences are saddening and her death tragic. The story is worked out simply but strongly, and doubtless it is a typical picture of domestic misery, in which there is nothing really sensational although a novel of absorbing interest is the result. It will find many readers of both sexes.

The Montreal News Co. have issued a special edition of "Tue Chien d'Or" (The Golden Dog) by Kirby. The first edition is already exhausted, and the second edition will be on the market in a day or two.

## LONDON LITERARY NOTES.

LONDON, July 28, 1897.

**M**R. AUGUSTINE BIRELL is printing the lectures on "The Law of Employers' Liability at Home and Abroad" which he delivered as Quain professor of law in University College, London. Messrs. Macmillan are the publishers.

"The Libraries of London: Their Foundation, History and Special Features," by Mr. Thomas Greenwood, author of "Public Libraries," etc., and Mr. James D. Brown, librarian, Clerkenwell Public Library, is in preparation.

Among the Jubilee gifts to the Queen is one from Her Majesty's cousins, which takes the form of a jewelled cover to contain a copy of "Queen Victoria," by Richard R. Holmes, F.S.A., Her Majesty's librarian. The cover is entirely of pure dead gold, and on the front is the Royal Crown in red enamel, the arches in diamonds, and the rim in rubies and emeralds. Beneath is the Queen's Cypher entirely in diamonds, and under it is a ribbon in red enamel bearing the dates "1837, June 20th, 1897," also in diamonds. On the back of the cover are engraved the signatures of the donors, and inside are the Royal Arms, with the addition of the white horse of Hanover.

Mr. John Procter's new volume, "Boers and Little Englanders," is now ready for publication by Mr. George Allen. It deals with such matters as "The Origin of the South African Republic," "The Annexation of the Transvaal," "The Convention," "The Surrender of 1884," "Boer Treatment of the Kaffir," "The Hollanders," and "The Situation To-day."

Mr. Whympers's companion volume to his book on "Chamounix and Mont Blanc" will shortly appear. It deals with "Zermatt and the Matterhorn."

The Queen has been graciously pleased to accept a copy of the volume on "Norman Macleod," by the Rev. John Wellwood, in the "Famous Scots" Series.

It is stated that Mrs. Oliphant had completed shortly before her death a personal life of Her Majesty, which will be published shortly by Messrs. Cassell & Co., Limited.

Count Tolstoi, it is reported, is writing a new novel, the scene of which opens in a law court. A young woman, tried for theft, is sentenced to exile in Siberia. One of the jurymen recognizes her as a victim of his own, with the result that he accompanies her to Siberia and shares her hardships, thus doing penance for his early sin.

Messrs. Blackie & Son have arranged to publish a series of volumes under the general title of "The Victorian Era Series," recording the great movements of the century. The general editor of the series will be Mr. J. H. Rose, who will contribute to

the series a volume on "The Rise of the Democracy"; Canon J. H. Overton will write "The Anglican Revival"; Dean Stubbs, a biography of Charles Kingsley; Mr. George Gissing, a biography of Dickens; Mr. Laurence Gomme, "Modern London"; and other volumes are arranged for.

Dr. Samuel Smiles, whose literary work synchronises with the Queen's reign, spends half the year in his London home in Pembroke Gardens, Kensington. The other six months have been generally spent by the veteran author in traveling abroad, or in visiting localities in Britain connected with the book he may have in hand.

Under the general title of "Annie S. Swan's Penny Stories" Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton began on July 15 the issue of a weekly series of short complete stories, written expressly for publication in this form. The first of the series is entitled "The Secret of Dunstan Mere," by Annie S. Swan. It is put forth in an elegant form, with numerous illustrations. The second story is to be from the pen of Sydney Watson. The idea of this series has probably been suggested by the success which has attended the publication "Horner's Penny Stories."

Mr. Frederick Ryland's promised volume, "Events of the Reign, 1837-1897," is now ready for publication. The work is arranged to give a complete account for each year under the headings: "Home Politics," "Foreign and Colonial Politics," "Literature," "The Arts and Sports," "Inventions and Discoveries," and "Miscellaneous," and is in the hands of Mr. George Allen.

One or two of the limited editions of Jubilee books have gone to a substantial premium. For instance, Messrs. Sotheby on Monday last sold for £20 10s. one of the ten Royal sets of "Early Portraits of Queen Victoria," with preface by Justin McCarthy, published this year at £10. It contains 26 portraits taken between 1820 and 1855 reproduced in collotype.

Mr. Hall Caine's novel, "The Christian," is to have a first edition of 50,000 copies ready for publication on August 7, which shows his publisher's faith in the exceptions to the rule as to the summer production of important fiction. The late Mr. Du Maurier's "The Martian" is also to tempt fortune in the hot weather.

## MONTREAL BUSINESS NOTES.

Morton, Phillips & Co. are having a good year. Ever since March sales have been well ahead of last year.

J. B. Rolland & Co. report that they are extra busy at present. A number of those who held back till the tariff was settled are now sending in their orders, especially in the better lines.