

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

THE COPP, CLARK CO.'S BOOKS.

The only book of importance to appear from the press of The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, since our last issue is "The King's Rivals," by E. N. Barrow. Cloth, \$1; paper, 50c. The striking contrast which is obtained by bringing two young Puritans into the court of Charles II. is only one of the features of a most interesting story. The hero, whose identity is cleverly concealed until near the end of the tale, was the rightful heir to the dukedom of Richmond, who, while a young boy, had been the only one saved from a wreck on the New England Coast, and was himself so nearly gone when rescued that he had lost all memory of past events. When Hal was eighteen years of age, the fiancée of the usurping duke came to America to escape the attentions of His Majesty, and recognized the boy. Without revealing to either the hero or the reader who she was, this fair lady persuaded Hal to return to England with her, where she forthwith deserted him and his friend. His strange meeting with new friends, who turn out to be old friends, the accidental recovery of his memory, and subsequent recognition of his old sweetheart, form an exceedingly pretty part of the story. Besides the King himself, several other important historical characters are introduced, such as Samuel Pepys and the luckless Duke of Albemarle. "The King's Rivals" are Hal himself, who was the innocent object of the admiration of Lady Castlemaine, and the Duke of Richmond, who even went so far as to wed the mysterious lady of the earlier part of the story. However, this has so little to do with the main idea of the story, that we are a little inclined to question the appropriateness of the title of this otherwise excellent book.

The Copp, Clark Co., Limited's list of forthcoming books includes two of special importance, "The Span o' Life," by William McLennan and Miss McLlwraith, and "John Burnet of Barns," by John Buchan. "The Span o' Life," which succeeded Mr. McLennan's previous tale, "Spanish John," as a serial in Harper's Magazine, and is not yet concluded, is, undoubtedly, a book of unusual merit. It relates the adventures of a young Jacobite, Hugh Maxwell, who, not being included in the general pardon, is compelled to flee to France. Here he falls in love with a young French lady, and, although he is careful to conceal his passion, it becomes evident that she is not only aware of it, but also returns his love. Earlier in life he had married the daughter of a Scotch tradesman, who, with their son, was still living in London; and so, being afraid to trust himself in her presence, he

decided to join the French army in Canada. It may be mentioned here that he had previously met his wife in London, where his offer to acknowledge her was refused, and a strong love had sprung up between the son and his unknown father. After his arrival in Louisburg his French love decided to follow him to the New World, and, by some strange chance, took Maxwell's wife with her as maid, the boy accompanying them. As we have said the story is not yet finished, but the plot is certainly a most interesting and original one, and has so far been worked out with great skill.

Two books, which will shortly appear in Longman's Colonial series, are also sure of a good sale. They are: "The Heart of Denise," by S. Levett-Yeats, author of "The Honour of Savelli," "A Galahad of the Creeks," etc.; and "The Swallow," by Rider Haggard. "The Swallow," which has been running as a serial in Munsey's Magazine, describes, in Mr. Haggard's best style, the adventures of a Boer maiden and her young English lover, among the Kaffirs in South Africa.

A cheap edition (paper, 50c.), will also shortly be published of "The Great K. & C. Train Robbery," by Paul Leicester Ford, author of "The Honorable Peter Stirling." In this form there should be a very large sale for this most fascinating story of amateur detective work.

"John Burnet of Barns," by John Buchan, which will be produced in paper at 50c., is a pleasantly written historical tale of Scotland and the Low Countries shortly before and after the revolution of 1688. The atmosphere and tone of the period are well reproduced in the hero's

autobiographical narrative. Young Burnet, who is a kinsman of the famous Bishop Burnet, the historian and partizan of William of Orange, lives the life of a laird's son, goes to Glasgow College, and, at his father's death, succeeds to his estate. His cousin Gilbert, a soldier, plots to ruin Burnet and capture his lady love. He nearly succeeds during Burnet's absence on the continent, and the hero returns in time to put his fiancée in a place of safety, but is himself driven to wander about the country, like a vagabond fleeing for his life. All ends well, after innumerable hairbreath escapes and fighting adventures.

When in Canada a few months ago, Mr. Beckles Wilson collected a good deal of material for his new book on The Hudson's Bay Company. It will appear about May next, under the title of "The Great Company."

A USEFUL HANDBOOK.

A handbook for literary and debating societies is a new work from the pen of Lawrence M. Gibson, M.A. Mr. Gibson, who is a talented graduate of Cambridge, is a son of the Rev. Mr. Gibson, formerly minister of Erskine church in Montreal.

MR. JOHN LONG'S NEW BOOKS.

Forthcoming novels from the press of Mr. John Long, 6 Chandos street, Strand, London, include the following in crown 8vo., cloth, gilt, at 6s. each: "Frank Redland, Recruit," by Mrs. Coulson Kernahan; "Pursued by the Law," by James Maclaren Cobban; "A Fair Fraud," by Mrs. Lovett Cameron; "A Weaver of Runes," by W. Dutton Burrard; "Oswald Steele," by

Important Fiction.

JUST PUBLISHED

NEIL MACLEOD. A tale of Literary Life in London. By David Lyall. Paper, 50 cents; cloth, \$1.25.

THE KING'S RIVALS. By E. N. Barrow. An account of the visit of two Puritans to the Court of Charles II. Paper, 50 cents; cloth, \$1.00.

READY SHORTLY

THE SPAN O' LIFE. By William McLennan, of Montreal, and Miss McLlwraith, of Hamilton. Paper, 75 cents; cloth, \$1.50.

JOHN BURNET OF BARNES. By John Buchan. Paper, 50 cents; cloth, \$1.25.

THE HEART OF DENISE. By S. Levett-Yeats, author of "The Honour of Savelli," "A Galahad of the Creeks," etc. Paper, 75 cents; cloth, \$1.00.

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THE GREAT K. & A. TRAIN ROBBERY. By Paul Leicester Ford, author of "The Honorable Peter Sterling," etc. New edition. Paper, 50 cents.

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