

TOPICS OF TRADE INTEREST—Continued

in time, a radical change not being thought advisable now.

In the opinion of Mr. Harvey, president of Harper & Bros., the department stores will not object to the net price system. He said they would be as glad to keep up prices as anyone else, that all they wanted was the assurance that their competitors would not cut the prices.

Readers will not fail to note in another column a short letter from a gentleman who signs himself "Juvenile Bookseller." Juvenile or ancient (and we doubt his being either), the gentleman in question has a sound head on his shoulders, and he makes an excellent suggestion. His idea is, that as a good many of us who live in Ontario will probably visit the Pan American at Buffalo this Summer, it would be well for the booksellers and stationers to fix on some date—he says July 17—for being there together, and combine a little business with pleasure by discussing one or two outstanding questions on which common action would be of practical value. It looks like a suggestion that would carry. What think you, reader?

It would be well for the Canadian publishers to enlist the sympathy of the booksellers in their laudable efforts to obtain reforms in the copyright law. Copyright in books, like private ownership in land, is a necessary part of modern civilization.

Our booksellers are just as honest and as disposed to observe the law as any class in the community. But when there is no certainty as to how the law stands or what books are protected by copyright, how is a dealer to know? One publisher has issued a list of his own books so protected. That is a good step, let others do likewise. But there should also be drawn up some short, accurate statement of the existing law both for those who sell books and those who buy them. The Canadian people have the vaguest idea of copyright. They do not realize the way authors' and publishers' rights are guarded in England, the United States and other civilized countries. For many years, owing to our defective laws and the peculiar situation of Canada, our book dealers and bookmakers have practically had no restraining laws. Now that the laws are being brought more into accord with those of England and the United States, and now that English publishers especially are beginning to recognize the value of Canada as a book market, it is necessary to change our ways to some extent. We feel quite sure that the retail book trade will do their part and will loyally cooperate to obey any reasonable law, provided it is equally enforced on all.

NOTES OF THE BRITISH BOOK TRADE

Lord Carnarvon's Canadian Speeches,
Lives of The Queen,
New Novels, Etc.

LONDON, February 27, 1901.

MR. MURRAY announces for publication the speeches and letters of Lord Carnarvon relating to Canada. Lord Carnarvon was Colonial Secretary in 1867, when the Confederation Act was passed by Parliament. The price of the volume is not mentioned. The editor is Sir Robert Herbert.

It would not be at all surprising if the great success of "An Englishwoman's Love Letters" were to bring fiction in the form of letters into fashion again. Another volume of this sort is at least about to appear. It is called "The Aristocrats," and it is supposed to be by a lady "of position" whose name is not disclosed.

Miss Adeline Sergeant's new novel, "The Treasure of Captain Scalett," which is to be published shortly by Messrs. Hutchinson & Co., is a story of love and adventure, built around the mystery of a treasure. The long-promised volume of "Thackeray's Stray Papers," consisting of stories, reviews, verses, and sketches, illustrated, will be published immediately by Messrs. Hutchinson & Co.

AMERICAN NOVELS IN LONDON.

The extraordinary success of a number of American novels in the United States, which have run to circulation greater even than those of our most popular novelists, tempts Mr. Heinemann to start an English series of American fiction under the title of "The Dollar Library." The price at which the series will be published is indicated by the title, and it is proposed to issue a volume a month, a rebate being offered to annual subscribers. The first volume to appear will include: "The Girl at the Half-way House," by E. Hough; "Parlous Times," by D. D. Wells; and "Her Mountain Lover," by Hamlin Garland.

The Duke of Argyll's "Life of Queen Victoria" will first appear in parts, commencement being made shortly. Later on, it will, of course, be published in volume form.

Mr. E. C. Williams, author of "Made in Germany," has written "The Case for Protection." This is the only work published in England in modern times avowedly advocating protection and discussing it from all points of view. Grant Richards issues it at 5s.

MR. EVANS' BOOK.

J. Fisher Unwin is publishing Mr. Sanford Evans' "The Canadian Contingent," in cloth, with many illustrations and maps, at 6s.

Among the later Irish writers, Miss Julia M. Crotty took a prominent place by the

publication last year of "Neighbors: Being Annals of a Dull Town," which met with almost unqualified praise from Mr. Justin McCarthy and other well known critics. Her latest book, "The Lost Land: A Tale of a Cromwellian Irish Town," has been published by Mr. Fisher Unwin. Miss Crotty sketches the ruin of an Irish family, beginning with the entrance of the stepfather into the home, and ending with the outlawry and death of Thad, the head of the patriotic, generous and unpractical house of Lombard.

A book which should attract attention is "Naomi's Exodus," by Miss Lily H. Montagu, the daughter of Sir Samuel Montagu, which Mr. Fisher Unwin will publish next week. It tells the story of a young girl trained in the narrow Chetto life of a Jewish quarter of West London, and her religious awakenings. Incidentally, the author describes from her personal knowledge several interesting phases in the lives of working girls in various parts of London.

LIVES OF THE QUEEN.

New books relating to the Queen, and new editions of old ones, are being rapidly prepared for the public. The manager of a leading wholesale house reports that some 20 volumes have been submitted to him, in advance, within the past few days. The new edition of Mr. Richard Holmes' life of the Queen is sure to be in large demand. No doubt it is less gossipy, less personal, than most of the lives, but, on the other hand, it has the Queen's authority. Mr. Holmes, who is librarian at Windsor, has added a chapter bringing the narrative down to the end of her reign. It is said that the authoritative biography of the Queen need not be expected for at least 10 years. This was the period which elapsed between the death of Prince Albert and the appearance of his biography. The life of the Queen will be a far greater undertaking, involving the examination of an immense mass of documents.

Mrs. Belloc Lowndes has revised and galathea her "Life of the Prince of Wales" for a new edition, with the new title "His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII."

REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE

Mr. Justin McCarthy is to write, in two volumes, a history of the reign of Queen Anne. We shall therefore have by him a history of England from the accession of Queen Anne to the end of the Victorian period. Everybody knows his "History of Our Own Times," and most people have waited with interest for the two volumes completing his record of the four Georges and William IV. These two volumes Messrs. Chatto will issue almost at once, and later the Queen Anne volumes will take us back to where Macaulay's history stops.

POLITICAL.

A manual of historic methods of striking merit, translated from the French by Professor York Powell, a little time ago, brought M. Charles Seignobos, one of the lecturers