

## BOOKS AND PERIODICALS—Continued.

case, an examination of which is found in the able treatment accorded to the question of commandeering. The book is one which may be read by the general public; will also be found as effective by the statesman and student, and is altogether different from the multitudinous brood of volumes which have been so recently hatched in the heated atmosphere of bombardments and African "scare-head" cables. The value of the book is enhanced by a very good index.

"To Have and To Hold," by Mary Johnston, published in Canada by George N. Morang & Co., is easily the book of the day. In this powerful and popular story, which has burst upon the public in an avalanche-like way unusual and extraordinary for the work of a young writer, Miss Johnston has utilized the opportunities afforded by the early days of Virginian colonization. Coming out first in serial form in *The Atlantic Monthly*, "To Have and To Hold" raised the circulation of that periodical by 50,000 monthly, and, on being published as a book, in Boston, it reached a sale of 120,000 in three weeks. There is quality and style in the story to account for these phenomenal occurrences. Some reviewers are saying that it is the great American novel. However that may be, it is evidently the candidate of the moment for popular favor. One reason for the enormous sale is found in the fact that readers of all classes find something to interest them, poetry for the poet, a pretty love story for the sentimental, and a vivid narrative of facts for the lover of history. The materials are compounded with so much skill that the book is eagerly read. "To Have and To Hold" is a book that people sit up until 4 o'clock in the morning to finish. A book that they cannot wait to have lent to them, they must buy it for themselves. The sales, both here and in the United States, show how ready the public are to appreciate a really good thing.

The immense run on "To Have and To Hold" has led to corresponding interest in "The Prisoners of Hope," by the same authoress. It is a book in which the same splendid powers of description are displayed. The trade will find that there will be a large sale of the book wherever "To Have and To Hold" is taken. Morang & Co. will shortly have a Canadian edition on the market.

Morang & Co. also announce a Canadian edition of "Beyond the Hills of Dream," by W. Wilfred Campbell. This volume of poems contains much of the author's very best work, including the wonderful poem of "The Mother," which, when first published in a Chicago magazine, at once attracted the notice of the world.

In the case of "Resurrection," Tolstoy's new book, the proceeds of the author's royalties are going to the Doukobors who have emigrated to Canada. The first edition is exhausted. The rapid taking up of the book was to be expected from the very faithful way in which Tolstoy deals with the deepest problem of life. Its outspokenness on matters that are usually concealed or glossed over may offend some readers, but it is sure to win the attention of those who believe in a downright frank exposition of the effect of human nature.

Few books have aroused such widespread and immediate interest as G. W. Stevens' posthumous work "Capetown to Ladysmith." The first large edition of 2,000 copies was all but sold out on the day of publication, and now the second edition is selling rapidly. The literary side of journalism lost a valuable man when the brave and accomplished fellow was laid in the cemetery of Ladysmith at dead of night with the Boer searchlight shining upon the burial party. But the book itself fully sustains the reputation won by the author in his American, Egyptian and Indian sketches. He possessed a wonderful faculty for terse, graphic description, illumined by humor and true insight—a whole chapter in one paragraph. Inscrutable is that fate which cut off in early life a man who would have set a standard in descriptive newspaper writing, which only those possessing keen grasp, vivid insight and ripe scholarship could have equalled. Here Stevens shows us in a series of rapid pictures, like the cinematograph, Capetown at the outbreak of war, the race tension, the long and dreary railway journey, the painful uncertainty in the up-country, the colonial dread that British policy would falter, the brilliancy of battle and the incidents that bring out its horror and misery, the long drawn out siege and how the prisoners cooped up in Ladysmith bore it. Realism, brought out in sharp, strong strokes, is conspicuous in every line. The dead man's friend, Mr. Vernon Blackburn, adds a chapter which is written with taste and feeling.

The general interest in war correspondents alone would give considerable popularity to Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill's new novel "Savrola," a tale of the revolution in Laurania (paper, 75c.; cloth, \$1), even if it were not such a clever piece of work. It is, in fact, an extremely bright and readable story, full of picturesque and vivacious narratives, and distinguished by one or two eminently dramatic scenes. The best part of the book—and that is really admirable—is to be found in the description of the street-fighting in Laurania, a descrip-

tion to which we cannot give higher praise than to say that it reads, not like a passage in a novel, but like an eye-witness's report.

Perhaps the most interesting novel to appear during the last month is "The Realist," by Mr. Herbert Flowerdew, in which the author has, with great cleverness, worked out an idea entirely new in the realm of fiction. Auguste Zant, the realist, is a French novelist who has come to England in order to gather material for an English novel. His *modus operandi* he describes thus:

"My method is to plan out a dramatic story as the idealist does, and reconstruct its leading positions artificially, in order to describe them with the realist's fidelity. If I introduce a case of slow poisoning, a doctor, of course, could give me the symptoms. Most novelists are content with that. \* \* I should poison a man and watch him studiously, living with him and sharing his thoughts. I did so in writing 'La Femme.'"

His real method, however, is much more artistic, and in the above case would have consisted in persuading the man to believe he was being poisoned, managing it with such fiendish ingenuity as to deceive even the reader as to his real condition. For instance, on one occasion he contrives to allow the victim to be bitten by a snake, whose bite he has previously assured him causes almost instantaneous death, and therefrom he constructs a most dramatic scene, after which the victim is informed that the snake was harmless. But even this was a crude piece of work, and gives no idea of the delicate skill used in the realist's scientific investigation. Through long practice and experience he was able to calculate to a marvelous nicety what a particular person would do or think under given circumstances, and so, by veiling his real objective point by elaborate feints, he constructed circumstances so that his specimens voluntarily performed exactly the evolutions which he planned out for them, while the realist "observed" them secretly by devices beside which the X ray is a child's toy. In this way he "constructs" a complete romance, which Mr. Flowerdew describes with a vividness and reality that makes "The Realist" one of the brightest novels of the season, as well as the most original.

By the time this issue of *THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER* reaches its readers, The Copp, Clark Company will have brought out another important book, viz., S. R. Crockett's latest romance, "Joan of the Sword Hand," a tale told in the author's best style, and somewhat resembling in subject and treatment his former work, "The Red Axe." The cover contains a