

BOOKS OF THE MONTH—Continued.

ton, a man whose constructive ability places him even above Washington in the early Whig party in the United States. His death in a duel at the hands of Burr, the insanity of his beautiful daughter, Angelica, and other scenes in the man's life have given the author a great opportunity.

"Dorothy Vernon" is no doubt founded on fact, being the beautiful heiress who ran away from Hadden Hall, and this feature of Mr. Major's work—his adherence to historical records—was also prominent in his "When Knighthood was in Flower." The author's highly-dramatic and bold style, in which he discards the archaic or pedantic, has much to do with his success as a popular writer.

Sherlock Holmes was based upon one of Conan Doyle's medical professors at Edinburgh University—Dr. Joseph Bell. His powers of observation and insight were remarkable. An anecdote is told of a patient who went to the hospital for treatment and who said he had been a cobbler all his life. "That," said Dr. Bell to his class when the patient had been taken into the examination room, "is a very odd case. The man is a deserter from the Indian army. He knows perfectly well what's the trouble with him, but he's afraid to tell us, for fear we'd know he contracted it in India. Yet he's in so much pain that he risks coming to us, trusting that we won't find out what's the matter with him, but will be able to relieve him without finding out. Strange case." Dr. Bell's deductions turned out to be quite correct. By reviving Sherlock Holmes, therefore, in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" he made no mistake. The book is a wonderful detective story, is destined to please the Canadian reading public for some time to come, and proves conclusively that Dr. Doyle has not in the least exhausted the Sherlock Holmes vein.

A pretty book called "According to Season" (cloth, \$1.75), by Francis Theodora Parsons, has been issued by Morang & Co. It deals with the flowers in the order of their appearance during each year, is handsomely illustrated with colored plates, and forms a capital book for flower lovers and students of botany.

A second edition of the Misses Lizars' excellent work "In the Days of the Canada Company," the story of the settlement of the Huron Tract, will be published this year. This is, perhaps, the most readable of the local histories dealing with Ontario,

a racy, gossipy sort of narrative that makes pleasant reading, and at the same time preserves the records of an interesting period.

The publisher reports a most unusual interest being taken in Lieut. McHarg's narrative of the experiences of the first Canadian Contingent to South Africa, which is being published with the title "From Quebec to Pretoria." Advance orders, taking up a considerable part of the first edition, have already been received. Letters of inquiry have come from different parts of the United States. This is all the more



Lieut. Hart-McHarg,
author of "From Quebec to Pretoria."

surprising because of the large number of books on the war—particularly of the Canadian participation in it—that have been already issued. Mr. McHarg's narrative is so interesting that it will make its way on its own intrinsic merits. It can be recommended as an authentic and faithful record of the experiences of the Royal Canadian braves while on the war-path after the Boers.

Mr. Harland's new story, "The Lady Paramount," is the longest he has ever written. It contains over 100,000 words, and is in the vein of "The Cardinal's Snuff Box," which is the most popular vein that he has ever struck. Mr. Harland's first

published novel was called "As It Was Written." His first title for it was "Father and Son," but he found that a greater writer had pre-empted that title, so he took another. The manuscript of "As It Was Written" was offered by Mr. E. C. Stedman to the Cassell Publishing Company, with whom he had pleasant relations, and was accepted by them. It made a success—that is, it sold a few thousand copies—and he followed it with other Jewish stories that also sold well. Mr. Harland then called himself "Sidney Luska." Not till he went to England and began writing in the style of "The Cardinal's Snuff-Box" did he seem to take hold. "The Snuff-Box," of course, has been his most successful novel, and it has had ten times the sale in America that it has had in England.

William Briggs is handling in Canada a superb work entitled, "Our King and Queen"—the story of their lives from their births to their coronation—by W. H. Wilkins, M.A., F.S.A. It will be completed in 24 fortnightly parts, selling at 20c. each, and will comprise 1,000 splendid illustrations and 25 beautiful colored plates. It is a wholly satisfactory biography brilliantly written by one of the cleverest of modern biographers.

STANDARD MAGAZINES AT POPULAR PRICES.

Warwick Bros. & Rutter, publishers of The Boys' Own Paper, The Girls' Own Paper, The Leisure Hour and Sunday at Home, advise us that, commencing with the March number of these magazines, the retail price will be 10c. per copy. These works are the best known publications of the kind issued in the English language, and have until now sold at 15c. per copy.

The placing of such magazines on the market at the low price of 10c. will undoubtedly create such an increased demand for them as to more than recompense the publishers for the reduction.

The contents are compiled in England by The Religious Tract Society, which guarantees them to be wholesome in tone, helpful in character and in every way the kind of reading to be placed before the boy or girl, old or young.

As a magazine for the quiet hour for readers of any age, The Sunday at Home and The Leisure Hour are unsurpassed. Among the contributors are such well-known writers as Helen M. Burnside, Dr. Gordon Stables, G. Manville Fenn, Mrs. Creighton, Lady Mary Wood, Rev. H. C. Atwood, M.A., Louis Becke, and numbers of other authorities on science, poetry, literary progress and current events.

The trade will be supplied, as in the past, through the news companies or from the publisher direct; and sample copies will be supplied on application to the Canadian publishers, Warwick Bros. & Rutter.