

TALKS ABOUT BOOKS.

The last Talk of the Session begins with some books furnished by Mr. Chapman of St. Catherine Street. Prominent among them is a handsome volume of 463 pages and 63 illustrations, published by T. Fisher Unwin, of London, G. P. Putnam's Sons of New York, and the Copp, Clark Company of Toronto. It is the forty-sixth of The Story of the Nations series, is entitled The Story of Canada, and its author is J. G. Bourinot, C.M.G., LL.D., D.C.L., the accomplished Clerk of the House of Commons at Ottawa. Dr. Bourinot is master of a good English style, with which most reading Canadians are familiar, and in this latest effort of his pen well maintains his reputation as a writer. His treatment of Canadian history from the dawn of discovery down to the present day, is popular yet full and exact. His intention to be impartial is evident, but conservative bias occasionally appears, though never offensively. Indeed, that would hardly do in a book dedicated by permission to the Countess of Aberdeen. For one who lacks time and patience to read Dr. Kingsford's large and meritorious work, or the extensive histories of older writers, English and French, of which there are not a few, this book of Dr. Bourinot's will be just the thing. It deals impartially, if at times briefly, with the whole Dominion, and traces the rise and progress of its various interests. The author has had better opportunities than most men of becoming acquainted with the recent political life of the country, and to these he has added special studies of an exhaustive character on points of Canadian constitutional and other history. The many illustrations, maps, views, and portraits, help to interest the reader, and give a panoramic realism to the story. Dr. Bourinot does not indulge in fine writing, but tells his tale in concise, historical style. Canada's Story of the Nations could hardly have fallen into better hands. Its price, like that of the rest of the series is a dollar and a half, and it is very good value for the money.