

## BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

### WHAT CANADIAN WRITERS ARE DOING.

**P**ROFESSOR Wm. Clark, the scholarly and brilliant, the prince of raconteurs, the thoroughly equipped theologian, is about to issue a new book. The title is "The Paraclete, or the Work and Office of the Holy Spirit," and the book consists of the Slocum Lectures delivered by Professor Clark, at the University of Michigan. These lectures were endowed in 1890, by Charlotte Wood Slocum, of Detroit, in memory of the life and labors of Bishop Harris, of Michigan. As to Professor Clark's book, the reputation of the writer and the interest of the subject in these days of transition regarding theological beliefs, can hardly fail to render it interesting to many. Mr. Morang has the work now in the press.

Mr. Alexander Fraser, M.A., the Toronto journalist, has just published a little book of much interest to Scots in Canada, "The Last Laird of MacNab: an episode in the settlement of MacNab Township, Upper Canada." Mr. Fraser modestly styles himself editor of the series of sketches and biographical data which are collected in this book, and of which he is understood to be the author. It is printed by Imrie, Graham & Co.

Anonymous authorship is a difficult secret to preserve in Canada. So far, no one outside the publisher and the mysterious writer himself, seems to know who "Ko-Ko," the author of "Society Types," is. This little book, which Mr. Morang issues in a very pretty edition, contains a good deal of satire at the expense of people we often meet in society—the Widow, "who twitters when she ought to sigh," the Old Maid with "a tradition of girlish innocence," the Bachelor often cynical and blase, oftener fond of a good dinner, and so on. After reading "Society Types," one is not disposed to wonder that the writer deems it best to keep behind the curtain. But who is Ko-Ko?—"a Toronto gentleman" is the only answer I have been able to get.

In the November number of the Canadian Magazine, Mr. Robert Barr pours contempt

upon Canada as a market for books. He asserts that we prefer whisky to literature and that the only course open to a Canadian writer inspired with genius is to go to London or New York, become famous and then return here to be lionized. Now, we must not take Mr. Barr seriously. His metier is humor, and the jester has been a privileged person from the earliest times. Canadians do not deserve his merciless criticism. They have of recent years taken to reading Mr. Barr's own books. Is this one reason why he thinks so poorly of us? A man should not be too modest. Mr. Barr's books are readable, and his jests, especially when explained by a diagram, are frequently appreciated. In another



JEAN BLEWETT, The Canadian Poetess.

paper he promises to tell us how we may improve. It would also be interesting if he would explain his own success. At present, it is true, Canadians prefer Shakespeare, but in time they may rise to Barr.

Several Canadians will contribute to the forthcoming Christmas number of the Canadian Magazine. "Kit" (Mrs. Coleman) will write an Irish story in her own inimitable style; Miss MacMurchy is down for a tale in which sentiment and the game of football figure; Geo. W. Orton describes the Henley Regatta, and there are others. Mr. J. D. Kelly, the clever artist, designs the cover.

Mr. James Bain, jr., chief librarian of the Toronto Public Library, has done a real service to Canadian literature. After long

search, conducted with the insight and energy that distinguish him, Mr. Bain has made an important find. He has discovered in the library of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington the volumes containing the evidence taken by the British Commission under General Dundas, appointed to distribute part of the grant voted by the Imperial Parliament for the United Empire Loyalists. The value of the notes of the evidence is very great. They have never been published, and contain details of the vicissitudes of the Loyalists who peopled so many districts in the present Dominion from Nova Scotia to Ontario. They are in all 40 manuscript volumes, and were presented years ago by a relative of General Dundas to the Washington Library. Of all places in the world to lodge the evidence concerning the cruel treatment meted out to the Loyalists by the United States one would imagine Washington to be the very last place. However, Mr. Bain has done something to rectify the error,

and the volumes in the collection relating to Canada are to be copied and reprinted when the necessary permission of the authorities at Washington is secured. On November 1, Mr. Bain formed one of a deputation to wait upon Hon. G. W. Ross, the Ontario Premier, asking that the volume relating to Canadian Loyalists be published under the authority of the Province. Five hundred copies will be printed and 300 of them placed on sale, the proceeds to go towards the cost of editing, printing, etc. The Premier gave a qualified but favorable consent, and, if the work goes through, Mr. Bain will have the gratitude of all Canadians, especially historical students.

Mrs. Jean Blewett, who has left the village of Blenheim, Ont., to reside in Toronto, was paid a marked compliment by the people of the district on the occasion of her departure. An elaborate dinner was given in the Opera House, Blenheim, October 26, and speeches and songs followed. Hon. D. Mills, Minister of Justice, proposed the toast to Mrs. Blewett, and Mr. Blewett and Dr. Holmes replied on her behalf. Many kindly things were said of this lady whose writings are so warmly appreciated, and whose lovable character has endeared her to all. Two purses of gold were presented to Mrs. Blewett by friends in Blenheim and other places.

"The History of Canadian Banking" which Mr. Byron E. Walker, general manager of the Bank of Commerce, wrote