

PAGE'S NEW BOOKS.

Several new books, published by L. C. Page & Co., Boston, are deserving of special mention.

(1) "Rose à Charlitte," by Marshall Saunders.

(2) "In King's Houses," by Julia C. R. Dorr.

(3) "Sons of Adversity," by L. Cope Cornford.

(4) "The Making of a Saint," by W. Somerset Maugham.

(5) "Bobbie McDuff," by Clinton Ross.

(1) "Rose à Charlitte," an Acadian romance, by Marshall Saunders, will be welcomed in Canadian circles. Miss Saunders is already well known through her previous writings. Her "Beautiful Joe" met with phenomenal success, and it well deserved the success it achieved. "Rose à Charlitte" is on an entirely different subject, being a story of Nova Scotia and the Acadiens. While reading its pages one breathes the pure, invigorating air of our Maritime Province. The characters are delightfully true to life, while the dialogue is bright and sparkling. It is an up-to-date story, too. Bidiane, one of the author's bright heroes, enters actively into an election campaign, tells her listeners that just now the Premier of the Dominion is a Frenchman, and that he is always a good man, who never does anything wrong. Miss Saunders' simple Acadiens are, perhaps, as happy in their belief as the good old Ontario Tories, who believed that their hero, Sir John A. Macdonald, was the acme of political purity. Unfortunately, however, for good Premiers, the record of their party is looked at more than the personal goodness of the Premiers. By-the-way, is not Bidiane astray in asserting that the present Premier of the Dominion is a Frenchman? Miss Saunders should tell the Acadiens that the Premier is a Canadian—of French descent, in may be—but a Canadian and not a Frenchman. Rose, the heroine, is a sweet, pure character, charmingly depicted. Vesper, the hero, is a manly fellow. Indeed, one of the chief charms of the whole story is the high moral tone maintained throughout, while the reader's interest in the story is well sustained. We congratulate Miss Saunders on having written "Rose à Charlitte"; we predict for it a great and lasting success. The publishers have produced the book in fine style. It makes a handsome volume of 516 pages, 12mo., with several excellent illustrations by H. De M. Young, and handsomely bound in cloth, gilt lettered, at the price of \$1.50.

(2) "In King's Houses," by Julia C. R. Dorr, is a romance of the days of Queen Anne. While essentially a book for young people, it will be enjoyed by readers of all ages. It gives excellent sketches of young

Gloster, his mother, the Princess Anne, and of other historic characters of the period. It is as interesting as the best of Mr. Henty's books, and that is saying a good deal. There is not as much fighting in its pages, but to offset this, it may be said that it will be enjoyed as much by girls as by boys. It is pure in tone throughout, and may be safely recommended as a delightful story. It makes a volume of 372 pages, with illustrations by Frank T. Merrill, and is bound in embossed cloth case, for \$1.50.

(3) "Sons of Adversity," by L. Cope Cornford, is a romance of Queen Elizabeth's time. Mr. Cornford has given us a stirring story of stirring times. The interest in the story shifts from England to the continent, and back again to old England. The siege of Leyden by the Spaniards, and its relief by the Beggars of the Sea, is described. There is plenty of action in the book, while the usual stories of love and intrigue serve to maintain the interest throughout. 314 pages, with illustrations by J. W. Kennedy, embossed cloth cover, price \$1.25.

(4) "The Making of a Saint," by W. Somerset Maugham, is a story of Italy of 400 years ago. It is essentially a book for adult readers, and should be carefully kept out of the way of younger readers. Its pages teem with descriptions of the exciting political life of the time, of assassinations, of fast society men who were the terrors of husbands, of assignations. Some of the scenes are acute in their intensity, such for instance as when the husband finds his wife whom he adores telling her lover that she loves him far more than she loves her husband, whereupon the husband stilletos the lover and the wife's father kills the faithless wife. Many people will dub the book as a ridiculously sensational story, bordering at times almost on the indecent; yet it seems to be a fair picture of the political and social life of the times, skilfully delineated. 410 pages, illustrated, bound in gold embossed cloth case, price \$1.50.

(5) "Bobbie McDuff," by Clinton Ross, is a bright little story. It will enhance Mr. Ross' reputation as a story-teller. Bobbie had lost a fortune in America; a friend made him a loan which took him to South Africa; but Dame Fortune still frowned, and our friend Bob resolves to work his way to Europe. Eventually he finds himself in the Forest of Fontainebleau with five francs in his pocket. Here he meets Marietta and Petruchio, Marietta's brother. This is the beginning of a series of surprising adventures for Bobbie. 258 pages, 16mo., with illustrations, by B. West Clinedinst, bound in gold-embossed cloth case, price \$1.

The Toronto News Company, Toronto, are special agents in Canada for the above books. The trade will do well to carry these books in stock. They are a line that will sell well wherever they are pushed.

THE JUSTICE OF CANADIAN COPYRIGHT.

THE HERSCHELL BILL CONSIDERED.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF CANADA CONSIDERED.

(Written Specially for the Toronto "News" by Oliver A. Howland, Barrister-at-Law.)

It is understood that the subject of an effective Canadian copyright law, to which Sir John Thompson devoted so much arduous and persistent effort, is once more under consideration by the present Government. While we may be diligently negotiating over our own bill, are we taking due notice of what is just now going on in Great Britain? A new copyright law has been introduced in the House of Lords under powerful auspices, and is being carefully examined by a committee, of which Lord Herschell is chairman. It appears by the report of the proceedings of this committee that the bills have been framed by the British Copyright Association, consisting, according to its own description, of "authors, publishers and other persons." Publishers in this connection may be spelt with a large P. It is a significant circumstance that the person put forward by the Copyright Association, as a witness to expound their views before the Legislature, is an eminent publisher, Mr. Murray. The large P comes into prominence. Two important points might be learned by Canadians from this circumstance. The first to be observed is that the bills purporting to protect the rights of authors (who alone are entitled to the benefit of copyright), are not being framed, pushed and presented by authors, but by publishers. Business craft controls the product of inventive brains. The second lesson is that, if even English authors are only able to procure attention to their rights under the ægis of the practical business influence of the publishers, the growth of Canadian authorship must also look for any protection or consideration to the fostering influence of strongly established local publishing interests. It is for this reason that an effective local copyright law is needed in Canada. Without it there can be no chance for strong and enterprising publishing houses to grow up in any of our capitals; and lacking local publishers to take him in hand, the Canadian author remains under hopeless discouragement in his own country. With an effective local copyright protection, not only would native publishers generally develop, but firms from abroad would be found setting up their branch houses in Canada, through which Canadian talent would find an avenue to the great publishing centres of the world. The great obstacle which has stood in the way has been the conflict of jurisdiction between the British Imperial Parliament and the Parliament of the Dominion. The Canadian Parliament rightfully claims that under the Confederation Act, and according to the true spirit of the modern Imperial constitution, the exclusive jurisdiction to enact copyright laws for Canada rests in the Parliament of Canada. But the Queen, under the advice of her Home Privy Council, has hitherto withheld her assent to acts framed in that spirit by the Canadian Government. The Home Government have not merely negatived Canadian legislation. The British