

voters may petition the trustees to submit the question of free text books to a vote. After ten days' notice a meeting may be held to decide the question. If a majority vote in favor of free text books, it is the duty of the trustees to provide the same. Now, this too is unfair, because it does away with the retail bookseller.

NEW BOOKS JUST OUT.

A PAPER covered book, "St. Vedas," by Annie S. Swan, comes from Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh and London. The great popularity of this writer's books is well known, and the price of this edition, sixpence, will place it in everybody's hands.

"A Honeymoon in Space," by George Griffith, is the striking title of a Jules Verne sort of story which always has a host of friends. It is published by George Bell & Sons, London, bound in strong paper cover and is well printed and illustrated.

A book of poems by F. Montagu Lloyd, will be particularly acceptable at the present time. The poems are all of a patriotic or military character. "Two Little Middies," "Omdurman," and "The Queen's Eightieth Birthday" give an idea of the character of the book. It is published by Elliot Stock, London.

"Understudies," by Mary E. Wilkins, is one of the latest of Wm. Briggs' publications. It is bound in cloth, the cover is designed in gold and colors; the print is large and the numerous half-tone illustrations make an attractive book. Miss Wilkins' books are too well known and liked to need comment.

Robert Ackrill, Harrogate, Eng., is the publisher of "An Imperial Ode for the Twentieth Century," by Samuel Jefferson. The title explains the character of the book. A rather unique cover, embossed with flags, etc., is an appropriate one for the book, which is dedicated to Lord Roberts.

"Uncle Terry," a story of the Maine coast (McLeod & Allen, Toronto), is as delightfully entertaining a book as has appeared for a long time. It has the ring of true home sentiment, without sensationalism, but at no point dull. Uncle Terry is a "character," and the sea waif, "Telly," who is rescued from the waves and becomes the daughter of the old lighthouse keeper, is herself an attractive heroine. It is a love story throughout, but the sentiment is not maudlin, and the only villain soon takes himself off. Altogether "Uncle Terry" is an excellent Summer book, and will prove its qualities during the coming season.

The Book Trade in Winnipeg

Chats About Recent Works and their Authors.

From THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER'S Special Correspondent.

Winnipeg, April 25, 1901.

THE sale of memorial numbers of the Queen has been enormous here, one house alone selling as many as 1,000 copies of Black and White.

It is astonishing how "Eben Holden" continues to sell, and after all perhaps it is not astonishing either, for it is a charming tale of home life, with strong character studies that take hold of the imagination.

"Forks of the North." This book was looked forward to with special interest in the West because the author was one of "our own people," and also the book was about those romance-enshrouded days of the great fur companies. The sales during the Christmas holidays and up to the middle of January were very large, but since then have diminished. For a time it was the most frequently discussed book in Winnipeg and many and diverse were the opinions expressed about it. The general verdict seemed to be that, in spite of many glaring crudities, the book was fascinating to read and gave great promise of better things to come. Of course, interest in the book revived all sorts of kindly reminiscences of its author. A fellow student at Manitoba College, chatting with your correspondent, remarked, "Aggie Laut was a great favorite with the late Principal King and he was fond of predicting great things for her." Another chimed in with—"Aggie was always so clever, why, she was teaching when she was little more than 16." Her tall, slight figure, delicately cut features and bright hair made a pleasing presence on the streets of Winnipeg so long that she is not likely to be soon forgotten and her Western friends will follow her career with interest.

Another Winnipeg author of whom the city is immensely proud is Rev. C. W. Gordon (Ralph Connor) whose "Sky Pilot" and "Black Rock" continue to sell every day of the week. One retail house received 200 copies just at Christmas and is re-ordering again now, while other houses state there is hardly any book so difficult to keep in stock.

"To Have and to Hold" and "Prisoners of Hope," sell steadily, as does also "Alice of Old Vincennes," and the later book by the same author, "Sweetheart Nanette."

"The Christian" has been in demand again since the play was put on here. Some benevolent individual sent tickets to the nurses of the General Hospital, and as many as could get off went to see "Nurse Glory." If there is anything in the old story of your left ear burning when people speak evil of you Hall Caine must have had a warm ear that night. There are one or two graduates here from the very hos-

pital he professed to talk about, and it so happened they had not read the book. When the play was over they simply nudged, the others joined in and it is safe to say it was well for the author he was not near the Nurses' Home of the General Hospital, Winnipeg, that night.

"The Heart of an Ancient Wood," is not as popular here as it deserves to be. Surely it is one of the most exquisite nature studies ever written—none but an artist and a poet could have written the chapter describing the old lumberman's march through the forest and all the unseen eyes that watched him. Again, the tragedy of the last chapter and the repetition in a new and beautiful form of the world old lessons that it is only "on stepping stones of our dead selves we rise to higher things," and that the purest human love is for evermore made perfect through suffering.

Conan Doyle's "Great Boer War" finds an ever increasing number of readers, and is clearly the most popular book on the war yet issued. Speaking of South Africa, there is one book, little talked of but nevertheless delightful and profitable to read, Violet Markham's "South Africa, Past and Present." Miss Markham was not in Africa during the war but her book deals clearly, concisely and impartially with the causes leading up to it, and, unlike most writers on the subject, she gives a graphic account of the present situation of the native question and what its solution is likely to mean in the future. To all this is added several delightful chapters of personal travel and experience.

"Soldiering in Canada," by Colonel Denison has found many readers in the West and with the advent of the paper edition the sales have doubled.

Other books that have proved good sellers are "The Cardinal's Rose," "The Cardinal's Snuff-box," "Visits of Elizabeth," "Pecavi."

During April, Winnipeg was honored by a flying visit from Isaac Taylor Headland, the author of the famous "Chinese Mother Goose Rhymes." Mr. Headland only remained between trains and spent the time with "Ralph Connor."

E. C. H.

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