

scene is laid in Europe, and the local coloring is faithful and striking. Oriole's daughter became a lovely woman to whom life was a serious tragedy. She contracts a marriage which results in misery, even in the presence of wealth, and plays a strong part in the stern realities of life. Minna, a sculptor, is an English widow, and she also is a leading character in the story. The plot is highly original, and there is a freshness and vigor about the style which holds the reader absorbed in the story, and carry him interested in imagination to Imperial Rome, the ancient centre of the world's glory. In this respect the story may be taken as a pendant to M. Bourget's "Cosmopolis," though Miss Fothergill's story is not cast as "Cosmopolis" is, in the philosophic vein. Paper 50 cents. The National Publishing Co.

MANITOBA is a beautiful volume from the press of T. Fisher Unwin, Paternoster Buildings, London, England. Manitoba, or the Prairie Province of Canada, is one full of interest to the people of the Dominion as well as the old folks "at home." The author, Alfred O. Legge, has produced an admirable description of this Canadian Province, its people, and its industries. The book is written from an English standpoint, and for an English, or rather British, audience. But the author has written a book which may on that account be all the more pleasing to Canadians. He tells the reader that Manitoba is not a land of milk and honey; nor is it a land of desolation, and he then proceeds to produce what he considers a fair impression. That Canada is forty times the size of England, Scotland, and Wales, and fifteen times the size of the German Empire, may not startle any native Britisher, but it should lead him to reflect as to the possibilities of this young country. The book is handsomely bound in cloth and gold, has a large folding map, and is profusely illustrated. The price is 7s. 6d.

THE LAST SENTENCE is a new work by Maxwell Grey, the author of "The Silence of Dean Maitland," and will, naturally enough, excite considerable interest in the world of novel readers. "The Last Sentence" is an exceedingly interesting story, cleverly told, with many evidences of feminine taste and culture, as well as wide reading on the part of the author. The scene is laid chiefly in Brittany, and the picturesque surroundings of the Breton coast are sketched in a fascinating manner which cannot fail to arrest the attention and chain the fancy. The Last Sentence was a judgment pronounced by an English judge on his own daughter, and he became raving mad because compelled by the exigencies of the present legal system to condemn a person whom he knew to be innocent, merely because twelve British citizens of ordinary mental capacity and as absolutely untrained in the laws of evidence as they are little versed in the study of human nature, considered her guilty. She was accused of killing the child to which she had given life, and the man who could clear her was in New Zealand. The situation at the close is of intense and thrilling interest, and even a fortunate ending cannot remove the distrust created concerning even the excellence of man's most perfect court of justice. Paper 50 cents. National Publishing Co.

TRADE CHAT.

IT has been decided by the Toronto banks to accept United States silver certificates only at a discount. For the present the discount has been fixed at one per cent. The step has been taken as a protection to Canadian business interests, which certainly would suffer severely were the country to become flooded with depreciated American currency. Toronto's example will undoubtedly be followed throughout the Dominion, but the discount being so slight no serious loss will be entailed for the present. "There are not many silver certificates in circulation in Canada at this time of the year," said one banking man, "but when the summer travel commences there will be many more. The banks here take the ordinary American bills at par from their customers, but will not accept them at all from strangers."

Toronto's comic paper, "Grip," is advertised for sale.

C. F. May, books and stationery, Oshawa, Ont., has been succeeded by F. Warren.

Bernard A. Lapointe has been registered proprietor of the book business of Leprohon & Co., Montreal.

T. N. Hibben & Co., Victoria, B. C., write that they publish "Chinook Jargon." This is a book by a learned Canadian linguist and scholar, Horatio Hale, who resides at Clinton, Ont.

There are 27 miles of store front in Toronto as compared with 13 in Buffalo. Toronto has more than the combined cities of Detroit, Buffalo and Rochester. The competition is something terrific in Toronto.

A tawny orange is the latest thing in ultra fashionable note paper. It is called "Indian gold," and thereon those who would lead the march write in green ink, fastening their envelopes with green sealing wax to maintain the harmony.

E. G. Colbrooke Harvey, poet and journalist, died suddenly at Kingston on April 10th. He came there about ten years ago from Wexford, Ireland, and was the second son of Major Harvey, of Bargey Castle.

The latest novels in the Dollar Series, published by MacMillan and sold by The Copp, Clark Co., are "The Marplot," by Sydney Royce Lyngait; "The Real Thing," by Henry James; "A Mere Cypher," by Mary Angela Dickens; "The Last Touches," by Mrs. W. K. Clifford; "A Born Player," by Mary West.

Belden Bros., who ran the business known as the Home Knowledge Association, in this city, failed some time ago. The statement of assets presented to the creditors shows a small surplus over liabilities. The chief creditors are the banks. Outside of these there is only about \$7,000 owing, which is to the local

trade. At a meeting of the creditors, R. G. Beckwith was appointed receiver, and the business will go on as usual. But it is doubtful if it will be continued for any length of time. They attempted to carry on trade in books in ways other than experience pointed out, and hence the natural result—failure.

On the 17th the creditors of Roper, Roper & Co., Nanaimo, met, and were offered 100 cents on the dollar, with interest at 5 per cent. until paid. It was unanimously agreed to accept the offer. The assets were between \$4,000 and \$5,000; the liabilities \$3,500. Dull times made their creditors urgent.

Considerable dissatisfied action exists concerning the way the estate of W. McAllister, bookseller and stationer, London, Ont., was disposed of. The assets amounted to \$1,989, and were sold for 27 cents on the dollar, while some claim that it could have brought 70 cents. There is some probability of a law-suit concerning this. What about a National Insolvency Bill?

Johnston Bros & Co., stationers, near the corner of King and Yonge streets, have assigned to John W. Winnett for the benefit of their creditors. They found the business was not paying, and so decided to shut down. The liabilities will be about \$3,000 and the assets about \$2,500. Want of capital was the cause of failure.

The sale of the business of J. K. Cranston, Galt, Ont., has fallen through on account of the intending purchaser being disappointed in securing some moneys. Mr. Cranston is disappointed, as he had almost completed arrangements for entering a new business venture in Toronto. But he has accepted his fate, and is hustling business as usual. He has just issued two new catalogues, one of sporting goods, and the other of school maps, etc.

Winnipeg is to have an important addition to its book and stationery establishments. The new firm will be known as Hart & McPherson, the principals of which will be Mr. J. A. Hart, late of Ferguson & Co., of that city, and Mr. McPherson, who has been for some years the Canadian representative of Wm. Collins, Sons & Co., of Glasgow. The premises formerly occupied by Furner's millinery establishment on Main street, south of Portage avenue, have been secured by Messrs. Hart & McPherson. A new front has been put in the store and it is now being fitted up in first-class style, to be ready for opening about the middle of May. Mr. Hart, who is a nephew of Rev. Prof. Hart, is well known to the people of Winnipeg, having for years been connected with the book and stationery business here. His father is widely known as one of the leading stationers in Eastern Canada. Mr. McPherson is also well and favorably known to many Winnipeg business houses.