

# THE BOOK MART

## EASTERN LETTER.

NEW YORK, July 1, 1901.

Notwithstanding a period of extremely hot weather at the close of the month, giving occasion for complaints of light business, sales as a whole kept up remarkably well, comparing favourably with those of a year ago. Publications in fiction of the last few months occupied a prominent place, showing the tendency to light reading during the heated period. *The Crisis* was easily the leading seller for the month, and is having a remarkable popularity that bids fair to continue throughout the year. *Tarry Thou Till I Come*, *Graustark* and *The Puppet Crown* are other titles responding readily to liberal advertising.

June publications were somewhat limited as to numbers. In the field of fiction *Jack Raymond*, by Mrs. Voynich, whose *Gadfly* sold so largely, *Katherine Day*, by Anna Fuller, and *The Kidnapped Millionaires*, by F. U. Adams, were among the most prominent. Miscellaneous publications for the month were nearly all issued with net prices. What the effect upon sales will be in view of this yet remains in the nature of a problem. Out-of-door literature was represented by *Our Ferns in their Haunts*, by W. V. Clute, and *The Second Book of Birds*, by Olive T. Miller.

Nature books continue to be about the only noticeable feature in summer sales outside of the almost universal demand for fiction. *A Journey to Nature*, *Our Native Trees* and *With the Wild Flowers* are among the leading titles in this department of literature.

European guide-books are still sought for. Grant Allen's *Historical Guides* are having a limited sale, but *Baedeker's* and *The Satchel Guide to Europe* remain the standards. In a lesser degree summer-resort guides for the United States are now salable.

Of the few miscellaneous books at all prominent in the sales, *A Sailor's Log* easily takes precedence, and is now in greater demand than ever.

The announcement of the early publication of a new work by Irving Bacheller, author of *Eben Holden*, to be entitled *Dri and I*, has already resulted in advance orders to such an extent as will warrant a large first edition.

While business is comparatively light in the matter of sales during the summer months, there is, on the other hand, much activity in the way of preparation for the coming fall and holiday trade. Text-book orders are already being placed and compare favourably with those of previous years. The present month is notable for the "book fair" held in Chicago, where the Western dealers have an opportunity to place their orders. Later in the season the same lines, only more complete, will be shown in New York and vicinity. The outlook in every respect continues to be bright for a good year.

Much interest is shown from month to month in the "most popular books" reports of THE BOOKMAN, and it is curious to note the wide divergence in the different sections of the country and yet to see how the averaged result

will almost always correspond with the reports of the two large centres, New York and Chicago. The list for the month just past follows:

*The Crisis*. By Winston Churchill. \$1.50.  
*Tarry Thou Till I Come*. By George Croly. \$1.40 net.  
*Graustark*. By G. B. McCutcheon. \$1.50.  
*The Puppet Crown*. By Harold MacGrath. \$1.50.  
*The Helmet of Navarre*. By Bertha Runkle. \$1.50.  
*Truth Dexter*. By S. McCall. \$1.50.  
*A Sailor's Log*. By Admiral R. D. Evans. \$2.00.  
*The Visits of Elizabeth*. By Elinor Glyn. \$1.50.  
*The Inn of the Silver Moon*. By H. K. Viele. \$1.50.  
*Alice of Old Vincennes*. By Maurice Thompson. \$1.50.  
*The Riddle of the Universe*. By E. Haeckel. \$1.50.  
*Like Another Helen*. By George Horton. \$1.50.  
*The Octopus*. By Frank Norris. \$1.50.  
*In Search of Mademoiselle*. By George Gibbs. \$1.50.  
*The Aristocrats*. By Helen Pole. \$1.50.

## WESTERN LETTER.

CHICAGO, July 1, 1901.

The demand last month for all kinds of books was surprisingly active for this time of the year, and the record of the month shows that the amount of business transacted exceeded considerably the average of the last few years for the same period. Nor is this satisfactory result to be ascribed to sporadic increase in certain branches of the business alone, but is spread very evenly over the whole field of bookselling operations. This condition of business not only speaks well of the healthy state of things at present, but augurs well for the future.

The most prominent feature of the month was the astonishing popularity of *The Crisis*. The number sold of this work last month has probably never been exceeded by any copyright novel before in a single month. The wide circulation of the work, too, has awakened considerable interest in *Richard Carvel*, which is now taking quite a spurt.

*The Helmet of Navarre*, *Alice of Old Vincennes* and *Eben Holden* are still among the most prominent books of the day, and others which deserve notice on account of exceedingly good sales are *Graustark*, *The Puppet Crown* and *Like Another Helen*. *Tarry Thou Till I Come* made a large gain in popularity, and is now well up among the leaders, while the local demand for *The House of DeMailly* was very good indeed.

As a rule, poetry is not much in demand during the summer months; but a new volume of verse by Ernest McGaffey, entitled *Sonnets to a Wife*, is in especially good request in this city, and may possibly have a wider popularity.

Despite the recent hot weather, which usually militates considerably against solid reading,

books of a somewhat heavy character went very well. In this class *A Sailor's Log*, by Admiral Robley D. Evans, was very prominent, as was likewise *The Tribulations of a Princess*, by the author of *The Martyrdom of an Empress*; *The Last Years of the Nineteenth Century*, by Mrs. E. W. Latimer; *The Life of Thomas H. Huxley*, by his son; *Up from Slavery*, by Booker T. Washington; *The Love Letters of Victor Hugo*, and *China and the Allies*, by A. H. S. Landor.

The annual exhibit in this city of advance samples of books scheduled for autumn publication is beginning as this report is being written. It is evident that the season's product will be a heavy one, exceeding probably that of any previous year. Great care, however, appears to have been spent by each publisher upon his selection, and the full list of announcements is, speaking generally, of a high quality. Stimulated, however, by the phenomenal success of popular fiction, nearly every concern is striving to obtain a novel that will sell a hundred thousand or so and rank among the best-selling books. Expectations in this direction are, therefore, very numerous; and as but few books attain this distinction, there are likely to be many disappointments.

The books which led the demand last month rank in the following order:

The Crisis. By Winston Churchill. \$1.50.  
The Helmet of Navarre. By Bertha Runkle. \$1.50.  
Eben Holden. By Irving Bacheller. \$1.50.  
Alice of Old Vincennes. By Maurice Thompson. \$1.50.  
Tarry Thou Till I Come. By George Croly. \$1.40 net.  
Graustark. By George B. McCutcheon. \$1.50.  
The Puppet Crown. By Harold MacGrath. \$1.50.  
Like Another Helen. By George Horton. \$1.50.  
The House of De Mailly. By Margaret H. Potter. \$1.50.  
Heirs of Yesterday. By Emma Wolfe. \$1.25.  
Jack Raymond. By E. L. Voynich. \$1.50.  
To Have and to Hold. By Mary Johnston. \$1.50.  
Penelope's Irish Experiences. By Kate D. Wiggin. \$1.25.  
Richard Carvel. By Winston Churchill. \$1.50.  
The Master Christian. By Marie Corelli. \$1.50.

### ENGLISH LETTER.

LONDON, May 18 to June 20, 1901.

A very brisk demand was experienced during the earlier part of the month, but a tendency to slacken ensued, and during the latter portion the sales have not been so well maintained. There has, however, been little cause for complaint, and, taking into consideration the period of the year, a fair amount of business has been transacted.

Fiction has fluctuated somewhat, and the output of 6s. novels has been more limited, but the demand for the already popular works has at times been very brisk.

With the death of Sir Walter Besant and Robert Buchanan came a slightly increased sale in several of their best-known works, more especially in the case of the former author, but in neither case has the demand been very large.

Mr. McCarthy's *Five Years in Ireland* still continues to be in constant request, and the interest in *Five Years of My Life*, by Captain Dreyfus, appears in no way to have diminished.

There have been several interesting and well-illustrated books in connection with gardening placed upon the market, but undoubtedly the most successful has been *Gardening for Beginners*, by E. T. Cook.

Epistolary literature has continued to maintain a very considerable amount of popularity. *An Englishwoman's Love-Letters*, *Another Englishwoman's Love-Letters*, *The Visits of Elizabeth*, and *The Letters of Her Mother to Elizabeth* have all circulated extensively.

The beautifully-produced *Record of the Reign of Queen Victoria*, issued by the *Illustrated London News* Office, has attained a great success, and the "V.R.I." Life, by the Marquis of Lorne, has sold as freely as ever.

There is usually little change in the sales of the magazines at this period of the year, and although there is such an amount of keen competition, and the competitors are so numerous, the older favourites continue to maintain their own.

The following is a list of the books which have been in most demand during the past month:

The Crisis. By Winston Churchill. 6s. (Macmillan.)  
Jack Raymond. By E. L. Voynich. 6s. (Heinemann.)  
The Master Christian. By Marie Corelli. 6s. (Methuen.)  
Penelope's Irish Experiences. By K. D. Wiggin. 6s. (Gay and Bird.)  
The Cardinal's Snuff-Box. By H. Harland. 6s. (Lane.)  
Her Majesty's Minister. By W. Le Queux. 6s. (Hodder and Stoughton.)  
Understudies. By M. E. Wilkins. 6s. (Harper.)  
White Cottage. By Zack. 6s. (Constable.)  
An Englishwoman's Love-Letters. 5s. net. (J. Murray.)  
Another Englishwoman's Love-Letters. By Barry Pain. 1s. and 2s. (Unwin.)  
The Visits of Elizabeth. By E. Glyn. 6s. (Duckworth.)  
Letters of Her Mother to Elizabeth. 1s. and 2s. (Unwin.)  
The Good Red Earth. By Eden Phillpotts. 3s. 6d. (Arrowsmith.)  
Five Years in Ireland. By M. J. F. McCarthy. 7s. 6d. (Simpkin.)

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

JUNE 10 TO JULY 10.

NEW YORK.

Abbey Press.

Dolinda and the Twins. Dora Harvey Munyon, A. M.