

ing all their time has been spent in making money, not for themselves, but for those who have been exacting the last cent, at last give up. Who suffers? The very men who have been hard and exacting, the very men who would not, willingly, let others live, they who must not only live but be "merry withal." They are the branches of that tree that, denying the ground the nourishment of a refreshing shower, suffer in consequence from the drought.

AND THE STRANGEST PART of the whole story is this. The individual houses, Copp, Clark & Co., W. J. Gage & Co., and the Canada Publishing Co. have the reputation of treating their customers fairly. So much is this the opinion that one man, a determined opponent of the monopoly, speaks of the first-named as a "grand old house." And yet what they do individually they are not willing to do in combination.

What demon is there in the bond of monopoly that men otherwise fair and just are so exacting in their dealings with the self-same people.

THE NEW VOLUME.—The cordial approval of our course during the past year, as evinced by the unanimous recognition by the Association of BOOKS AND NOTIONS as its organ, with the very hearty support we have received since our last issue, has indeed been gratifying to us. We feel that we need make no promise for the future—as we have done in the past so it will be the coming years—frank and outspoken in all matters pertaining to the trade, and to the best of our ability advocating justice and equity in all things.

HOME AGAIN.—"My boy comes to-day." How many mother's lips and hearts repeated this phrase o'er and o'er again, as the news came that the veterans from the Nor'-West were nearing home! How the pulse beat, and the eye dimmed with the tear of joy, as the mother revelled in the thought that her darling son, may be her only one, was returning safe and well from his arduous journey! She had steeled her heart when he went away. Glad of his proud courage and high idea of devotion to his country, she bid him "Good-bye," with a Spartan mother's pride—a beaming eye, but with a doubtful, quivering heart. Every day she read with anxious eyes the news from the Rebellion. Every line she scanned with fearful trembling, lest her loved one's name might be among the slain or wounded,—and now the agony is over, and knowing that her offspring has nobly done his duty, her heart gladdens with the thought that all danger is over.

The meeting—we draw a veil over this sacred scene—'twere sacrilege even to steal a glance at the

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