

out to the trade will be described and some information as to their selling qualities, etc., given.

The figures of imports for the first four months of the present year show a slight increase as compared with the January to April period in 1895. The figures are:

	1895	1896
Books, pamphlets, etc.	\$221,572	\$221,544
Paper, envelopes, etc.	112,102	117,874
Total	\$333,674	\$339,418

THE DUTY ON TEXT BOOKS.

THE tariff regulations governing the importation of text books and other educational works on our college curriculum is apt, according to some members of the book trade, to be very confusing. Text books imported for bona fide students or for use in public libraries, provided such books are not printed in Canada, can be brought in free if the importer makes an affidavit to the effect that the books imported are to be put to this particular use. The trade admit that in theory the idea of not taxing the source of knowledge for the budding generation is correct, but hold that in practice it leads to considerable bother and annoyance. For instance, a bookseller may import in the fall before the college term begins thirty-five volumes of Gray's Botany in the expectation that the students will be customers of his to that extent. He, of course, has to deposit his affidavits from the college authorities or librarian that the books come under the free provisions of the tariff. This of course does not guarantee that the students will buy the books in question, and should they not they have either to lie on the shelves, or after they have sold, the trader has to hunt up his invoices and pass an entry in order to sell them to ordinary customers. That is, if he is conscientious. If not, the temptation to fraud must be frequently too great to be resisted. For instance, a customer, not a student, asks for the works in question. The integrity of the dealer is great indeed who refuses to supply him with the book because he is not a student, or if he does so hastens to pass an entry for the single volume so sold. In a word, the clause must be unworkable in many instances and the law evaded. The duty is 6c. per lb., and it would be far more consistent if the Government should make no exception at all.

OF INTEREST TO CANADIANS.

G. P. Putnam's Sons have published a volume under the general title of "The United States and Great Britain," and which will contain three monographs, as follows: (1) "The Relations Between the United States and Great Britain," by David A. Wells, reprint (issued under the authorization of the publishers of *The North American Review*) of the article by Mr. Wells, printed in the April number of *The Review*, rewritten and augmented; (2) "The True Monroe Doctrine," by Edmund S. Phelps, LL.D., late Minister to Great Britain, a reprint of the address delivered some weeks back by Dr. Phelps in Brooklyn, also rewritten with important additions; and (3) "Arbitration," by Carl Schurz, a reprint, with a few changes, of the address recently delivered by Mr. Schurz in Washington.

A MISSIONARY BOOK.

The New York Independent has this to say of "A Lone Woman in Africa," the experiences of six years' labors on the Kroo Coast by Miss Agnes McAllister, a Canadian lady, who went out to Africa as one of Bishop Taylor's self-supporting band of missionaries:

"If there is a dull page in this book we have not found it. Miss McAllister has been working with Bishop Taylor's mission in the darkest part of the Dark Continent. His report of her is that she is a 'Christian heroine.' The book makes the same impression, with this point added, that she carries her burden with a light heart, and her spirits rise as difficulty and sacrifice deepen. For nearly eight years she has been at work, now in one department, now in another, and made a success in all. Her book is full of graphic delineations of the savages and her work among them as doctor, nurse and Christian teacher. Some of the tribal legends are curious and amusing, as, for example, that which accounts for the sun as hot and the moon as cold, or the African theory of the devil. In connection with these we note also Miss McAllister's visit to the Devil's Den. The great point in the book is its encouraging report from a dark and far-away land."

THE TRENT AFFAIR.

Canadian readers may be interested in a new book published by the Bowen-Merrill Co., Indianapolis and Kansas City (crown 8vo., gilt top, \$1.50,) by Prof. Thomas L. Harris, A.M., of Chicago University, entitled "The Trent Affair."

NEW PORTFOLIOS.

Several simple portfolios are of German origin. One of them is merely an empty book cover having two spiked strings for threading the papers, the strings being tied in loops after each fresh addition. The other portfolio has affixed to the inner side of the underneath cover two narrow and very flexible metal strips, one

at the bottom corner, the other at the top. On these the documents are threaded. To secure them, a narrow piece of wood, punctured at the ends, is threaded on top of them, and the projecting ends of the metal are clamped down over it. Two loops with which the ruler is supplied are slid over the bent metal ends, thus securing firmness of position.

BOOKSELLING IN ST. PETERSBURG.

IN writing from the Russian capital, Edward Legge, author of "Killed at Saarbruck," gives this sidelight upon "the trade" there: "You have not by any means exhausted the outdoor sights of St. Petersburg until you have strolled through the Gastinói Dvor and peered into perhaps the most curious aggregation of shops in the world, with the single exception of the similar institution at Moscow. Here you have under your eyes both Old and New Russia. There is a laudable attempt to group the shops in this amazing market in accordance with the various branches of the trades represented; but this groupement is, I am told, less successful in the St. Petersburg than in the Moscow mart. The jewelers and the booksellers and the toy merchants have chosen the eastern (that is, the Nevsky Prospekt) side of the bazaar, and here is to be found a depot for every imaginable description of literary wares which will bear comparison with the celebrated Mellier's. Under the Gastinói Arcades you will see some of the elite of St. Petersburg ordering, selecting, or idly turning the leaves of the world's literature. Studious members of the diplomatic world favor this shop, and pretty women resort to it when they are in quest of a volume which they have been unable to get elsewhere, even at the renowned Mellier's.

"In the mazes and purlieus of the Gastinói Dvor you will meet with the genuine Russian tradesman—not the German or French importation, but a true child of the great White Czar, his long coat buttoned up to the chin, and his feet encased in top-boots which look sometimes as if they had not been cleaned since they were polished up last Epiphany, when their owner generally smartened himself to see the great ceremony of blessing the Neva. In the majority of cases the booksellers' clerks wear the traditional peasant costume, especially in the summer and early autumn, when the pelisse is cast aside and the shirt and belt are visible. When you enter the bookshop of such a genuine son of the soil as he whom I have depicted you are greeted with, 'What do you want?' which somehow sounds less rude in Russ—"Tshto vam ougodno?" Neither the master nor his clerks seem to care very much what you purchase, or, indeed, whether you buy anything at all. I found other traders in this congeries of shops more persistent; and others, again, business being slack (though Petersburg was in full season, for