

incentives to beneficence in the direction to which we refer, which has prompted the gifts that Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool and other great centres rejoice in? Can any one read the statistics and published reports of the reference and lending libraries of these cities, and acquaint oneself with the vast good which result from these institutions to those whose life is one of daily toil, and withhold their hand? We trow not. Let our citizens and public men reflect on this matter.

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### THE CANADA BOOKSELLER FOR 1871.

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Though we are conscious of having fallen far short of what we designed the *Bookseller* to be when we contemplated its publication, yet, we conceive that the issue for 1870, which we complete in the present number, has not been altogether unsatisfactory or unprofitable to the reader, while to the publishers, it has not been barren in the results sought to be attained in its publication.

We have not aimed at a very high position in literary work or criticism, but rather our design has been to occupy, in the sphere of bibliography, a position which would be useful and important, in these days of prolific writing and of many books. To supply a current resume of the publications of the day, to place readers *au courant* with the doings of authors and publishers, and to incite, if possible, a wider and more hearty interest in books and every-day modern literature. Such has been our aim; and in addressing ourselves periodically to this work, we have been much gratified in receiving very numerous and hearty commendations and assurances of usefulness from all parts of the country. The trade, professional men, educationists and general book-readers—all have said complimentary words to us; though this has been no unmingled alloy, for a clerical correspondent, the vulnerable points in whose tastes we well know, writes us to "desist from leading him into temptation with our record of new books," and which is significant of how the gospel is paid for among us.

It has often been said that a man hardly knows how many intellectual delights he denies himself in the course of his life, until he comes to examine a bookseller's counter; and while having aimed at making our journal a necessity to every educated person in the community, we confess to have had this truism before us in spiriting our literary fare in the pages of the *Bookseller*.

We plead, however, in this somewhat tantalus-work, that we are only accessories after the fact, with authors and publishers;

and we trust that if any one has omitted to exercise that denial and restraint which a prudent regard for his limited means should have prompted, he will feel the richer by any extravagant purchases he may have made at the instigation of the *Bookseller*.

For our 1871 programme, we do not intend to discount any success we may have earned in the past year, by making a promissory note for the future. We shall content ourselves by saying that we are encouraged to continue the publication; and while in the interest of literature and the book trade, we shall devote ourselves, in the leisure we can snatch from our other duties, to make the *Bookseller* in 1871 welcome to all book-reading circles, we must ask of those who gain in its publication that practical aid—from advertisers in renewed patronage, and from subscribers in the payment of their small subscriptions—which it is only reasonable that we should look for in its future issue.

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### RECIPROCITY IN BOOKS.

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Whatever may be the policy which the United States or the Dominion shall see fit to pursue towards each other's industrial products, there can be no question but that a free interchange of the intellectual harvest-yields of every land is desirable and proper, between these countries. The commercial diplomacy of European governments has been to lay aside all restrictive principles in regard to literature; and, while mutually granting protection to authors, every facility has been given to a free and reciprocal trade in books. Indeed, the mother country has gone much further than this, and has generously conformed her tariff to the wise policy of free trade in every thing that is a necessity of her people. In Canada, though we are a long way from adopting free trade measures, yet, the policy of our governments in regard to literature, has always been to recognize that books are not a class of importation that should be taxed, whether we are manufacturers of thought or no; and this policy is in marked contrast with that of our neighbors across the line.

With the hearty support literature and the book-trade receives from the American people, it is paradoxical that they should permit their rulers to impose such prohibitory duties on the literature of other countries, and it is far from creditable that foreign books should be so taxed, while these countries have not the benefit of a copyright treaty with the States. The recent increase in the revenue imposts on books entering the States, we feel sure, is a retrograde step; and, in the