

WALL PAPER AND DECORATIONS—Cont'd.
being printed on without a background. "White blanks" follow these, the only difference being in the quality of the paper. Formerly, the ground of the next grade was printed with the pattern, this being called "blotch printing," but the practice now is to brush the ground color evenly over the surface before printing the pattern. These were formerly called "grounds" or "flats," and these names are still applied to the better qualities, though without special reason. Various surfaces are given to the ground by the application of French chalk, which is polished to produce what is called "satin finish"—by the dusting on a sized ground of finely powdered mica, to produce what are variously termed "glimmers," "silks," "micas," etc.

The addition of bronze to the pattern forms another class of paper hangings, which addition is probably the most lucrative operation for the manufacturer. Two methods are followed—the first being the application of the bronze held in a solution composed mainly of potato starch, these being called "liquid bronzes" or "giltts." In the second process the size is first applied to the paper as a color would be, the bronze is dusted on this size when at the right period of "tack" or stickiness. These are called "varnished bronzes" or "giltts." All of these processes are also followed in the hand or block printed papers. To give additional texture to the surface, various embossers are applied, such as leather, gros grain silk, canvasses of various weaves and fancy patterns. This is carried to a further point when the pattern is duplicated in the embossed roller and is thus raised from the surface. These are called "raised" or "pressed" papers.

Wall papers differ from most other fabrics in that while great variation exists in the quality of the various materials used, the materials after all are only of secondary importance. The paper is only used as a medium for transferring a pattern to the wall. Thus, various other materials may with perfect propriety be imitated in wall papers. Expensive leathers, silks and tapestries are reproduced in paper and excellent effects are thus obtainable. The European manufacturers lay all the museums and palaces of the old world under tribute for designs and the American manufacturers busy themselves in reproducing as rapidly as possible these designs in less expensive and consequently inferior grades. But a number of the leading designers and architects of England contribute many original designs for paper hangings. Among others may be mentioned Walter Crane, Lewis F. Day, J. D. Sedding, Shand Kydd, and others. Their designs are not in imitation

of other materials, but purely in the line of ornamental or floral treatment, and are for that reason more favorably regarded by many.

It may be said, in conclusion, that while the materials as before remarked are secondary to the design, as much difference exists between desirable and undesirable qualities of wall paper as in other fabrics. — W. H. ELLIOTT, in Canadian Architect and Builder.

MONTREAL BOOK NOTES.

June 5, 1899.

SOME Montreal booksellers say that it is as easy to get \$1 for cloth bound copies of the latest books as 75c. for those in paper covers, and they are consequently pushing the sale of the higher-priced books, which really seem better value than those in paper covers.

The best selling books during the month have been: "David Harum," by Westcott (Briggs), paper 75c., cloth \$1.25; "Mormon Prophet," by Lily Dougall (Gage), paper 75c., cloth \$1.25; "Span o' Life," by Wm. McLennan and McIlwraith (Copp, Clark), paper 75c., cloth \$1.25; "Marguerite de Roberval," by Marquis (Grafton), cloth \$1.25; "Black Douglas," by S. R. Crockett (Morang), paper 75c., cloth \$1.25; "Bonhomme," by H. C. Walsh (Briggs), paper 60c., cloth \$1.25; "Red Rock," by T. Nelson Page (Publishers' Syndicate), paper 75c., cloth \$1.25.

The book business for the holiday season promises to be very good, the reports so far being of an exceptional character. The tourist trade, particularly throughout the Maritime Provinces, is said to be exceptionally large for this time of the year.

There is general complaint among Montreal booksellers at the action of the large departmental stores in selling the latest paper-bound books at prices which are ten to fifteen cents below the regular prices charged by the trade. As a matter of fact this has been found such a hardship by some dealers that they have considered it necessary to meet it by making a similar cut. This is considered unwise and unfair by the other booksellers, but it is a question whether cutting of this nature can be met by any other means. Some action, it is contended, should be taken by publishers to prevent this practice of reducing the value of their publications, and in justice to the dealers who make it their business to dispose of them.

The Montreal News Co. reports the issue of "Famous Firesides of French Canada,"

by Mary Wilson Alloway. This book is descriptive of the historical homes of Canada during the French regime and gives many interesting incidents in connection therewith. It is handsomely illustrated and should meet with a ready sale.

"When Knighthood was in Flower" by Charles Major, is selling rapidly in Canada, as it did in the United States, where its sale was exceeded only by "David Harum," and even Wescott's masterpiece will have to look to its laurels if it would retain its present position.

During the month the Montreal News Co. will place on the market a 25 cent edition of "Young Mistley," by H. S. Merriman.

The next issue of the Peoples' Library, which retails at 50 cents, will be "The Man in the Moon," by Hall Caine. The convenient and attractive form of this library, together with the high value of the books composing it, make it a strong leader for Summer business.

The Montreal News Co. will issue during the coming month, "Idylls of the Sea," by Frank Bullen, whose previous book, "The Cruise of the Cachelot," has been so widely read and admired by the public in general and Rudyard Kipling in particular.

"Red Rock," by T. Nelson Page, paper edition at 75c. is meeting with a very satisfactory sale, and "Mr. Dooley in Peace and in War" is also in constant demand.

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