

## A WELL-KNOWN STATIONERY MAN.

MR. ALEXANDER GILLIES, OF MONTREAL.

THE stationery trade will in a few days be face to face again with one of the oldest and most experienced travelers in this line in Canada—Mr. Alexander Gillies, who, on January 1st, started out to represent Austin & Robertson, wholesale stationers, Montreal. Mr. Gillies has been off the road for a few months for reasons which are entirely creditable to him. He was a member of the late firm of Boyd, Gillies & Co. Montreal, the fire in whose warehouse last May was followed by the disclosure of as discreditable a piece of attempted swindling and incendiarism as ever took place in Canada.

It was due to Mr. Gillies' rugged integrity and unswerving honesty that the whole thing was unearthed. The fire, it will be remembered, took place on a Saturday night when Mr. Gillies was, as usual, out selling to the trade, and Boyd, the senior partner, was supposed to be absent in Quebec. The contents of the warehouse were practically destroyed, and the building itself completely gutted. It was a bad fire, but the firm were well insured. A statement of insurance claims was made up by Boyd aggregating nearly \$30,000. When Mr. Gillies returned to town his partner asked him to sign this, but the former objected. He did not believe the stock then in the warehouse was worth nearly as much as this sum, and honestly said so. Boyd insisted on going on with the claim, and Mr. Gillies, beginning to think there was something wrong, declined to have anything to do with the settlement, and would not be a party to it. The firm was dissolved, and Mr. Gillies refused to touch a penny of the insurance money. Boyd settled with the insurance companies for about a third of his claim and left the country. Then the whole disgraceful story came out. Two men were arrested in connection with the fire, and facts transpired showing that there had been a plot to burn the warehouse and that part of the stock had been removed beforehand. Mr. Gillies, in whose absence and without whose knowledge, the whole thing had been arranged, gave his straightforward evidence at the criminal investigation, and was complimented on all hands for his scrupulous integrity. There is little doubt but for his action the swindle would have been successfully worked. To those who know Mr. Gillies, and the kind of man he is, it will not seem strange that he should have followed the course he did. But the circumstances certainly point to a strong regard for the straight course, which gains for every man

in business an enviable reputation. Mr. Gillies has been in the paper business for many years, and knows it thoroughly. He comes from a family of paper-makers and stationers. He was for thirty years with Buntin & Co., and only joined the Boyd firm in 1895. He is an uncle of Mr. Jas. B. Gillies, of the well-known firm of Buntin, Gillies & Co., Hamilton. He will cover his old ground for Austin & Robertson, and as one of the best known stationery men in Canada, is pretty sure to meet with a cordial reception from the trade everywhere. Austin and Robertson, a successful concern which enjoys a large degree of popularity, intend making a specialty of the big flat papers for the future, and Mr. Gillies will be afforded plenty of scope for his experience of paper and his energy. He seems to have the faculty of perpetual youth,



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and no one would think him past fifty years. Indeed, he is said to be a grandfather, but BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER is inclined to doubt this assertion, though it is made on good authority. If it be true, his appearance must be accounted for by the good conscience he carries about with him. Mr. Gillies has the best wishes of the trade in his new sphere of labor.

The writer of a squib says that while looking over a cook book the other day he came across a recipe which ended as follows: "Then sit on the front of the stove and stir constantly." That is easy. How could a fellow sit on the front of the stove (if it had fire in it) and not "stir constantly."

## ENGLISH PUBLISHERS ORGANIZE

A MEETING of English publishers, held at Stationers' Hall, London, England, Nov. 21, 1895, decided to form a Publishers' Association. Mr. C. J. Longman was in the chair, and among those present were: Mr. John Murray, Mr. Richard Bentley, Mr. Frederick Macmillan, Colonel Robert W. Routledge, Mr. Joseph N. Darton, Mr. Spencer C. Blackett, Mr. Sydney S. Pawling, Major P. H. Dalbiac, M.P., Mr. W. Swan Sonnenschein, Mr. H. H. Longman, Mr. Oswald Crawford, Mr. George Etheridge (Chapman & Hall), Mr. W. F. Warne, Mr. E. Marston, Mr. R. B. Marston, Mr. Charles J. Griffin, Mr. William Heinemann, Mr. F. G. Green, Mr. G. S. Philip, Mr. John C. Nimmo, Mr. Edward Stanford, Mr. A. F. Allen, Mr. W. T. F. Jarrold, Mr. A. R. Black, Mr. John Shaw, Mr. James Smith (Messrs. John F. Shaw & Co.), etc.

On motion of Mr. John Murray a committee of nine was appointed to draw up rules for the new association. A vote was taken as to the firms to be represented on the committee, with this result: Messrs. Longmans, Macmillan & Co., Murray, Routledge, Heinemann, Sampson Low & Co., Bentley, Blackwood, and Smith, Elder & Co. Mr. R. B. Marston is secretary of the committee pro tem., and a general meeting will be held this month to organize finally. In connection with this matter we have received the following letter from London, England:

Will you allow me to correct a statement appearing in one of the paragraphs of your article on Copyright in the November issue of your journal: You say Mr. Daldy is secretary of the British Publishers' Association, but Mr. Daldy is secretary of the Copyright Association, quite a different thing, and certainly he did not visit Canada as the representative of the British publishers. His association has the support of all authors and publishers who interest themselves in the copyright question, but it should be clearly understood that Mr. Daldy was not in Ottawa with a special brief for the British publishing interest.

No publishers' association exists here at the time of writing. On Nov. 21, a meeting of London publishers was held at Stationers' Hall, and a committee appointed to draw up rules for the formation of such an association, to be submitted to a meeting which is to take place early next year, when possibly the British publishers may form a union strong enough to benefit not only themselves, but the bookseller and perhaps the author also. There has been within the past few years a growing interest in this question of publishers' union, notably since Mr. Heinemann's letters on the Hardship of Publishing, which appeared in *The Athenæum* in December, '92, but although they attracted considerable attention at the time the subject dropped. The seed time was then; may we now be approaching the harvest. Faithfully yours, H.

London, Eng., Dec. 7, 1895

Society belles are beginning to make scrap-books of their newspaper notices, and the custom will doubtless become a regular social fad in time. The wives of public men are among the best patrons of the clipping bureaus.