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Editor, Canadian Bookseller,
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Editorial.

ANOTHER SPECIMEN BRICK.

The Canadian Government might do well to read the following notice printed on the back of "The Mutineer," a new book recently issued in the well-known Colonial edition :

Copyright Edition.—All Rights Reserved. This Edition is issued for sale and circulation in the British Colonies and India, and not to be imported into Europe or the United States of America.

This Edition of The Mutineer must not be imported into the Dominion of Canada.

It will be noticed that we are first told that this edition (manufactured in England) is issued for sale in the British Colonies—and then we are informed that it must not be imported into Canada, the greatest of all British Colonies! The regular English edition is 6s., selling in Canada for \$2. The Colonial edition sells for 75 cents. But Canadians, we are told, are not to be allowed to buy the cheap Colonial edition. The effect of such stupidity as this will be

to make Canadians order the book from J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, who publish it at \$1.50. This is really a very good method of discouraging Canadian-British trade. It is all right for the United States publisher. But is it fair to the Canadian people, or the Canadian publisher? Certainly not!

(From the Montreal Gazette Sept. 7, 1898.)

COPYRIGHT IN CANADA.

A NEW YORK AUTHORITY'S VIEWS ON THE SITUATION.

To the Editor of the "Gazette" :

SIR,—The following from your issue of August 31 should not be allowed to stand without, at least, a few words of comment :

"It is said that when the Quebec Commissioners have got through with the subjects of negotiation already announced, they will take up the international copyright question. In that case the end of the conference may be expected about the time of the millennium. Every new element introduced into the copyright discussion has made it harder to understand and apparently harder to settle."

With thinking people the present international copyright law is neither difficult to understand nor hard to settle. It is well understood that the present law was passed through the Congress of the United States under great pressure from interested parties. By many it is now considered a monopoly in the United States. As to Canada, it has no validity. A Canadian author, to obtain copyright in the United States, has to have his work printed in that country. This is manifest injustice, as well as monopoly and contrary to home rule.

The law of international copyright can be amended so as to do full justice to the authors and readers of Canada, as well as the printing and allied trades. The conference of British, Canadian, and American representatives, now meeting in Quebec, is the proper body to suggest the necessary reforms in the law. If a discussion of the subject is called for by the Commission, it is hoped that at least the printers, binders, paper-makers, and authors of Toronto, Montreal and Quebec, may have a hearing on copyright reform generally.

A striking instance of the imperfections and injustices of international copyright law appears in a number of the National Printer-Journalist, Chicago, as follows :—

The Canadians as a class are clever writers, printers, and journalists. Many of them have made a good record in the United States and England. A very clever book recently published on a purely Canadian subject, in order to obtain copy-

right had to be printed in the United States. Of this a leading Canadian journal says :— "The author has struck a rich mine in the French-Canadian dialect. * * * We only regret that the author had to go to the United States to have the book printed. Just as good work could have been done in Canada. But, of course, the author is not to be blamed. He wanted United States copyright, and to secure that he had to manufacture his books in the United States.

* * * * We trust the Canadian Government will do something towards developing Canadian book manufacturing interests by bringing down a new copyright act. The present Canadian law is a great failure."

From various articles which appeared in the Canadian papers in the past few months it is evident that the copyright question is in an unsatisfactory condition. No two people seem to agree as to the interpretation of the law, and through it book printing has almost ceased, and book publishing seems to be totally destroyed. A country with such prosperity as Canada, just entering upon a grand national career, ought to be able to frame just and equitable copyright laws for its citizens.

An association of those engaged in printing and kindred interests might do much in suggesting copyright reforms to the gentlemen composing the Quebec conference. A plain, sensible and just copyright law in Canada is feasible, and should be passed without delay.

RICHARD ENNIS,
New York.

September 1, 1898.

ART CALENDAR.

"The Calendar of the Art League of Toronto" is this year to be published by Mr. George N. Morang. It is now in its third year, and its previous success is a guarantee that the forthcoming number will have a very large sale. We have been privileged with a sight of advance sheets of the work, and can certify that it has decidedly gained in artistic power. It may be called an artistic picture-book of the year, and is the best expression of a group of artists who have already attained success in various fields of illustration. Some of them are Toronto boys who have gone to New York and found there larger scope and opportunities than were open to them here. The various lessons of the year are admirably depicted. There is no letter-press, but the pictures tell their own story. The Calendar will be admirably printed and gotten up, and as a Christmas gift will no doubt be