

Brantford; Vice-President, H. Dobson, Simcoe; Sec.-Treas, M. T. Hemsworth, Brantford. An executive committee was appointed consisting of four from the principal towns of the district. The meeting was a very cordial one, and after fully discussing the various interests of the trade it was unanimously agreed that on account of the very reduced discounts allowed by publishers, and the heavy duty on imported goods, all discounts given in the past by the retail trade to ministers, teachers, and students be done away with, and that the discounts on prizes and library books be graded according to amount purchased. Similar action is being very generally adopted throughout the Province. A plan for the mutual interchange of surplus stock was adopted, and the Secretary directed to communicate with those booksellers who were prevented attending by the snow blockade.

This from the *Brantford Expositor*. From the Secretary's standpoint it looked thus: After fifteen minutes' talk on the objects to be gained by forming a branch Association, and on the claims the Ontario had on all dealers, the branch was organized as above described, and every Brantford dealer, though the majority were reluctant at first to have anything to do with the contemplated union, joined with a heartiness that was very pleasing, and all present willingly affiliated with the Ontario.

The Secretary congratulates the Association on the happy start, and the choice made of officers.

Brantford booksellers are still "all round the square," still within "stone's throw" of one another, but instead of stone-throwing, hearty hand-shaking is in vogue.

Among the important matters transacted at the last meeting of the Toronto Association was the passing of a resolution asking the Ontario Association to take such action as will endeavour to prevent the importation of immoral, illustrated papers.

BOOK NOTES.

Mrs. Harrison, the well-known "Seranus" of *The Week*, has given us a series of sketches, taking for the title of the volume the name of the first story contained in it—*Crowded Out*. This initial sketch is of a weird and uncanny nature, and were it not that we knew the authoress to be in the land of the living we would say it is a personal reminiscence, so realistic as it is in its word-painting. The book, as a whole, is a charming bit of light literature. Some have found fault with the light, sketchy character of its contents, but we consider that they are fittingly so. A lady, in the hot, summer days, does not put on her winter costume, but rather the airiest and flimsiest raiment she can procure. So when we meet between the covers of "Crowded Out" a series of pleasant, sparkling tales, Canadian in their conception, and Canadian in the back-ground of faithful description of scenes of which all know more or less, we are pleased. The word picture of *Bonheur du Roi*, a French Canadian village, is as vivid to our mind's eye as the sketch could possibly be by the artist who is supposed to write. The light and breezy, May-morning style of the writing, though occasionally varied by a phase of November dreariness, is exceedingly pleasant to a man who, tired and hungry, lies down for a few mo-

ments before his dinner to read, or rather skim over, a little tale that furnishes him with pleasant table-talk.

Mrs. Harrison is her own publisher, and has put the price at 25 cents.

With the view of aiding the sale of T. F. Ball's admirable Life of Queen Victoria, and of giving the public, in a cheap form, a souvenir of the Jubilee year, the Willard Tract Depository issue a cabinet photograph of a picture of the Queen, with her leading statesmen, members of the royal family, Windsor Castle, the Tower, etc. For a make-up picture it is very tasteful, and contains, within a small compass, the likenesses and pictures indicated clear and well defined. The picture is presented in a neat cover, the first page of which is rich in blue and gold.

J. K. Cranston, Galt, sends us a little book taking the title from its first and longest poem, *The Heart of Strathnaver*, a Lay of the Scottish Highland Evictions, by Charles Stewart. The book is mainly in the Scotch dialect, and contains some good bits of verse making. Homely, canny Scotch verse is always pleasing; many a poem in this book would touch the soft spot in those "frae the land o' cakes," and it can be had for an Old Country shilling, and a ha'penny added.

We are indebted to ALFRED SANDHAM for the following:—

It may interest you to know that I am completing a book upon 'The Great Seals of England,' commenced by my late brother, Alfred B. Wyon, and that the work is now just going to press. Only 250 copies will be printed for sale, and each copy will be five guineas (£5 5s. 0d.). The Queen has given her special permission to have the work dedicated to herself. The Prince of Wales has directed his name to be put down as a subscriber.

ALLAN WYON.

The Messrs. Wyon are the chief engravers of Her Majesty's seals, and from their studio comes all the more elaborate medals issued during the past years, such as the medals of nearly all the educational institutes of Canada, the Confederation medal, the North-West and other war medals. The office of chief engraver has been in the family for a century past.

The *American Bookseller* of February 1st contains a full list of all the books published for the general trade during the year 1886. It comprises the titles of 3,708 volumes, in book form, and 1,551 titles of the "Libraries." This is the first time on which a complete list of the latter class of publications has been issued.

The list of publishers represented in the index to the list is 435. This number is, it must be remembered, exclusive of legal and medical publishers, of the numerous publishers of subscription works, and of the host of societies that publish their own transactions. With these exceptions, it represents the firms that were actively engaged during the past year in the manufacture and publication of books to be distributed by the general trade to the general public.

The number of titles in the list is 3,708. Of these Fiction is represented by 482, Religion by 471, Education 398, Travels and Description 179, History 123, Biography 115, Poetry and Drama 127, Art 117, and