

is to have a dainty setting. It will be printed on a fine deckle-edge paper, with title page in red and black, and will be neatly dressed in white and roan covers. It should make a very acceptable gift book for the holiday time. The poet is somewhat of a wag. He utters a humorous protest against having his book entered in the Department of Agriculture. "It probably accounts," he writes a friend, "for my last volume being styled 'My Lettuce,' by a shop girl—and that to me!" If it gets into the same hands the new volume runs serious risk of being referred to as "The Unnamed Leek." Such are "the calamities of authors."

A recent book of Canadian verse that has not had a fraction of the notice it deserves, but which is commencing to attract a wider attention, is that of the blind poet, Walter A. Ratcliffe, published under the pathetically significant title "Morning Songs in the Night." Mr. Ratcliffe is a strong social reformer, but not of the pessimistic kind. His songs have a note of cheer, and they have strength and beauty as well. The author is at present taking a course in the Institute for the Blind at Brantford. We commend his volume as one well worth adding to the "corner bookshelf."

Rev. W. W. Walker, who published last year a pleasant little volume of Muskoka reminiscences entitled "By Northern Lakes," has in the press of William Briggs a volume with the cutting title of "Sabre Thrusts at Free Thought."

Rev. Dr. Dewar, who, for many years, as editor of The Christian Guardian, exercised a wide influence and who won and still enjoys a high reputation as a vigorous and incisive writer, and a forceful exponent of theological thought, is having published by William Briggs a series of papers, contributed originally by request of the editor to The New York Christian Advocate, which will in book form be entitled "Outlines of Christian Doctrine."

A seventh edition of Dr. Withrow's popular story "The King's Messenger, or Lawrence Temple's Probation," is in the press of William Briggs.

FIVE MONTHS' IMPORTS OF BOOKS.

How the new tariff on books is working may be seen to some extent in the returns for the five months ending Oct. 31st. The amended tariff went into force about the end of May, 1897, so we have taken the returns beginning June 1st. During the five months for which the official returns are issued the imports are slightly higher than during the same period of 1896. The increase is not large, being about \$2,000. October shows a considerable advance over the same month of 1896, more than \$10,000, indicating that with reviving trade and

improved business we may look during November and December for quite an improvement in the book trade. The amount of duty shows a substantial decrease, as will be seen from the figures given in detail as follows:

IMPORTS OF BOOKS INTO CANADA.			
	1897.	1896.	Duty '97.
June	\$57,618	\$60,964	\$13,347
July	48,018	56,917	10,327
August	66,189	62,608	13,804
September ..	95,308	96,062	17,683
October	101,633	99,430	16,594
	\$319,866	\$317,011	\$71,665
			\$93,483

NOVELTIES IN CARDS.

The usual number of novelties in Christmas cards and booklets have been put on the market this season. The colors are always one of the chief features, and this year they are especially striking. Uncolored cards are also in evidence, and are having a large sale. One very fine card of this class is the "Nathan" photo card, handled by the Robert Miller Co., of Montreal. They are in all styles, one of the most attractive being a stamped white card with a perforated border having a landscape or picture in black and white, much like an engraving. The words, "A Merry Christmas," or some other greeting of the season, are in raised letters. It is a very fine card, and is a relief after the varied colors of the last few seasons.

HISTORIC DAYS OF CANADA.

Gilbert Parker writes to one of the ladies whose taste and enterprise have given us the "Historic Day" calendar: "I am as impressed as delighted with 'Historic Days.' Surely this is patriotic work and artistic achievement. It seems to me that you and your collaborateur are making all Canadians and all British people your debtors by such picturesque and admirable presentation of historic days in the best country in the world—the most clean-living, law-abiding, physically healthy and least nerve-racked community and people of modern times. It is something to be stalwart and righteous of purpose, even if poor and struggling. But we mauna be prood, for the Laird kens us weel, an' we hae our fauts too."

NURSERY BOOKS.

At this time of year children come in for a good deal of thought and attention, especially young children who still are firm in their belief in Santa Claus. And for these little people nursery books have always been in favor, and properly so, combining, as they do, pleasure and instruction. The styles this year differ but little from previous years, the chief point being that the cut-out designs are in much favor, that is, the shape of the picture is in part the shape of the card. The Robert Miller Co., Montreal, have a full

stock of these books and all children's books, and among them are some of the finest seen in years.

THE COPP, CLARK CO., LIMITED.

Not only is the holiday list of these publishers large and attractive, but a notable feature with many of the books is the artistic bindings in designs, lettering and colors. Special mention may be made of "Daniel" in buff linen with black and gold design; of "In Kedar's Tents" with its red-brown buckram; of "This Little World" in art blue with embossed design and red lettering. The bindings are very high class work, and on another occasion we shall refer more fully to them.

John Oliver Hobbes' new book, "A School for Saints," is ready this week in cloth and paper, \$1.25 and 75c.

A Canadian copyright edition of Parker's "When Valmond Came to Pontiac," in paper, 75c., is coming out. It will be embellished with a new portrait of Mr. Parker expressly engraved for this work. The cloth edition, \$1.25, will have a special Canadian design in a combination of maple leaf, and will be bound in green buckram.

Another new volume of Canadian copyrights is Stockton's "Great Stone of Sardis," in paper and cloth. "Spanish John," by Wm. McLennan, of Montreal, is also being got out in similar editions.

An exciting and interesting story is promised in "The Pride of Jennico," by Agnes and Egerton Castle. Those who have seen it say that it surpasses "The Prisoner of Zenda." Egerton Castle is known as the author of "The Light of Scarthy" which had a great run in some parts of Canada.

The Copp, Clark Co. have been given the Canadian market by Longmans & Co. for the Andrew Lang fairy books, one of which is noticed in another column. These are lovely books.

The success of Fred. Wishaw as a writer of Russian stories is well known. The latest is "A Tsar's Gratitude," cloth \$1.25 and paper 75c. in the Colonial Library.

A nice Christmas present is "Corleone," Marion Crawford's new book, in new volumes, in a neat case. "St. Ives" is selling exceedingly well in Canada; the paper edition has a portrait of the author on the title page. Mrs. B. M. Croker's last novel is "Beyond the Pale," and is a good story of Irish life. The firm are the sole agents in Canada for the colonial editions of "The Land of the Leal," by David Lyall, a book that has been very successful here.

An illustrated edition in paper, at 75c., of Barrie's "Sentimental Tommy," is a boon to admirers of this writer. A sixpenny