

Books and Notions,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL,

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE

Book, Stationery and Fancy Goods Trades

OF CANADA.

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J. J. DYAS, Publisher.

ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINES. Of cheap and good Illustrated Magazines, the English stand the highest. The famous *Good Words* and *Sunday Magazine*, both of late as readable as of old, the *Sunday at Home* and *Leisure Hour* published also as a Canadian Edition, *Cassells Magazine*, Canadian edition also, with the last candidate for public favour, *The English Illustrated Magazine*, comprise a set of six penny Magazines that are all that is desirable and marvels of cheapness in this age of cheap publications.

The excellence of the latter day United States Magazines needs no description. The admirable illustrations, letter press and more than all the literary worth contained within the covers of a single *Harper, Century*, or latest comer of the trio *The Manhattan*, provide pleasure and mental food of no mean order. Yet comparing the number of Canadian homes where culture has at least some foothold with the circulation of these monthly visitors the ridiculously small proportion is not flattering.

Why is this? Is it want of taste for this class of literature, or is it that no one takes the trouble to make known the good qualities of the periodicals?

In our experience we had the good fortune for years to deal with a bookseller who, when there was anything particularly striking in a Magazine, or any new candidate for public fame offered, was sure to bring it under the notice of his customers.

Many a new subscriber was thus gained, and in almost all cases became a book purchaser, rarely satisfied with the cheap class, but preferring, already schooled to prize a good thing typographically, a well-bound well-printed volume. For one who learns to like a good periodical soon becomes a book reader.

THE BOOK TRADE.—In the Book Trade of Canada very little has been doing lately, with the exception of School Books and in them a lively business has been done. In Ontario, however, owing to the uncertainty of what the Minister of Education intends doing in way of change, the business has been of a very petty description, the orders being as numerous as usual or even more so, but much smaller than wholesale houses have been accustomed to receive. It is not likely, however, that any more changes will be made until the promised new series of Readers makes its appearance, which cannot be before January, and is not likely to be before Easter.

THE PAPER TRADE.—The price of paper has been slowly but surely declining for some time past, but fluctuations here are not so frequent nor so great as in the States, and the decline has not been quite so noticeable, but the downward tendency is now checked owing to a deficiency of stock, consequent on the stoppage of U. S. Mills for want of water. Writing papers are rather firmer with a tendency to advance, at any rate holders of large quantities are careless about selling at present prices. Printing is, however, dull but as the requirements of the next three months will be large, a slight improvement may be looked for.

FANCY GOODS.—In this branch there is a tendency to buy more freely than of late, a movement which always follows the advent of a good harvest. The style too is less of the cheap showy class and more of a better one. Brass ware seems just now in the ascendant, taking the place of whitewood, but it is yet too early in the season for the introduction of many novelties. Collections are reported good.

BOOKBINDING.—The various Binderries are full of work, and refuse to make contracts for delivery at any short period, they are fully supplied to the end of the year.

Professor (now Sir John Wm.) Dawson of Montreal has been contributing to *Leisure Hour* for the past six months under the title of "Rough Notes of a Naturalist's visit to Egypt," a series of very interesting papers. A well versed master of archeological knowledge he finds further corroboration of the truths of the Bible in the studies he has made in the land of the Pharaohs.