

the *Cornhill, All the Year Round*, &c., &c., and we are glad to know that the reduction in the price of the *London Illustrated News* is likely to increase largely its circulation in Canada. The facts present some indications of a change for the better in the literary taste of Canada. This improvement is in no small degree attributable to the persistent and unwearied exertions of our wholesale importers, and the advantages which they enjoy in close connection with first-class British publishing houses. We hope, and indeed are certain that they will be well compensated for their efforts. In this connection we are glad to notice that we are likely to have established amongst us a branch of an extensive and highly respectable Scotch firm, for the purpose not only of re-issuing in much improved style our leading text and school books, but for the publication of other works of merit that may offer. We have long needed an establishment of this character, and through its operations we may hope to see Canadian literature take a higher place in the world of letters. With long experience, ample means and the best facilities are commanded by the house in question, and we are sure their advent here will be hailed with pleasure.

The business in stationery has been fairly remunerative during the year. The advance in materials for paper, as well as a heavy war-tax on the manufacture itself, has largely enhanced the value of all descriptions in the United States, independently of the apparent increase in price due to the depreciation of the currency. The consequence is that, as compared with the former rates, American stationery is fully 30 per cent. dearer. We have imported much less than the usual amount, substituting English goods, which are of a much better class. It so happens that the prices of the latter are favouring the buyer, as the abolition of the duty on paper has at length begun to cheapen it. It is only recently that there has been any decline in the article, notwithstanding a universal expectation that when the tax was removed the price would fall. Speculation and a largely enhanced demand for cheap periodicals, only a few of which comparatively have lived beyond the year, kept the rates up to nearly the old level, until within the past three months. The tendency is now downward, and we shall hereafter import stationery stock from the mother country more largely than before.

The importations of books for the year amount to \$118,326, against \$155,812 last year.

The only exclusively wholesale establishment is that of Mr. Jas. Campbell, Toronto street, whose stock is always complete in every requisite of the trade.

The following combine the wholesale and retail business:—

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| Cheewett & Co., | John Young, |
| Dredge & Wilson. | E. R. Hall, |
| Rolo & Adam, | A. S. Irving, |
| H. Rowsell & Co., | Buntin Bros., |
| R. & A. Miller, | E. McPhail, |
| Maclear & Co., | Taylor Bros. |

In blank books, bookbinding, general stationery, &c., the Messrs. Brown Bros. continue to maintain their reputation, and have considerably augmented the trade during the year. They import their stock direct from European markets, and have every facility for the successful prosecution of their trade.

FANCY GOODS, JEWELLERY, &c.

In the above departments we have little to note since our last review. The dullness of trade more or less affecting all branches, would naturally be more felt in the fancy than in the staple department. Notwithstanding, our regular houses here have, we believe, done a fair business. Toronto, on the whole, seems to more than maintain her position as a market in the fancy goods departments. Prior to the war, Buffalo and other American cities were our active competitors, but the advance in prices and the lightness of stocks since held, has made this a market more to be depended on. In light goods, Toronto never fails to compete successfully with her sister city, Montreal.

In Jewellery—the demand for gilt and common plated sorts has considerably fallen off, the natural result of the glut of American trash. Our principal houses now chiefly supply coloured gold goods for the city trade, and medium bright gold and gold plated goods for the country trade.

Watches have not been in large demand, owing to the dullness of the season. The medium grades of English goods have been possibly more dealt in than formerly—the common Swiss goods made for the American market having almost had their day; good Swiss watches, however, will always find more or less demand in this country. The “American Watch” is still supplied to the trade by the Canada agent, Mr. Robert Wilkes. We understand it gives very good satisfaction.

Clocks are still mainly supplied of American manufacture; our retail houses, however, dispose of a considerable number of French clocks, of rich gilt designs, than which no more handsome mantle-piece ornament can be had. Notwithstanding the large advance in prices of Connecticut goods, our principal holder here informs us that he still supplies them at former rates.

It is almost needless to enumerate our leading houses here; among them, however, as more specially in the above departments, we might mention Robert Wilkes, of 50 Yonge street, who, having a thorough knowledge of both the home and foreign markets, with every facility for business and recently increased accommodation, can supply goods in the above branches to good advantage. He also does largely in table and pocket cutlery and other Sheffield goods.

Thomson & Burns, of Wellington-street, always offer a first-rate assortment of fancy goods, in connection with a large stock of shell and heavy hardware, crockery, &c. They can

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