

TOYS AT NUREMBERG.

WHATEVER may have been in the past does not apply to the present. We have bought toys in AmsterJam, but have been quite unable to buy a box of soldiers of Dutch manufacture. No; the toys sold in Amsterdam, like the toys sold in London, mostly hail from Bavaria; and from one particular town in that ancient kingdom. Nurnberg, the Bavarians call it, but by us it is known as Nuremberg.

The commerce of this quaint and picturesque place dates back to 1050 at any rate, and has therefore the charm of age in addition to the great charm of novelty which adheres to its present products, which are the delight and wonder of so many nurseries.

Dolls in thousands first see the light in Nuremberg, and the puppet population of the district is greater than that of the citizens. Nuremberg is distinguished from such large towns as Manchester, Chemnitz, and Liege by the fact that its industries are, to a great extent, the industries of the home in contradistinction to the industries of the factory. There is no doubt a central home or office for each firm, but the work is done by the operatives largely at their private dwelling places.

The streets are narrow, but the shops are well dressed. A large toy shop in the main street attracts many admirers at its windows, lined with toys of all sorts and conditions. The actual manufacture is carried on at S. Johannis Stadt, an industrial village, within a mile of the town of Nuremberg. The firm of Heinrichson are specialists in the production of those lead soldiers which form the subject of a well known household tale.

Soldiers as we see them in our toy shops in the Lowther Arcade and in our play-rooms, appear very simple indeed, but they are not so. It may seem that they have but to be made and packed into wooden boxes, which the Nurembergers rightly prefer to those lump cardboard boxes with glass lids, which used to be so much in vogue. The soldiers in their day play many parts. The first necessary is that the manufacturer or one of his chief assistants must make a constant study of history and of costume ere he first puts the uniform on.

Herr Heinrichson, for instance, who devotes himself mainly to the designing of the soldiers, has a good library of ancient and modern illustrated volumes on history, so he is constantly introducing novelties into the market. It is his part to furnish the sketches which act as models, and amongst the styles of soldiers he has introduced are Crusaders, Zulus, Tyrolese, Assyrians, Persians, ancient Greeks, and many of more recent costume. The services of the engraver are next in request, and two moulds are needed, in which are hollowed out the two sides of the soldier. The metal is then poured between the two moulds, which are pressed together, and a soldier is the result. Odd bits of lead at the

angles have afterwards to be removed in a separate department, but otherwise the soldier is as complete as he is colorless.

The painting, which is mostly done by the "gentle" sex, is entirely from models, a series of which forms in miniature an International Military Museum. After this comes the harmless, necessary sorting and packing, which need little description. Soldiers crowded together in the immense fortress of a Nuremberg warehouse do not remain long in barracks, but speedily scatter throughout the civilized world.—Ex.

EZRA A. TAYLOR.

DURING the past week one of Canada's historic booksellers has passed away in the person of E. A. Taylor, who for many years ran a bookstore in London, Ont., and was entangled in the Jas. Campbell & Sons' failure some eight years ago. He was born in Cookshire, Que., and



learnt the book business in that province. He afterwards went to Boston for a short time, soon returning to Canada, and commenced business in London, Ont., with a Mr. Wilson as partner. After he had bought the business for himself he suffered from a heavy fire and was compelled to assign. But this only brought into prominence the superior qualities of the man, for he never ceased to struggle and save until he had paid off every cent of debt unpaid by his estate at his assignment. Few men would have done this, but Mr. Taylor was a man whose morals and character were above reproach. He was lofty in his conception of what was proper and just between man and man.

But having gone on in business in London he became hopelessly entangled in the Campbell failure and retired, taking a position with The Bible Society on Yonge street, Toronto. He was a true bookseller, loving his books for their own sake. He was a veritable encyclopedia of book knowledge, and

the profession in Canada, having few such men to lose, will lose his services with regret. But this feeling of regret is not to be compared in strength with the feelings of admiration for a man whose business honesty reached a higher plane than many of his contemporaries ever dreamt of.

PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS.

THERE was a wonderful meeting on September 11th, 1893, in the Memorial Art Palace at the World's Fair, when the ten strokes of the new Liberty Bell called together the Parliament of Religions. At the appointed hour, the great congress was begun in the presence of 4,000 persons. Up the aisles, two and two, came the royal delegates of the one Great King. Heading the procession were President Bonney and Cardinal Gibbons, following whom Mrs. Potter Palmer and Mrs. Charles Henriotin. Next in order moved a stately column, composed of men of many tongues, of many lands, of many races; disciples of Christ, of Mohammed, of Buddha, of Brahma, of Confucius. The sight was most remarkable. As they marched up the aisles, triumphal cheers greeted them, and they took their seats upon the platform, under the waving flags of many nations. In a golden bond of friendship, the oldest of the religions of the world greeted the youngest. "From far-away India, from the snow-locked crests of the Himalayas, from the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, the representatives of a race and country, old and decrepit with age, clasped hands with a race now in the first flutter of youth and blossoming manhood."

During the continuation of the congress, the religious beliefs of every known sect were elucidated, and they are now to be found in the records of the congress. These have been published in one bulky volume of over 1,000 pages, edited by Walter R. Houghton, assisted by a score of eminent writers and authors. This volume contains: Origin of the Parliament of Religions; biographical sketches of Dr. John Henry Barrows and President C. C. Bonney; proceedings of the meetings of the Parliament; speeches and addresses delivered and essays and papers read at the sessions of the noted gathering, a lucid explanation of the great religions of the earth; the beliefs of the various religious denominations; narrative as to many gatherings held in connection with the Parliament; a general review of the religious congresses, with a condensed report of the various daily proceedings, addresses, papers and speeches during the entire denominational sessions, both day and evening, opinions of eminent divines in regard to the Parliament; influence of the Parliament upon the religious thought of the world; a complete index, rendering all subjects at once available. Cloth, \$2.50; full sheep, \$4; sheep, \$4.—Cooper & Co., 11 Front St. W., Toronto.