

DONATIONS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Mr. James G. Weir has presented to the Hamilton Public Library a copy of the *Journal and Express*, dated Hamilton, Gore District, Canada West, Friday, June 22d, 1849. Mrs. Piney Mackenzie, of London, has presented to the same library a bound volume of the *Canadian Illustrated News* for 1862-1864, which was published in Hamilton. Hon. J. M. Gibson, the Provincial Secretary, has presented a valuable collection of Ontario Government papers and reports; while many other friends have made donations which, with the purchases made, will render the Library of great historic value. The Librarian has recently issued an appeal for donations, which says that, "While asking specially for rare or valuable Canadian books, papers, etc., it may be added that donations of any books of a character suitable for the Library will be gladly received."

The *Globe* says: The widow of the late Hon. George Brown, who is about to take up her residence in Edinburg, Scotland, has donated to the Toronto Public Library forty bound copies of the *Globe*; the *British Chronicle*, complete in two volumes, which was published in New York by Mr. Brown and his father before their removal to this country: the *North American*, which was published by Hon. William Macdougall: the *Montreal Pilot*, many political pamphlets and all the American and Canadian papers collected by Mr. Brown when he was negotiating for the Reciprocity Treaty. Mr. Bain is delighted with the donation, chiefly because he now has a complete file of city papers."

It is in the power of many people to delight librarians by similar donations. Send your scarce and valuable books and papers to a public library, where they will do more good than as part of some private collection. You can depend on it, they will be thankfully received and duly appreciated.

PUBLISHERS OLD AND NEW.

In an article on "Publishers" in the *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer*, Mr. Stonhill tells us:

"It is to be remembered, as we try to recall these periods, that not only were the publishing and bookselling trades united as now, but also that the second-hand trade was included as well; in fact, it was not until about 1825 that even the great house of Messrs.

Longmans & Co. confined their attention to publishing properly so called. The booksellers of old days usually lived over their houses, and in all probability sub-let the parts not in use, their want of means as shown by constant changes, and the fact of their very limited reading public rendering them then peculiarly liable to the fluctuations which, if what we hear of the state of the American market be correct, seem not unknown to publishers even now. It will remain to be seen how far the absorption of our publishing houses into public companies will still further reduce the numbers of those who in Paternoster Row and its historic neighborhood still continue the traditions clustering round 'Stationers' Hall.' But it is also to be remembered that another cause operating in the same direction is the ever-increasing value of land in the city proper, and it is more than probable that 'westward the course of publishers, like the course of empire, will take its way.'"

Two points seem to be particularly worthy of note in the above article:

1st. If the absorption of the publishing houses into public companies continues, the Government might as well take over the whole business, as foreshadowed by Mr. Bellamy in "Looking Backward."

2d. It is not the "limited reading public" that is bringing fluctuations and tribulation to U.-Sian publishers so much as the fact that the publishers in their insane struggle for existence are manufacturing far more books than can be put on the market at a profit. This point has been very ably handled by the *Publishers' Weekly*, and should receive thoughtful consideration from those interested. International copyright would also be a very considerable factor in keeping the production of books at a proper level, and we should think that Uncle Sam's publishers would know no rest until this much-to-be-desired object was achieved

The Department of the Interior has supplied the Dominion Immigration Intelligence office at Winnipeg with 40 volumes of field notes of the country in Manitoba, the North West, and British Columbia. These are of great value to land dealers.