

Home Knowledge Monthly Review

A SUMMARY OF CANADIAN AND FOREIGN LITERATURE.

VOL. I

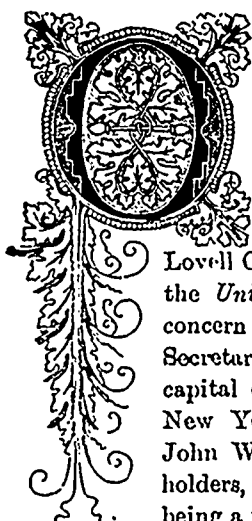
TORONTO, AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1890

No. 9

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THE HOME KNOWLEDGE REVIEW will be published every month and sent post paid for one year on receipt of \$1.00, and to members of the Home Knowledge Association who have paid their subscription.
BELDEN BROTHERS, Publishers, Toronto



THE GIGANTIC BOOK TRUST KNOWN AS THE UNITED STATES BOOK COMPANY.

ON the 8th June last was consummated a movement that has been on foot for months, viz.: the capitalization of the Lovell Company, and its transformation into the *United States Book Company*. The new concern has filed articles of incorporation with Secretary of State of New Jersey, and have a capital of \$3,250,000, with headquarters in New York City. Mr. Erastus Wiman and John W. Lovell, two of the principal stockholders, are Canadians by birth, the former being a native of Peel Co., Ont., and the latter from Montreal. Associated with them are Horace K. Thurber, Samuel Thomas, Chester W. Chapin, Edward Lange, of New York City; M. A. Donahue, of Chicago; James D. Safford, of Springfield, Mass.; and James A. Taylor, Plainfield, N. J.

This Company have secured the plates and book stocks from most of the leading publishers in the U.S., including Hurst & Co., Worthington Company, W. L. Allison, the Aldine Book Company, Pollard & Moss, Frank F. Lovell & Co., National Publishing Company, G. W. Dillingham, Frank A. Munsey & Co., George Munro, Norman L. Munro, Dodd, Mead & Co., all of New York; Estes & Lauriat, De Wolfe, Fiske & Co., and the Aldine Book Publishing Company, of Boston; J. B. Lyon, of Albany; Donohue & Henneberry & Co., and Belford, Clarke & Co., of Chicago; J. B. Lippincott & Co., and Hubbard Bros., of Philadelphia; and will hereafter virtually control the trade and prices of standard works in the United States and Canada. Several of the above houses have sold this Company all the plates of their leading standard lines, and go out of the business. The whole of this business, including that of the Lovell's, has become the property of the

United States Book Company. Their publication business will be conducted in three large buildings on Worth St., New York. There is no question but that the publishing business has been run at a loss by many firms for years, and a very inferior class of book placed on the market. The effect of this combination has been to increase the prices of all the standard publications, and as this Company has no competition they are now selling books at higher prices, which yields them a living profit. In a circular issued by the United States Book Company they state that while their new editions will be much more expensive than at present, the quality will be so much superior as to warrant the increase of price and that book buyers will be pleased with the change.

We notified our members some months ago through the *HOME KNOWLEDGE REVIEW*, that this combination was being formed and that the prices of all kinds of standard publications would be increased. We purchased some thousands of dollars worth of books in June last, in anticipation of this increase, and were obliged to pay about 25 per cent. more for these books than we could have bought them for a few months previously.

In consequence of this advance in price we are compelled to fall back to our original prices, and would advise our customers to take advantage of these prices and stock their libraries with the cheap editions of the standard works while they can be obtained, as after the present editions are exhausted no more of the cheaper editions will be printed, but higher priced ones substituted. We shall of course continue to sell books at proportionately low prices, but it will not be within our power to supply the cheap editions as they will not be published. On another page of this *REVIEW* will be found lists of the standard publications, including 12 mos with our present prices, and while there is a slight advance we are still selling books much lower than they can be bought elsewhere.

We have gone into this matter rather fully in justice to ourselves as well as our members, and we trust the position will be appreciated by all.