

The *Toronto Globe* is always doing some new thing to keep its name in a favorable light before the public. The management has now in preparation a magnificent Christmas number, which, in literary, artistic and mechanical excellence, will eclipse anything of the kind heretofore published in Canada. This will be a strictly Canadian production, and all the matter, both letterpress and illustration, will be *racé* of the soil. The ablest pens and the ablest brushes in the Dominion have been set to work for the benefit of the *Globe* readers. Full particulars will be given in next issue.

"Songs of the Great Dominion," selected and edited by W. Douw Lighthall, M. A., of Montreal, is a volume of Canadian verse, from the press of Walter Scott, the London publisher. Much time, care and attention has evidently been devoted to the work by the editor, and the volume will be treasured in many a home, both here and abroad, as the most representative collection of Canadian poetry yet issued. Typographically, the book is a gem, while an emblematic stamp on the cover makes it a handsome ornament for the table. Published at three shillings and sixpence, it will no doubt have a very large sale.

John S. C. Abbott, in his "History of the French Revolution," says :

"Mirabeau had commenced a journal, to contain, for popular information, a record of the proceedings of the States-General. The court promptly issued a decree prohibiting the publication of this journal, and also prohibiting the issuing of any periodical without the permission of the King."

Fancy trying to head off the Revolution by such means! And this suggests the query, Do we fully appreciate the advantages we derive from a free press, in which the most radical measures can be discussed without fear of the editor being thrown into prison?

Shorthand is coming more and more into use, and many variations of the original Pitman system are in the market, each claiming to be the simplest. A Canadian, in the person of Mr. Geo. W. Johnson, Headmaster of

the Central School, of this city, is the latest claimant to the honor of publishing a complete exposition of the art. Alas! how many there are who can write shorthand, but who get hopelessly floundered when they come to read their notes! Now one claim for "Johnson's Canadian School Shorthand" is that it can be *read* as well as written; and to induce learners to investigate, the author has put the price of the book at twenty-five cents. Fathers, here's a chance to keep your boys out of mischief during the winter evenings!

The craze for using fictitious names still continues, although it is to be devoutly hoped a halt will soon be called, as the list is rolling up altogether too rapidly. Why are fictitious names used? Actors and actresses assume stage names because "society" decrees it is hardly the thing to be an actor or actress—unless one is very, *very* clever! But it is an honor rather than otherwise to have written a good poem or a readable book. Why, then, disguise one's personality under a *nom de plume*? In any case, under our present ubiquitous "interviewing reporter" regime, it is quite impossible to long conceal one's real name, so let us have the real name from the start, and do away as much as possible with the vexatious *nom de plume*.

*The Bookmark* asks why works copyrighted in Canada have to be registered at the Department of Agriculture. A good many others would like to know that, too. In fact, some time ago *Grip* indulged in quite a few jokes about the matter, wanting to know what connection there could possibly be between agriculture and literature, etc. It would certainly be more in accordance with the eternal fitness of things for the copyright branch to be placed under the librarians of Parliament; and the cumbersome and lengthy copyright notice, at present required to be printed on all books, etc., might with advantage give place to the short, pithy "Copyright, 1889, by A. B." Perhaps the Premier, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Agriculture, will consider these suggestions?