

ANNOUNCING NEW TEXT BOOKS.

THE Council of Public Instruction in the Province of Quebec can, without any annoyance to themselves, confer a decided benefit on the booksellers as a trade. The trouble at present is the delay in announcing what new text books, if any, they have decided to authorize each season for the opening of the schools in September. The present method is for the Text Book Committee, whose decision for all practical purposes is final, to recommend a book to the Council. This is usually done about this time. Before Council formally acts the end of June is at hand. The trade submit that in the case of a text book published in Canada this does not bother them, as they have plenty of time to procure supplies. It is different, however, if the new text book is one published outside the country. In such an event they contend that the time is too short, and they respectfully submit that the Council of Public Instruction announce the new books authorized with more expedition. There seems to be nothing in the way of this being done, and as it will be a convenience to the trade, no doubt the Council if properly approached will take steps to oblige the trade in the matter.

EARLY CLOSING IN MONTREAL.

The early closing by-law recently enacted by the Montreal City Council is now in force. It applies to book as well as other stores, but an exception is made in the case of stores which sell newspapers. These can be sold after eight o'clock, so that all that a store has to do to evade the law is to procure a supply of newspapers and then they can keep open with impunity. Of course, they can be proceeded against in the Municipal Courts if they sell books, but the difficulty under the circumstances will be to catch them selling books. In this connection it looks as though the by-law is not workable in so far as it applies to bookstores.

THE LOCAL DEALER'S RIGHTS.

IT is charged that wholesale houses will sell to the consumer. An explanation of this is given. The statement is that most of these orders come from the country, and are alleged to be due to the fact that the local dealer has not the books wanted, and is not particularly energetic about ordering when wanted. As to the truth of this we cannot say. One thing is clear: the local dealer

should take pains that nothing goes past him. The book-buyers in his town should be his willing customers. Readers, as a rule, are not anxious to order direct. They are much more inclined to avoid the trouble and uncertainty of ordering for themselves. The local bookseller can count on them as clients if he takes the right course. If it does not pay you to carry all the new books in a small town, at least show a disposition to order what are wanted promptly, and as if it were a pleasure to do so. Be up-to-date, and don't let a particle of legitimate business go away to larger centres.

NEW BIBLE DICTIONARY.

The Fleming H. Revell Co. are going to issue on this continent the "New Dictionary of the Bible," which is being prepared in Britain by T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh. The editor is Rev. James Hastings, M.A., and the staff of contributors includes the leading theological writers of the day. The geography of the East will be dealt with by such eminent authorities as Sayce, Max Muller, Flinders Petrie, etc. The work will be in 4 volumes, imperial 8vo., of about 900 pp. each. It will probably be autumn before the first volume, which is already partly in type, is shown to the Canadian trade. It will be one of the most important publications of the present time.

FORTHCOMING NEW BOOKS.

Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh, have removed their London house to larger and more convenient premises at 21 Paternoster square. The firm's latest announcement of forthcoming books includes some highly interesting works, such as: three of the Famous Scots series, John Knox, by A. Taylor Innes (this month); Robert Burns, by Gabriel Setoun (June); The Balladists, by John Geddie (July); Money and Social Customs, by J. Wilson Harper (10s. 6d.); The Gospel of Common Sense, by Rev. Dr. Deems, of New York; A Most Provoking Girl (reviewed elsewhere); Lamps and Pitchers, by Rev. George Milligan (new volume in the "Golden Nail" series); The Scottish Churches: On What Basis Can They be Re-united? and many other volumes of great interest and value.

DEATH OF HENRY SMITH.

Henry Smith, late senior partner of the firm of Smith & Fudger, who has been conducting a fancy goods business on Bix street, passed away at his residence, Spadina avenue, Toronto, April 21. Mr. Smith had the reputation of being one of the most successful business men in Toronto, and was about to retire next month, intending to take a trip to the Continent. His business was classed A1 in the commercial world, and he was reported to be worth \$100,000.

EXPRESSED THEIR ESTEEM.

THE staff-sergeants and sergeants of the Royal Grenadiers have tendered to Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Irving the following handsomely engrossed address of sympathy expressing their esteem for the late Capt. Andrew Maxwell Irving, alike as a soldier and a civilian:

"To Mr. and Mrs. Irving,—

"We the undersigned, on behalf of the staff-sergeants and sergeants of the Royal Grenadiers, without wishing to cause you additional pain, do herein desire to express our heartfelt sympathy with you in our mutual loss caused by the sudden death of your beloved son and our ever-to-be-regretted captain and adjutant.

"From the rank which he held in the regiment as our superior officer we were in a position well qualified to appreciate his many and rare executive abilities. From a social standpoint it was our privilege to enjoy many happy and profitable hours, acquired through his display of his wondrous dramatic and literary talents. But, while passing these exceptional powers, which commanded alike the admiration of the soldier and the civilian, it is from a military standpoint that our Dominion, our city, and our regiment in particular, deplores the loss of her officer, her citizen and our beloved friend, Andrew Maxwell Irving, captain and adjutant.

"We do most sincerely pray that comfort and consolation may be granted you during the period of your affliction, and when this fleeting life is past, may we all meet on that Heavenly shore, when Soldiers in Christ shall part no more."

J. T. COX, Sergt.-Major.

G. SCULLY, Color-Sergt.

JOHN PHILLIPS, Sergt.

Toronto, January 13th, 1896.

ILLUSTRATIONS A SPECIALTY.

"Adam Johnstone's Son," the new novel by Mr. F. Marion Crawford, is being handled by the Copp, Clark Co., Ltd., who are the sole agents for Canada. It is illustrated by an artist who went specially to Amalfi in order to be able to catch the local color of the scene in which the story is laid.

The Toronto News Co. report The National Review as doing well in the Canadian market. Its well-written current notes on public affairs are a feature, being up-to-date, and indicating the British view of foreign affairs.

The Werner Co., of Chicago, will soon publish "The Story of Cuba," by Murat Halstead. Mr. Halstead visited Cuba last March, and in circumstances which gave him exceptional opportunities to acquire the information most needed in such a book.