

The Canadian Bookseller

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THE
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AND LIBRARY JOURNAL.

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The Canadian Bookseller,
25 Wellington Street West, Toronto, Ont.

All books for review, and letters for the Editor,
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Editor, Canadian Bookseller,
P.O. Box 203, Hamilton, Ont.

Editorial.

The Book Room Committee of the Methodist Church in Canada may congratulate itself on securing men of brains and ability to run the Book Room and Publishing business, and to edit the papers published under its auspices. The business is so prosperous that the Committee this year will give the sum of \$10,000 to the Methodist Ministers' Superannuation Fund—the largest amount that has ever been given.

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The Kingston Board of Education has adopted a scheme, to take effect after the midsummer vacation, for the supplying of text-books, writing material, ink, and manifold equipment, for pupils. The pupils will pay a fee of from 15 cents in first form to 50 cents in fourth form per term. They will get one text-book per year, besides all the scribblers, note, copy, and drawing-books required. The cost will be \$1,500. It is reported that the board expects to save the citizens half that amount, now paid to dealers. We doubt if this expectation of the board will be realized in practice. We advise the Kingston dealers to keep a sharp eye on the board, and bring them sharply to time if their promises are not fulfilled.

The rise in the price of wheat and other commodities ought certainly to benefit the book business, because when the trade in the necessities of life is active the tendency is for the trades that have to do with things that are to some extent luxuries to receive a corresponding fillip. Another source of business should be found in the influx of American visitors, which is sure to take place during the present summer, to Canada. It is gratifying to find that our publishers are displaying a laudable amount of enterprise, and getting out some exceedingly good lines to meet the requirements of the season's trade.

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Some fashions change very slowly. Many of us recognize the stupidity of the present system of spelling many words; and yet Uncle Sam can thrash the Spanish Don easier than we can change our present system of spelling. The Funk & Wagnalls Company, of New York, are among those who believe in the spelling reform by the adoption of the form "tho" for "though," and the changing of the final "ed" to "t" when pronounced as "t." But even the Funk & Wagnalls Company finds it hard to adhere to the new form. In reading "The Christian Gentleman," recently published by this house, the word "though" is printed in the new form "tho," but "flashed" and "astonished" are printed in the usual way, instead of in the new form as "flasht" and "astonisht." As the new form was used in the one word so it should have been used also in the other words. Let us blame the want of uniformity on the much-abused proof-reader!

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The efflorescence of head-lines which has characterized the Toronto newspapers during the past few weeks has been in some respects amusing, and in others pathetic. There are too many newspapers in Toronto, and the ground has to be fought for inch by inch.

It may be said that war is a chronic state of things with them. When real war breaks out, therefore, they are in a measure prepared for it. But the way in which all of them without exception have slopped over in capitals and scare-heads is an example of how not to do it. The consequence has been to utterly tire and disgust the public, and to kill the goose that promised to lay

the golden eggs. The barometers of the Toronto newspapers are subject to flushes of excitement which argues ill for the coolness and stability of their management. They are like yachts carrying more sail than they can readily stand, and a breeze disconcerts and flusters them.

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One of the things that the bookseller, in common with nearly every other tradesman, has to remember is that it is only by repeated endeavor that the public attention can be drawn to his wares. Let a man's window always present the same stereotyped appearance, and the public will get so used to it that at last it will make no impression on the public's visual nerve. The public soon gets used to things, and those which it sees every day are soon not observed at all. Let a man's methods grow into the fossil stage, and no competition need fear him. But even in this particular, one has to steer between the Scylla of utter conservatism and the Charybdis of instability through a too frequent and fickle changeableness. One man will have his stock about the same from year's end to year's end, with the consequence that an all-pervading dust will settle upon it and upon him. Another man will always be turning his things upside down, so that his customers are never sure of anything, and go away from him in disgust. The third man strikes the happy medium, and his trade grows steadily as the months go by.

BOOKSELLERS, ATTENTION!

Booksellers and Newsdealers throughout the Dominion should bestir themselves with reference to one clause of Lord Herschell's new Copyright Bill now before the House of Lords. The clause in question relates to the importation of foreign reprints of British copyright works. All such importations are to be absolutely forbidden except in the case of a colony agreeing to collect a royalty duty on imported copies, and to stamp "Foreign Reprint" on every imported copy. The law is to apply to all foreign reprints of British copyright works *whether published before or after the commencement of this Act.* The trade will see how far-reaching