

mand at these Free Libraries? Novels, adventures, and tales! Who are the readers? Mostly young people; and whether the class of books chiefly in use are calculated to advance the good of the readers or of the country is at any rate a doubtful question.

TRADE.—Speaking in general terms trade is dull, very dull, but is it more so than usual at this time of year? We doubt it, and with some few exceptions would say it is not. Travellers for stationery houses, both of Canada and the United States, are drumming in large numbers through the country, and as their numbers increase much more than their due proportion to the population, so the orders to each are necessarily less, and hence arises the cry of nothing to be done. There is, however, a healthy sign in the fact that lighter stocks are desirable by dealers, it being well understood by them that carrying heavy lots is but of little advantage and too often leads to complication when their notes become due.

The replenishing is so easily effected that there is no good reason for keeping, in either stationery or heavy goods, more than a little of everything. Although for the latter there will be none wanted till later on, and while this is the case dealers hesitate about giving advance orders.

In books, heavy reading is not indulged in during the holiday season, and of the lighter kind "Harper's"—"Sea-Side," and the several other similar kinds in pamphlet form are almost the only ones saleable.

In Educational works there is nothing doing, and the smallest storekeeper in the smallest village will not buy a copy beyond what may be ordered from him. And this cutting down of the stock of the school books tells on other articles also.

With a change of Ministers there is a change of system, and of the books to be used in schools; but it necessarily requires time to mature plans in which all parties look for improvements.

THINGS AS THEY ARE.—While the business of the moment is lagging a little from its usual course, we have to consider what are its prospects for the near future. It is well understood that the Book, Stationery and Fancy trade—and these are not the only ones—have been lessening their stocks for some time past, they have also been lessening their liabilities to wholesale houses, and that they are in a healthy condition is shewn by the very few failures that have taken place this year, and the smallness in amount of those few. That large sums have been withdrawn from the usual trade channels of Ontario to be expended in the north-west is well known, and many a struggling storekeeper, in hopes to find a short cut to wealth, has bought land upon which the instalments and taxes have yet to be paid, is also notorious; and

where this is the case, a deal of pinchings and extensions may be necessary to prevent a fall. If, however, a good harvest, so anxiously looked for, is realized, all will go well, but should there be a failure in this respect, there will be unavoidable failures in others. Still, all things considered, we believe there is a sounder basis for credit than for some years past. It is unquestionable that Canada (Ontario at least), has a large amount of unemployed capital, and now that "margins" on the Stock Exchange have received a temporary kick out, other means must be found in which to invest the quiescent cash. What more likely than that this will be lent either on farm mortgage locally or in the purchase of distant acres, now that the boom of excitement has been broken.

The subscription price of "Books and Notions," is placed at the low figure of 50 cents per annum. This is done with the hope that every one in the trade will subscribe, and thus make it certain that an interesting and successful journal will be maintained. The amount being so small will not allow of any charges for collections. We hope, therefore, that remittances will be made early.

Correspondence on all matters connected with the trade will be welcome.

"Books and Notions" is not simply to be an advertising medium, the large proportion of reading matter in the present number is proof of that, but we aim to make it the means of interchange of thoughts and opinions between those interested.

Whatever business a man engages in is worth doing well, and to learn from one another, as well as by practical experience, is the only way to improve and elevate the trade.

So let us have communications from all quarters.

No point in our Dominion is of such little importance but that an item from there may be made use of.

What an unpretending flower is the dear Old Country Daisy? Modesty itself, yet charming in every lineament. Such might be said of *The Manhattan's* unpretending perfectness, that it is yet few even of our booksellers know its true worth. The cheapest of first-class United States Illustrated Magazines, it is well deserving the appreciation of Canadian Readers.

STATIONERS' HARDWARE.—Under this title what a multitude of beautiful articles are placed before us. Walnut, ebony, oak, and a variety of other choice woods are called in to give effect to the design, plain or elaborate, as may be required. Nor is wood the only material we have to deal with, but the most ancient of all metals used by man is now well to the