

## OUR MONTREAL LETTER.

**T**RADe in books and notions has been of fair proportions in all lines, and the outlook for the fall is promising. Wholesale fancy goods houses are doing a fair business, while some have sent their buyers forward already to look over new supplies and arrange for stock for the coming holiday trade.

In the fine lines of stationery, business is up to the average on the whole in the district adjacent to Montreal, while dealers who have just returned from a trip to the Maritime Provinces state that they met with a fairly gratifying reception down there. Some interest was displayed regarding the outcome of the meeting of paper manufacturers, consequent upon the prohibition of rags by the Government. It did not result in any radical change, however, the only development being an agreement between the various parties that they would not make any reductions on regular stock lines of goods. Even if any changes had been made, their effect on the prices of finer lines of stationery would have been inappreciable.

Wall paper men report a fair business on account of fall orders, while the city retail trade, if it is any criterion, are doing a good business.

Paper bag men say they have nothing to complain of, but the demand for this line of goods is usually of a sustained and steady character.

In toys and notions business is fair, but jobbers are rather quieter than usual, as they are engaged in looking after new supplies. Some of the trade have paid visits to New York and report some new and novel descriptions of toys to delight the juveniles this coming Christmas and New Year. Quite a fair trade with these houses during the past summer season has been the demand for hammocks.

The book business is not especially brisk, but there is a sufficiency of all kinds of works to please everyone. An attractive line of paper-backed novels that is finding great favor is the *Caxton Novels*, from Routledge & Co., London. The cover is a handsome one and the typographical work all that can be desired. The series runs all through the list of standard authors, from Lord Lytton to Charles Dickens. In fact the list of new books is too extensive and bewildering to permit of detailed mention. There was a good brisk demand for school books at the opening of the month; in fact school supplies have been the only markedly active line, which, of course, is not an unusual thing at this season.

## NOTES

Mr. Ellis, of Barber, Ellis & Co., was in town recently attending the meeting of the paper manufacturers.

John Lovell & Sons are putting a lot of new works on the market shortly, as will be seen by our advertising columns.

Mr. F. Nelson, of the firm of H. A. Nelson & Sons, returned from New York on the 3rd. He has been down looking after the firm's supply of holiday novelties.

Mr. Killen, assistant manager of the Canada Paper Co., has been up in Toronto for a couple of weeks looking after business at the firm's headquarters in that city.

Among the Maritime Province merchants in town during the month look-

ing after goods were Messrs. B. C. Munro, of Amherst, N.S., and J. Mc Murray, of Fredericton.

Mr. C. J. Davidson, Montreal manager for Barber, Ellis & Co., was down by the sea to see how business was. He brought back a good sheaf of orders with him.

Charles McArthur & Co. report business fair. They have some new and handsome designs of wall papers to tempt the fancy of house furnishers, and what is better, they are selling well.

The movement in plush goods and notions of this kind is fair, according to reports from the travellers of the Reinhardt Mfg Co. The company have some choice specialties to tempt the taste of present-giving people next Christmas.

## STATIONERY NOTES.

Messrs. Brown Bros. have a new twenty-five cent papeterie which they call No. 1,000, which is proving a good seller. It affords good value to the buyer.

The papeterie is now no longer a necessary adjunct to a first-class stationery store. It seems to have had its fling, and its days are apparently numbered. In its place may be seen many so-called "fancy note papers" of all hues and tints, and in every conceivable combination of color. On the other hand, however, many of the designs are chaste and elegant. Much time and thought ought to be given to the selection of these papers, as one that does not reconcile itself to the best taste is a drug on the market and bad stock. A glance at the line carried by the Copp, Clark Co., Ltd., will convince the greatest skeptic that their stock of these goods has been chosen with the greatest care and foresight, and that only the most saleable lines are kept. Among the latest papers from Great Britain may be seen Terra cotta in princeps and court sizes, the former making a grand invitation note, Recherche, an artistic combination of hazel and hellotrope, in exquisite taste, Hellotrope, a beautifully tinted paper of that shade. While from this side of "the pond" there is Coquille, an imitation eggshell finish, Linen Cloth, as its name implies, a representation of that article; Cream Repp, Cream India, Proof Chamols, Cobweb and many others. Those desiring to carry these goods could not do better than forward a sample order.

## HOW TO CLEAN STORE WINDOWS

Strange as it may seem, there is a right and wrong way to wash windows; and as this operation is usually dreaded, the following method will doubtless be appreciated, as it saves both time and labor: Choose a dull day, or at least a time when the sun is not shining on the window; for when the sun shines on the window it causes it to be dry streaked, no matter how much it is rubbed. Take a painter's brush and dust them inside and out, washing all the woodwork inside before touching the glass. The latter must be washed simply in warm water diluted with ammonia. Do not use soap. Use a small cloth with a pointed stick to get the dust out of the corners; wipe dry with a soft piece of cotton cloth. Do not use linen, as it makes the glass hazy when dry. Polish with tissue or old newspapers.

## MAGAZINES.

Two Tales, that clever weekly, has been reduced to six cents at whole sale and remains returnable. Its publishers deserve all the favors an appreciative trade can show their paper.

The September number of Table Talk contains some very appetizing reading; and this as it should be. The season of dog days and hot waves is about over, and we shall soon be putting on our flannels and full appetites, and there is no doubt the latter will find many consoling suggestions in the column of Table Talk. Its recipes are so plain and practical that the merest novice in culinary matters can scarcely go astray. But it isn't to the kitchen alone that Table Talk confines its teachings. The housewife will find there suggestions, by competent writers, for running smoothly and economically every department of her household. The low price of the magazine, too, brings it within the reach of all. Verily it would be hard to say how much dyspepsia, discomfort and vexation may be saved by a dollar's subscription to Table Talk. Published by the Table Talk Publishing Co., 1113 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

An article of immediate and almost sensational interest, in the October Century, is Professor Jenks's paper on "Money in Practical Politics," describing the methods, shamefully common, in what are called "practical politics" in this country. He goes into most curious details, and discusses the causes of corruption and proposed remedies. The article is editorially endorsed, with further suggestions as to means of prevention. This number of the Century rounds out its twenty-second year. With the next number begin several new and interesting magazine "features."

Embroiderers and china painters, whether they pursue their favorite art for pleasure or profit, cannot afford to be without The Art Interchange. Novelties in undecorated china are exhaustively treated; most useful information at this season of the year, when holiday gifts and sales are being prepared, and new ideas in embroidery materials are also given. Numberless beautiful designs for all manner of art work complete a most entertaining and useful number of this old art paper.

To the Review of Reviews for October Mr. Stead, the English editor, contributes one of his raciest character sketches, this time dealing with Mr. Gladstone's new Cabinet in a bunch, so to speak, rather than with some single personage. The article throws many a bright side light on contemporary English politics, and hits off in Mr. Stead's fearless and always felicitous manner the twenty or more men who now lead the Liberal English hosts. Mr. Shaw, the American editor of the Review of Reviews, writes of two great Americans, Whitlittier and George William Curtis, the article containing not only recent portraits of these two eminent men, but also very interesting pictures of them as they appeared forty years ago. The early portrait of Curtis is from a painting by Lawrence, and the frontispiece of this number of the Review of Reviews represents Mr. Curtis as in the "Easy Chair," his contributions from which have delighted American readers for several decades.