

or supported by a treaty making the importation of such copies unlawful. Take any United States reprint of an English book. Every jobber in the city is free to import as many copies as he pleases on payment of the customs duty which is levied as the author's royalty. Substitute for this means of getting such a book the publication of it by one Canadian house, and the probability that prices would be kept up is strong. The distribution of copies of that book from one centre instead of from many, would bring the trade in it from under the sway of the department stores and would make publishers independent. Of course the publisher could produce cheap editions for those who wanted low priced books, but these would be as available to the retail bookseller as to the department storekeeper.

An uplifting of prices by any means whatever, whether by combination among present publishers, agreement among jobbers, or copyright legislation, would do incalculable good to the retail trade proper. There might perhaps be a perceptible decrease in book buying, but there would be more than a perceptible decrease in book-dealing on the part of the traders whose proper business lies in other lines. The bazaar, tea and other large stores that keep a stock of books, do so not to make money out of that stock, but to stimulate trade in the other goods. They therefore buy their books at easy prices and sell them without profit, merely for the sake of trade in their staples. But if a time should come when books could not be had below a regular price, there would not be the same utility in them as leaders, and the keeping of them as a side stock might be expected to become less common than it is to-day.

#### EDITIONS OF PRESCRIBED TEXTS.

The editions of selections from English, French, German and classical literature, which are prescribed for matriculation and teachers examinations from time to time, are not always sold within the period that the work is studied. Many dealers have annotated editions of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, of Burke's *French Revolution*, of Cowper's *Task*, of Lamartine's *Christophe Colomb*, of Cicero's *Orations Against Catiline*, etc., that are now mere lumber, having outlived the demand that official sanction created for them. Those who hold such relics of a by-gone curriculum or departmental order may look for these books to come in again as abandoned styles do, but there is little hope that they will so come in. The editor of a modern or classical work is usually ready when such work is again prescribed, to modify, supplement or entirely overhaul his edition. His former study of the work puts him in a position to start ahead of new editors, and the development in the meantime of literary criticism and the teaching art, as well as of the editor's own views, will necessitate changes in the first edition which no one

else will recognise so clearly as the editor himself. Consequently the old edition will not be wanted when the work comes on again, for the editor will in most cases supersede that edition. If he does not, some other competent man will. Even if the first edition would sell five years after the time it was formerly in demand, it would not pay the retailer to carry it so long, as interest on its cost would eat far below the point where profit begins.

Dealers must be careful not to buy editions of prescribed texts beyond the needs of the students within the time such texts are prescribed. They should know long beforehand what works are to be read within the academic year, should consult the headmaster to know how many students will be in the classes to study the work, and should learn what is likely to be the edition in favor with the classical, modern language or English master. They can do this if they are on the lookout, as the work is usually announced a year at least before it comes up for study, to give time to editors and publishers to prepare editions. The dealer should know that a work ceases to be in demand, not when it ceases to be authorized for study, but months, generally half a year, before that time. There should be few or no volumes in stock when the second term has been opened. The work that comes on a year and a half afterwards should then be thought of, as it may be needed to start junior classes.

The dealer ought to cultivate the headmaster's acquaintance, and get as much advance local knowledge as possible, using the curriculum and departmental orders to keep himself informed on what works will be read, and learning as early as possible from the teacher what editions will be preferred. If dealers did more of this they would not have so many remnants of past years, and their advance knowledge would assist the publishers. These could then regulate their output by previous reports from travellers, in the same way as importers now regulate their supply, by first in getting orders for the wants of the trade.

#### SCOTT REDIVIVUS.

A Scott 'revival' seems to have set in. There are various factors which may be involved in the cause. Nausea of the realistic fiction that has lately been so much run after by readers and affected by writers may have caused a reaction, or the place of Scott at present on University curricula may have something to do with restoring that author to his old place in popular favor; or, more probably, the appearance of Scott's *Diary* may have awakened an interest in his writings. Whatever the cause, there is no doubt quite a drift in this city, at all events, of literary interest in the works of the greatest of romantic novelists. In the past few weeks several costly editions, running from \$60 to \$120 have been sold. The call for ordinary editions has also been good.

#### CHURCH AND CHARITY BAZAARS.

The discussion of church shop keeping in other words, bazaars—is spreading. The *Montreal Witness* now takes up the question on a hot letter from a trader and advertiser who seems to have suffered severely in his business. The merchant says, referring to the large sums withheld from regular trading by the sales at church and charity bazaars:—"All through the dark, damp spring, the hot, dry summer (and railway excursions taking every one that can go to United States summer resorts and bringing scarcely anyone in) and cold, bleak fall, the dealers have been patiently waiting for the holiday trade to help them take up a note, reduce a heavy stock, or cover the losses of dull times, but just as their hopes are getting ripe the bazaar vulture sweeps down on them and all their hopes are swallowed up." On the methods of carrying on the business traffic undertaken by churches, he adds: "There are no taxes, no wages, no rent, often no cost, but all profit. To whom does this amount rightfully belong? From whom is it stolen? How much will Christ accept, bless and use for his own glory? A few dealers may close their doors or be sold out; no one cares." The writer it appears resented the course of the *Witness* in countenancing church trading and withdrew his advertisement, whereupon the *Witness* goes for him, feeling nevertheless constrained to admit that the bazaar system is "a very uneconomical way of raising money, and that direct gifts where possible are far better," and the writer's "criticisms upon the ordinary public bazaar are as a rule thoroughly deserved." The subject no doubt is well worth discussing, and the churches themselves will be all the better for a frank disclosure of opinion therein. Some churches have decided against business enterprises of all kinds. We fancy they have not suffered if the girls instead of consecrating their energies to successful competition with dealers who depend on their business for their living have devoted themselves instead to the alleviation of the miseries of the poor, the suffering and the helpless, their churches cannot have suffered. Our own impression is that the average girl of the period is considerably more of an angel without wings in the latter character than in the former. But we are open to argument. All we want to say in conclusion for the present is, that the evil, if it be an evil, is growing, and that dissatisfaction with its spread is considerable. It might be well under the circumstances for pastors, church-wardens, elders and leading members of congregations to give this matter, as Sir John and his colleagues would say, their most serious consideration. We admit it is a difficult matter to deal with. Every one realizes that enterprises of some kind are useful to maintain the activity and interest of young people in churches and charity, and even worse than the bazaar system is the plan of bringing outside attractions to the city and selling tickets for them in the hope of making a profit. The outside attraction waltzes off with several hundred dollars of city money, and that is the end of it to far as local business is concerned.—*Ottawa Journal*