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J. J. DYAS, Publisher.

THE Semi-Annual Meeting of the Ontario Association will have before it several matters for deliberation that, wisely considered, should be of lasting benefit to the trade. Elsewhere we point out some of them, others will naturally arise as the time approaches. That there is a necessity for these two meetings in the year, and they are productive of good to the whole trade, is undeniable. We trust the attendance at the March meeting will be larger than at any former one. In the multitude of counsel there is wisdom.

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THERE is a probability of a new, wholesale book house in Toronto. If the negotiations now going on prove successful the house will be under the management of a man thoroughly posted in books, and with a good knowledge of and intimate relationship with publishers.

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THE three books published by William Bryce were of no ordinary merit, and were, as our London correspondent said last month, worthy of being recommended by every bookseller. Unfortunately the last one published, Little Lord Fauntleroy, has had to be withdrawn from the market owing to the fact that it was an English copyright—priority in publication to that in any other country being all that is necessary for a United States author to keep the Canadian market as a close preserve.

A GRIEVANCE.

It is but seldom that we have even referred to the fancy goods department of our trade, and have never dwelt upon that branch known as fancy dry goods. The subject is forced upon us now by the complaint of many dealers in Toronto, and elsewhere, in regard to what they consider unfair competition of Church bazaars, or, as some who have got ashamed of the name denominate them, fancy fairs, or sales of fancy work.

We had last December in Toronto a plethora of such affairs, netting, in a couple of cases, several thousand dollars, all of which, or nearly all, should have found its way into the pockets of regular dealers, who pay rent and taxes, and run all the risks of business. Where large returns are naturally looked for in the holiday season the bazaar people get going, and by every device get the public, in a great many cases against that public's will, to spend large sums of money. For what purpose? There is not, as a rule, even the poor excuse of charity to warrant their action. To pay on account of church debt, to help buy an organ, or some such scheme, is what all the work and flurry of months is for, while if the matter had been gone about in a business-like way, by asking people straightforwardly for the money, the amount of energy expended would likely bring even larger results.

It is not the interference with trade that is the most hurtful. Large numbers of women, who for one reason or another are deprived of the strong help of the hardier sex, depend in a great measure on the profits derived from making goods for Christmas sale. Those who do this work are generally of that class denominated "decayed gentlewomen," who cannot turn their hands to hard and laborious work. This is the very class of merchandise that these bazaars sell, and consequently the smaller sales in the stores for which the women work. The ladies who conduct these bazaars all claim to be charitable, and are generally willing to give of their substance to the poor, but what will be their opinion of themselves when they know that they are actually depriving poor people of a livelihood. When will they learn to be consistent?

So far, so good; but we are asked the remedy. As the best practical way, petitions should be presented to the councils of the various municipal bodies to put a heavy tax on these "transient traders,"—they will earn the name—and by so doing check, in a great measure, the bane. Again, agitate the question, pointing out the injustice to the poor needle-women, as well as to the trader, and so bring into disrepute the whole business.