

## XXVIII.

[FROM THE HAMILTON WEEKLY TIMES.]

*OUR MARBLE TRADE,—Items Concerning Hamilton's  
Marble Trade—the Leading Firms Engaged in it—  
Something Relative to Hurd, Hope & Roberts.*

WE daresay that a large number even of our own citizens are unaware of the fact (or if they are, have given it little attention), that Hamilton is the leading city in the Dominion as regards the extent of its marble trade. This is the "head centre"—our jobbers supply dealers throughout Canada and ship very largely to the United States, and the writer has been at pains to gather such items relating to the leading firms engaged in this business as will prove of interest. At the head of the list stands the firm of Hurd, Hope & Roberts. The enterprise had its origin at the hands of Mr. H. H. Hurd, and a brother, Mr. M. Hurd, in about 1858. Subsequently the firm became Hurd & Roberts, and remained such until the 1st of March this year, when Mr. William Hope, who, for some years had been associated with the house, became a co-partner, and the present firm style was assumed.

The business originally had no more prominence than is accorded most marble yards in growing cities. Its transactions were at retail and necessarily largely local in their nature. By degrees a jobbing trade was entered upon. Direct importations of marble and granite became a distinctive feature of the enterprise; its affairs were ably managed, and as the years passed by the operations of the house extended to every part of the country, until now the firm holds a commanding position as manufacturers and dealers. It is a place in the trade circles of the country that has been attained by honorable dealing, by developing a liberal and progressive business policy, and not only has the firm but the city been benefited by the results that have flowed therefrom.

The works now occupied by the firm were built in 1874, and comprise, beside outbuildings, a main building, of brick, three