

for the conduct of their business—so that a public functionary is required to buy, import, and sell merchandize which it is the work of the trained, intelligent and responsible booksellers amongst us to do ?

If this be so, the legitimate conclusion would be that the book stores of the country are not worthy of patronage; that the stocks of the various houses in the trade are immeasurably inferior to that of the Government depository.—that the trade lack ability, education and intelligence for their work—that enterprise and industry are stagnant amongst them. All these are implied. But do we find this to be the case? Do we find that the Department, even with the public purse at its back and a country's credit in its favour, has made such strides in the development of the book business—that its stocks are more varied, more carefully selected, more up with the times?

No! Such is not the case. Ask any reading teacher, any County-Board School Trustee, any intelligent member of a Mechanic's Institute if such be the case, and it will be found that complaints are almost everywhere made against the Government institution; and that, where enticed or badgered to send their orders to the book-shop at the Normal School, they have always been compelled in the end to fall back on individual enterprise and to recur to the unsubsidized trader for the supply of their wants.

So far, indeed, from this Education Book Depôt being a boon to those it is intended to serve, we have heard of its utter worthlessness; of the autocratic behaviour and imperial arbitrariness of its managers; of its imposition and the lack of intelligence of those in charge; of the difficulty of procuring what was sought for; of the pawning off of books that were not ordered in lieu of those which were; and that, though the legitimate trade had not the advantage of a parliamentary grant to aid it in procuring custom, the universal conclusion was, that books were more cheaply sold and obtained with less trouble and annoyance at the ordinary book stores of the country than at the sham Book Depository.

We wish to have done with this task, however. Yet, in the interest of the trade we cater for, whose privileges we are bound to watch over, and for whose protection from injustice and wrong it is the province of this Journal to insist upon, we must urge that this illegitimate monopoly be abolished and this mischievous State interference with trade be finally abandoned.

Where no public good is to be attained, let there be no personal wrong. Where there is no benefit to the State, let there be no injustice to the citizen—no Educational service—no individual injury!

## LITERARY GOSSIP.

Principal Talloch of St. Andrews is preparing a work on the "Rise of a Rational Theology and Christian Philosophy in England in the 17th Century."—The Longmans announce an exposition of "Fallacies in the Hypothesis of Mr. Darwin," by a Dr. C. R. Bree.—The Rivingtons are preparing to publish Dr. Dollinger's "Lectures on the reunion of the Churches of Christendom.—Mrs. Oliphant's "Memoirs of the Life of Count

de Montalembert" will shortly be issued.—A new historical work, entitled, "Royal and Republican France," by Henry Reeve, C. B. is announced. The "Correspondence of the late Lord Elgin," is about to be published.—A new edition of Sir Henry Holland's "Recollections of Past Life" has been called for.—Macmillan is about to issue Prof. and Mrs. Fawcett's "Essays and Lectures on Political and Social subjects." A work on "Modern Indian Problems," being selections from Speeches delivered and Minutes published in India, by Sir Henry Summer Maine, is announced by Murray.—M. Taine's "Notes on England," translated by Mr. W. F. Rae for the London *Daily News* is published in separate and extended form.—Messrs Cassell have issued a work illustrative of Parliamentary history entitled, "A Book of Parliamentary Anecdote."—Messrs. Black now issue the complete Centenary Edition of the Waverley Novels, in 25 volumes, 12mo.—Dr. Schellen's familiar exposition of the new branch of science, "Spectrum analysis in its application to Terrestrial substances and the physical constitution of the heavenly bodies," is now ready.—A new work "A Systematic View of the Science of Jurisprudence," by Prof. Sheldon Amos of the Inner Temple is announced.—A Life of Daniel O'Connell, entitled, "The Liberator, his Life and Times, political, social and religious," is in press. Mr. Proctor, author of "Other worlds than ours," has collected for publication a volume of "Essays on Astronomy."—Appleton reprints "Three Centuries of English Literature," by the Regius Professor of Modern History in Queen's College, Belfast. Strahan issues a Volume of "Character Sketches," by Norman Macleod, D. D.—A new volume of the Bayard Series is ready—"Socrates for English Readers."—"The Garden and the City, with other Contrasts and Parallels of Scripture," is the title of the new work by the author of "Bible Teachings in Nature."

## ITEMS.

### NATIVE.

Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co. reprint a work which, although it bears a rather sensational title—"The Abominations of Modern Society"—deserves to be largely circulated. It is written by a popular Presbyterian clergyman in Brooklyn, the Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, who depicts in strong colours, in the volume, the vices and misery caused by intemperance, immorality, and those curses of large cities, gambling and billiard saloons. Other vices of society, and the ways that are crooked in modern social life, are denounced by the author in fierce, scathing words, the perusal of which should prove a salutary warning to all young men. The same publishers issue a 24-page pamphlet by Dr. Wm. Canniff of Toronto, on "The Effects of Alcohol on the Human System," being an essay upon the cause, nature and treatment of Alcoholism. Temperance organizations should see to its large circulation over the country. Price \$5.00 per 100 copies.

From the Montreal *Gazette* Office we have a very neatly printed collection of Four Sermons on "The Church Service," by the Rev. James Carmichael, M.A. of Montreal. The little work is published by request, and it embraces a clear statement of the service of the Anglican Church, well worth perusal.

Messrs. James Campbell & Son, Toronto, are issuing, with excellent taste, and in the best style of workmanship, a number of religious works with their imprimature. Those we have recently seen consist of biographies of Canadian clergymen; a volume of Sermons representing the Presbyterian pulpit in Canada; a re-issue, by arrangement, of Mr. Henry Ward Beecher's "Life of Jesus, the Christ," &c. We note, also, their announcement of a "Life of the late Rev. Robert Burns, D.D.," by his Son, which will be sought for with interest.