

Books and Notions.

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J. J. DYAS, Publisher.

A MONTH'S MEAGRE REPORT.—“We are doing very little business,” remarked a leading jobber in Toronto a few days ago, “and money is very scarce.” Nearly all agree as to the latter statement. There are a couple of exceptions, but the complaint is fully justified.

It is not simply the chronic grumblers who express this view, and it is accounted for by the fact that farm produce generally is so low in price (the produce of the dairy being almost the only exception), that farmers will not sell in view of the possibility of a European war, now happily hardly even a possibility.

With the first remark many differ. Books are finding a fair sale, and sorting up orders of stationery and fancy goods are pretty good.

The retail trade in Toronto is not as good as would naturally be expected this time of the year.

Our reports from other points are so meagre that we can give no general idea of how business is.

AN ANOMALY.—The copyright law of Great Britain presents some very odd and, sometimes, unjust results. A case has lately come under notice. The Rose Publishing Co. purchased from E. P. Roe, the author of “He Fell in Love with his wife,” the right given him by law for the publication and sale of the book in Canada. So far so good. But Ward, Lock, & Co. purchased the English right and placed the book on sale here, thus depriving the Canadian publishers of a part of the market. There is no resort in

such a case. Is it any wonder that we crave for the right to make our own copyright laws?

OUR FALL ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER.

The illustrations in this number are kindly furnished by the publishers, to whom credit is given as being theirs. They will please receive our thanks, not only for the trouble taken, but also for the kindly courtesy displayed in the correspondence at all times.

As they have proved themselves to be such prompt correspondents in our case, we trust our readers will test them to the fullest extent in business communications; for there is pleasure in doing business with a house that thinks enough of the customer no matter how little he buys, to favour him with a courteous reply.

For our advertisers in the jobbing trade we would speak a word. They testify by placing their advertisements in BOOKS AND NOTIONS to their interest in the trade organ, and spend a comparatively few dollars in reaching practically the whole trade. And they have their reward in increased and profitable business, for the retailer being himself an advertiser naturally buys from a house that advertises.

Our advertising columns will always show the names of the houses that by enterprise and push are doing a large business and are best able to supply your wants.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOOKSELLERS.

At the late meeting of the Association attention was called to a certain class of pernicious literature coming into the country. The opinions of those present were very strongly given in denouncing in plain words the abominable papers. Yet such papers are sold, we are sorry to say, in more than one store with which we are acquainted. In fact one of the worst, we have seen displayed in the window of an establishment kept by a woman. Can she or the others who make their few cents a year on this or other such vile stuff be fully aware of the damage they are doing? It is not only the “boys” that buy such papers that are harmed, but they are introduced into the homes and there, sometimes too often, read by other members of the family.

The great mass of our Canadian homes are pure and unsullied. The blush that mantles the cheek at any possible indelicate allusion is of itself proof of this. Why, then, for the sake of a small moiety of profit, ignorantly, we will suppose, permit yourselves to be the instrument of damaging the peace and binding ties of the family?

We fully sympathize with our London correspond-