

moral indignation, the passionate intellectual scorn, with which life and the universe have filled strong souls, some with one emotion, some with another, were all to Emerson in his habitual thinking unintelligible and remote."

The *London Times* says: There was never a time when a first-rate English novelist was more wanted than now. We have Wilkie Collins for plots. We have Mr. Black for sunsets. We have Mrs. Oliphant, whose variety is inexhaustible and whose industry is beyond all praise. We have Ouida, who would thrill us with sympathetic emotion, if we could for a moment forget the lime-light and the spangles. We have Mr. Henry James and Mr. Howells, unrivalled painters in miniature. We have Miss Broughton, whose characters, as Anthony Trollope has said, 'stand upright on the ground,' but whose world is a singularly unpleasant one. And we have a general want of breadth and finish in our modern English fiction."

The successful author of "Called Back," who wrote under the *nom de plume* of Hugh Conway, has confessed his real name to be F. J. Fergus. He is a member of a firm of auctioneers at Bristol, England. No wonder Mr. Fergus is glad to acknowledge his work. The book has sold to the extent of 80,000 copies, and the play has made the greatest hit that has been known in London in a long time.

HOW AUTHORS WORK.—David Livingstone said: "Those who have never carried a book through the press can form no idea of the amount of toil it involves. The process has increased my respect for authors a thousand fold. I think I would rather cross the African continent again than undertake to write another book."

Mr. Andrew Chatto tells the London correspondent of the Boston *Herald* the following story about Justin McCarthy's history: "Mr. McCarthy conceived the idea of writing a book entitled 'The Victorian Era,' which was to be a historical narrative. Introduced to a well-known firm of publishers, he entered into an arrangement with them to sell them the work for £600 (\$3000). After a little while, the publishers, learning that Mr. McCarthy was a Home Ruler if not a Parnellite—they did not even know, it appears, that he was an Irishman—asked to be allowed to withdraw from the contract. Mr. McCarthy, who was greatly annoyed at the suggestion that he might mutilate history to suit his own private or political views, demanded compensation, and the publishers referred the settlement to the friend who had introduced the author to them. Then Mr. McCarthy came to me, and I at once agreed to publish the work for him on a basis of mutual profits. I suggested, however, that, instead of 'The Victorian Era,' he should call the book 'The History of Our Own Times.' In the interval the other publishers reconsidered the situation, and asked to be allowed to revive the relapsed contract. It was too late. The work was in my hands, which, as it turned out, was a good thing for the author as well as for me. I have paid Mr. McCarthy, up to the present time, over £5000 (\$25,000) on account of his profits on 'The History of Our Own Times.'"

United States Trade Reviews.

THE prospects for the fall trade are now very bright. The financial and commercial situation throughout the country is steadily but slowly improving, and unmistakable signs of activity and progress are being developed from week to week. The general movement of merchandise continues to increase, but buying is yet to a certain extent of a conservative and cautious character. In some departments, however, a largely increased demand is reported, and in all a hopeful feeling of encouragement is observed. In other words, the autumn trade is opening with a healthy spirit which was to be expected, and the fact that buyers are operating within the limits of safety must be accepted as a favourable indication for the future course of trade. Business has been more active the past week than during the previous one. The demand for all classes of goods has been somewhat heavier. A hopeful feeling exists in regard to the fall trade when it fully opens up, as the prospects for good crops indicate a large purchasing power.

In the stationery trade a marked improvement has taken place during the past few days. Almost in every line from fair to good orders are reported, and a hopeful feeling prevails. It is believed that goods can be obtained, at the present time, under more favourable circumstances to purchasers than at any period between now and the close of the season. This opinion, of course, is based upon the expectation that an active and steady business will soon be transacted. In every line some rich and unique novelties have been introduced, and the demand for them will no doubt be large. Pencil and letter tablets are having a good sale; this is partly owing to the large demand made for them for school purposes, but the finer descriptions for private use are also much in demand. Inkstands for use in schools have, like the pencil tablets, had a large sale, but in the more expensive kinds the sale has been limited. Steel pens have been selling well and gold pens are also in good demand. The call for albums has of late been very limited. There has been fair order for inks, and some good sales have been made. In paperies large orders have recently been received, but there is at present no great demand for them. In general staple stationery trade is good.

There is very little to be said in regard to the paper trade. That business keeps up well, goes without saying, and the mills are fairly supplied with orders. The trouble with the water has been a serious drawback in many cases, but when the mills are obliged to shut down the finishing rooms are run by steam, as every concern in the city is supplied with an engine to be used on special occasions. It has been stated that some paper makers would welcome a shut down as it would decrease the production, but a majority of the Holyoke manufacturers do not come under that head as they wish to produce every pound that their machines are capable of. There is a feeling of caution on the part of many in taking future orders, but confidence is, however, increasing. The stock market remains quiet with moderate demand for some kinds of goods. Prices are firm at quotations.—*U. S. Stationer.*