

Books and Notions,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL,

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE

Book, Stationery and Fancy Goods Trades

OF CANADA.

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J. J. DYAS, Publisher.

TO OUR READERS.

THE necessity of inter-communion within the Book and kindred trades of Canada, and the natural benefits to be derived from interchange of ideas, prompt us to issue this the first number of BOOKS AND NOTIONS.

No effort will be spared to make the journal creditable in appearance, as well as interesting to the Trade.

The editorial columns, news items and market reports will receive the attention of those thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of the most honourable occupation of Bookselling.

The enlargement of our paper mills' productions, and the improvement made in quality, makes Stationery more than ever an important factor in business. It will be treated on by competent writers.

Blended with the Book and Stationery trade naturally is the Fancy Goods business, to which a good portion of space will be allotted.

In an early number will be commenced a series of sketches of some of the leading Booksellers and Publishers of Canada, giving not only the lives of the individuals, but also incidentally a history of the Book Trade.

The present number is but an earnest of what may be expected when all our arrangements are complete.

OUR PREDECESSOR.—For some time, about two years, "The Canadian Bookseller and Stationer" was published by the firm of W. Warwick & Son, of Toronto. It was a pleasant monthly visitor to the Book Trade, always containing something new and spicy. Sometimes rather too severe in its remarks, ever pungent in satire, yet on the whole it was a good and able journal of the trade, and a faithful historian of the short period of its existence. On the death of Mr. Warwick, sen., the publication ceased. Since then no other journal of the trade has been published until now, with our most polite bow, we introduce BOOKS AND NOTIONS.

A question is often asked "how is the book trade, do you sell more books now than eight or ten years since?" The answer given must necessarily vary with the position of the party questioned, but if put in other words "are more books used now than formerly?" we should say there are more used, but the trade is in a much less satisfactory condition. The demand for books was first lessened by the production of American reprints of popular novels, which being a success was followed by the publication of various libraries, and a higher class of literature gradually succeeded. Then came the tea business—the giving of books with every pound or two of tea—materially checked the sale by booksellers. This practice has been followed by grocers and others so that a small family library has, in the course of a year or so, been secured without any apparent outlay. Few stop to reason on the absurdity of these so called gifts, but although some may at times think they pay a little more for their tea, yet the books are on hand. Then again the practice, dating from the advent of Dr. Ryerson, of giving books as school prizes has spread over the country, carrying to the humblest shanty works of sterling worth, and these are dispensed with no niggardly hands.

Thus has the demand and the acquisition of books been steadily on the increase, but has this benefited the bookseller? He says not, but the circulating of an immense number of works among the rising generation must have a tendency to create a demand for more books, where without these or some such means for a start, none whatever would have been found in the household.

There has been of late another element introduced, namely the Free Library movement. This most assuredly is adverse to the bookseller's interests. A large amount of ready cash is sent to Germany for reprints of English works, ditto to the United States, and such as cannot be had in either place are done without, or England is honoured by an order for the few required. What kind of books are most in de-