

The Copyright Question.

The eternal copyright question is again cropping up in every direction. At the dinner of the Authors' Society on Thursday night Canadian publishers were roundly denounced as vampires who lived upon the brains and blood of writers. A picture was painted of a set of desperadoes living in Toronto who were described upon the doorplates and in the local directory as printers and booksellers, but were really land pirates with hoofs and fangs. It was announced that the next battle of the authors will be against the pirate business as carried on in the Dominion.

The above appeared as a cable despatch from London in the Toronto papers recently. It is about as silly a despatch as was ever wired across the Atlantic Ocean. The facts are that Canadian presses are standing idle because a fair solution of the question has not been assented to by the Imperial authorities. No British or foreign works can be published in this country simply for the reason that the Dominion Copyright Act is not allowed to become law. Under existing laws all such work is now being done in the United States, where their legislators look after the interests of their own country, and the Canadian market is placed wholly at the disposal of foreign publishers. If the British authorities desired to kill off the Canadian publishing business for the benefit of United States printers they could not go about it in a more effective way. The stupid insult conveyed in the above despatch goes to show that the Authors' Society is composed of a set of people who read nothing but their own valuable writings. This copyright question has been fully set forth by Sir John Thompson in a most able paper which was made public on both sides of the Atlantic. It would be more becoming in the Authors' Society to debate the question on its merits and answer the Canadian arguments, if they are competent to do so, rather than insult Canadian publishers by such asinine twaddle as that contained in the despatch quoted above. It is bad enough for our publishing firms to find their businesses ruined without being denounced as vampires and land pirates. Apparently the only true solution of the difficulty is for our Government to put the Canadian Copyright Act in force and thus compel the printing to be done in Canada instead of as now in foreign countries. Argument, or even courtesy, would seem to be thrown away upon the Authors' Society.

LEGIBILITY should be the first aim in setting up advertisements and jobs. Attractiveness, novelty and all other considerations should be subordinated to legibility.

Obituary.

RODNEY MOORE, a well known printer, died recently at Whitby, aged 69 years.

WILLIAM R. SHIELDS, for many years foreman of The Toronto Telegram, died on May 29th. He was 54 years of age, and was a member of the Masonic order.

C. A. DICKSON, editor of The Thessalon Advocate, died recently. He was one of the original founders of The Advocate and was a young man of promise. His death is deeply regretted by a large circle of friends.

WE regret to record the death of Frank B. Gilman, of the firm of Gilman & Bryan, programme publishers of this city. Mr. Gilman had been in a delicate state of health for several months, and had gone to his home at Gifford, N.H., where he died on August 29, in the 40th year of his age.

W. R. CLIMIE, Bowmanville Sun, died of paralysis on June 7. For many years Mr. Climie was secretary of the Canadian Press Association and was probably one of the best known country publishers in Ontario, and was highly esteemed for his probity and many sterling qualities. His funeral took place on the 10th under Masonic auspices, and was one of the largest ever seen in Bowmanville.

What a Friend Is.

The London Tit-Bits recently offered a prize for the best definition of "What a Friend Is."

This is the prize definition :

.....
The first person who comes in when the
whole world has gone out.
.....

IN Germany an inquiry has been made into the causes of sickness and mortality among printers, showing that 61 per cent. of the deaths recorded in this trade during the past ten years were due to lung disease. The source of the trouble is attributed to the dust allowed to accumulate in the type cases which contains a large proportion of lead. Consumption has often been described as the printer's scourge, and this inquiry would seem to confirm the idea. Some makes of type also contain arsenic, which is far more fatal even than lead. Toronto type is guaranteed to contain no arsenic and much less lead than is usually employed, so that this type, from a sanitary standpoint, is the most desirable.

THE Galt Reformer is now published by Andrew Laidlaw as a daily.