

almost as soon as he struck the water, T. S. Pa on, a well-known angler, manipulating the line. It was exciting play while it lasted, far more so than with a giant salmon or monster sturgeon, but alas for James' hopes, the man at the butt end of that line and rod wore him out inside of 15 minutes and landed him cleanly. Jim Taylor, another well-known athlete, but lighter than the former, just took 10 minutes to land. Porter, Teskey & Co represent in Canada H. Milward & Co.'s fishing goods, the goods which stood this severe strain so successfully.

TRIBUTE TO OLD MAN SAVARIN.

IF any excuse be needed for our frequent reference in these pages to Mr. Thomson's delightful stories, we must plead indulgence on the plea that there has been so little of the kind as good in recent literature that we are justified in giving them more than ordinary attention.

Mrs. Ormiston Chant, the talented Englishwoman, whose public readings have been charming American audiences, expresses herself as follows in acknowledging a copy of "Old Man Savarin" from Miss Marshall Saunders, the gifted young lady of Nova Scotia, who gave us "Beautiful Joe":

"I do not think I have ever enjoyed a book of short stories more than those you sent me of Mr. Thomson's!"

"Apart from the masterly shaping of his stories, the style is so beautiful and the pathos so pure and dignified.

"McGrath's Bad Night" charms me so that I mean to read it in public the first opportunity I get. It is unique.

"Oh! It is such a treat, amid the all-pervading odor of journalistic garbage pervading the literary atmosphere, to get a fresh, sweet, sea breeze, warm with sunshine, and perfumed with the clover-fields from a strong, tender heart and a beauty-shaping brain.

"I thank you most affectionately and gratefully for this most welcome Christmas gift, and if, in hours to come, when I am reading it to the dear home circle in Gower street, in London, there should come over the Atlantic the sound of laughter sinking into tears, you will know you are in part with us as we enjoy your gift and bless the giver. Great success to the writer.

"L. ORMISTON CHANT."

A PROPOSED COPYRIGHT OFFICIAL.

A bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives at Washington by Mr. Treloar (Rep., Mo.) providing for a commissioner of copyrights, to perform all the duties relating to copyrights now imposed by law upon the Librarian of Congress. He is to receive \$4,000 a year and give a bond for \$10,000. The bill also provides for an assistant commissioner and a clerical force and appropriates \$50,000 to establish and maintain the office thus organized. Deposits are

to be made in the Treasury of all money received from copyrights or other sources as often as the Secretary of the Treasury may direct.

VALUABLE NEW MINING MAP.

A new map of part of the Cariboo district, drawn on a large scale and showing the locations of the principal hydraulic mines on the Quesnelle River and its tributaries, has been published by Thomson Bros., stationers, lithographers, etc., Vancouver, B.C., price \$1. This map is compiled by Messrs. Gardin, Hermon & Burwell, engineers and surveyors, from personal examination, and other reliable sources of information, and it is the only map showing the position of the different hydraulic mining properties in that district.

WHY "FOOLSCAP?"

Everybody knows what "foolscap" paper is, but everybody does not know how it came to bear that name. In order to increase his revenues Charles I. granted certain privileges, amounting to monopolies, and among these was the manufacture of paper, the exclusive right of which was sold to certain parties, who grew rich and enriched the Government at the expense of those who were obliged to use paper. At that time all English paper bore the royal arms in watermark. The Parliament under Cromwell made sport of this law in every possible manner, and, among other indignities to the memory of Charles, it was ordered that the royal arms be removed from the paper, and that the fool's cap and bells should be used as a substitute. When the Rump Parliament was prorogued these were also removed; but paper of the size of the parliamentary journals, which are usually about 17 by 14 inches, still bears the name of "foolscap."—American Stationer.

PERSONAL MENTION.

E. D. Tupper, representing a large lead pencil and stationery firm of London, Eng., was in Montreal the other day.

Mr. Hunter, representing Alex. Pirie & Sons, Ltd., was in Toronto last week.

Mr. Geo. Warwick, accompanied by Mrs. Warwick, is spending a few weeks in Florida.

Mr. Joseph Tait, of Joseph Tait & Sons, the well known paper makers, of Inverury near Aberdeen, Scotland, has been in Canada during the last few weeks.

Dr. Louis Frechette, our French Canadian poet laureate, has severed his connection with daily journalism to devote himself entirely to literature. He has been leader writer for La Patrie, Montreal.

Dr. Bourinot is writing the book on Canadian history for Fisher Unwin's Story of the Nations Series.

OBITUARY.

Mr. John R. James, of the Methodist Book and Publishing House, died in Toronto a few days ago. Deceased was born in the south of Ireland 85 years ago. When a young man he came to Canada, settling first in Montreal, then taking up his residence in Toronto. Mr. James was an active member of the Metropolitan church and a local preacher. Rev. Chas. James, pastor of St. George's church, Montreal, is a son of the deceased.

Mr. Daniel Allen died at Newcastle, Ont., last month. He came to Canada 50 years ago, settling at Newcastle. He was 61 years of years. Of late years he had been engaged in book, stationery and the undertaking business, and was in comfortable circumstances when the great fire of 1877, which devastated the village, left him without building or stock. He rebuilt his premises and started again, only to be again a victim of the fire fiend in January last, when building, stock and household effects were again consumed, but on this occasion were fairly insured.

LET WELL ALONE.

California's experiment of printing textbooks used in the public schools of the State proves to be a costly one, the San Francisco papers report. When the law in that State relating to the use of free text books went into effect, the State officers believed that the State could print them cheaper than they could buy them of publishers. So it set up a printing plant, and after incurring a debt of \$200,000, concluded to purchase its books from regular customers. It is best for a State to stick to its legitimate business and let old established publishing plants do the text-book business.—St. John Globe.

THE FLY LEAF.

Mr. Walter Blackburn Harte is publishing a little monthly which thus describes itself: "The Fly Leaf is not a journal or magazine in the ordinary sense, but a bibelot of 'good things' published periodically. Its articles exist primarily as literature, and not as pegs for pictures, or innocent domestic texts for commercial enterprises. Each number is a complete bibelot in itself. It is a pamphlet periodical of carefully selected literature from some of the best wits, the strongest, most robust and masculine minds among the younger writers in the modern movement. It is the one bibelot of modern American literature that is carefully preserved in the libraries of curious and appreciative bookmen, as worthy of a place on the shelf with the significant and permanent pamphlet literature of an older age—'the good old days,' before poetry and wit and whimsy were made for the mob and considered to gain in authority value and seriousness by being dished up and sold in bundles by the pound." 25c. per copy; 369 St. B. street. The March issue is No. 4.