

PUBLISHERS' DEPARTMENT.

It is a matter for congratulation that the moral leaders of the community are daily becoming more interested in the matter of literature. A few years ago it appeared as if the country were about to be inundated by a class of useless, if not absolutely vicious, literature, sweeping away that whose tendency was good, and by its own presence depraving the taste, so that what was really useful could not be appreciated. But a reaction has come; those most interested in the public welfare are opposing this flood; the church as a whole is raising up a barrier against it; the greed of obtaining knowledge, so characteristic of the present age, which mourns over every misspent hour, casts it aside as worse than useless; against what is thought by some to be the most vicious class the Government enacts laws, which, although not often actually enforced, banish to the back streets or to underneath the counters in book stores, what might otherwise have been flaunted in the eyes of the unwary; while the great improvement in religious, moral, and instructive journals offer perhaps the greatest opposition to it. This is evidenced in Canada of late years, by the very great increase in circulation of the MONTREAL WITNESS, NORTHERN MESSENGER, and other papers which have been brought prominently before the public notice. The magazines, being more retiring in their nature, have not engaged so prominently in the contest, although their influence is none the less important. To meet a want in this respect, great improvements are to be made in the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY. From July 1st it is proposed to increase its size by sixteen pages, print on finer paper, and illustrate the text with engravings. This will entail great expense, which is by no means justified by the present circulation, but the publishers hope that before the beginning of the next year the circulation will rise to seven thousand, which would just about make both ends meet. Each one of its present readers may do something to help them in this matter, by recommending the magazine to their friends if it meets with their approval; and they can rely upon it that the

gaining of seven thousand subscribers will be but simply a step to other improvements perhaps now unthought of. The publishers have in view the object of giving the greatest value for the money received for their publications, and as the circulations increase they are enabled to improve their papers, thus benefitting every reader. They would have their subscribers understand that they themselves are as deeply interested in the matter of circulation as the publishers, and enlist them to engage in its extension. The prize competition at present going on may give a spice of excitement to the work of obtaining subscribers.

"SLAUGHTERING THE INNOCENTS."

Miss Louise S. Hotchkiss, in a published paper, entitled "Corsets vs. Brains," has the following:—A few days ago, I stepped into a large corset manufactory that is carried on by a woman. I told her I was interested to know what women and children wear in this line, and asked to see her wares from the least unto the greatest. She began by showing me the tiniest article I ever saw in the shape of a corset, saying that was for babies. Then she brought forward another grade, and still another, and so on, till I think she must have shown me fifteen or twenty different-sized corset moulds, in which she runs the female forms that get into her hands. She informed me that all the genteel waists I should meet on the fashionable streets of the city she made; that the mothers brought their daughters in infancy to her, and that she passed them through the whole course of moulds till they were ready for the real French corset, when she considered them finished and perfect.

Yesterday I visited the first-class in one of our city girls' grammar schools, consisting of forty-two pupils. I had five questions on a slip of paper, that I asked permission of the teacher to put to the girls:—

First.—"How many of you wear corsets?"

Answer.—"Twenty-one." I asked them to stretch their arms as high as they could over their heads. In every instance it was hard work,