



Bookseller & Stationer

Books, Stationery
Fancy Goods, Music
and Wallpaper

TORONTO.

VOL. XV.

TORONTO, CANADA, MARCH, 1899.

No. 3.

President,
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THE MacLEAN PUBLISHING CO. Limited.

Publishers of Trade Newspapers which circulate in the Provinces of British Columbia, North-West Territories, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E. Island and Newfoundland.

OFFICES

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Telephone 2148.
LONDON, ENG. - - - 109 Fleet Street, E.C.,
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Subscription, Canada, \$1 00. Great Britain, \$2 00.

Cable Address { Adacript, London
Adacript, Canada

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CURRENT NOTES.

PROBABLY the most talked of bookseller at the present moment is Mr. John Kensit, who has a little shop in Pater-noster Row, London, and who publishes religious works. His fight against ritualism has made him and his bookshop famous. It has been sought to make game of Mr. Kensit, but it is doubtful if a man of no ability could have carried on a controversy so fearlessly and roused so powerful an agitation. A correspondent who went to interview Mr. Kensit, gives the following description of his place: "It is a stuffy little place, with a door barely large enough to admit one undersized person at a time,

and with four persons inside the place is crowded. Every available inch of space on counter and shelves is covered by pamphlets and books on religious subjects, while requisition has been made upon nearly half of the meagre floor space for the same purpose. To reach Kensit a correspondent was forced to climb a dark, dusty, tortuous set of stairs, creaking at every alternate step. Then, at the top, seated in a cubby-hole, engulfed in a flood of letters, was the tradesman who has roused to open warfare the best of militant aristocracy in religious England."

It is reported that Sir Oliver Mowat, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, is writing his reminiscences, which include some of the most important political events in Canada since 1860, with a view to future publication. The paper read by Sir Oliver several years ago, at the unveiling of the Macdonald monument in Hamilton, showed him to possess considerable talent for literary work in the form of political autobiography. He is said to have preserved a great deal of valuable correspondence.

A well-arranged window for Easter trade repays the trouble and time spent upon it. The city dealers are making a point of doing this, and there is no reason why the town and village dealer should omit it.

Although trade during January and February has been quiet, in fact, the usual lull after the holiday business, the reports indicate a fairly well-founded expectation of good Spring trade. The demand for the better grades of stationery is reported satis-

factory by city dealers, while, in books, sales of fiction have been large. The January book imports show a total of \$66,000, compared with \$53,000 in January, 1898, and \$50,000 in January, 1897.

With the improvement in business, those who need new office specialties are more likely to buy them if the dealer pushes for the trade. To wait until the people come in to buy them means that you will probably lose the trade. In connection with school supplies, school prizes, etc., the business must be sought. The local dealer has a right to complain if his fellow taxpayers send trade to the city, but he must be out and after it.

The Montreal booksellers say that there is an undoubted falling off in the sale of American magazines. The Canadian public are so weary of war stories and experiences of "heroes" that they turn in disgust from the interminable tales of Dewey and Hobson, Santiago and Manila, with which even the best monthlies published in the United States are filled. As a consequence, the sales of The Canadian Magazine and some English periodicals are booming. The "Canadian" is always interesting, and its freedom from blood and thunder stories and touching references to "old glory," is refreshing to magazine readers in this country. Harmsworth's magazine is selling fairly well in this country, and Cassell's new illustrated penny monthly seems likely to be popular here. "Physical Culture," Sandow's paper, is said to enjoy a fair circulation, and some other Old Country papers are coming to the front in Canada.