

lar authors. Only one conclusion can be drawn, and that is that people are willing to pay 50 cents for the latest book by one of the masters of fiction and no more. Also, that the buying public take a large number of these books when this firm find it profitable to issue from six to twelve per month. The same fact is impressed on the observer's mind if the list of Canadian editions issued by the Rose Publishing Co. is considered. All the books may not be by the best and most popular authors, but many of the leading books are new and from these master pens.

Moreover it must be noticed that the more popular the author the more popular this 50 cent edition. G. A. Henty's "In the Days of the Mutiny" is already away into the second thousand although it has only been published a few weeks. So with others recently published. One seeming exception to this is in the case of F. Marion Crawford's works. Through the carelessness of McMillan & Co., only a cloth edition of his works are available and hence only a cloth edition is issued here, yet it sold well. In fact, the sale of the dollar cloth volumes reaches as great a volume as the sale of the latest books by less popular authors in the 50 cent edition.

Then the question presents itself for the consideration of both publishers and retailers: IS THE 50 CENT EDITION THE BEST ADAPTED TO THE CANADIAN TRADE? The run Crawford's works have had in the dollar cloth edition says that something higher should be aimed at. But on the other hand the opinion is abroad that the same book would sell better if in a 25 cent edition. But the question we want to confine ourselves to is the one above; that is, what edition of the leading works of fiction is most suitable for Canadian booksellers, or, out of which edition can they get the best satisfaction and the most profit? We will leave this matter with the booksellers themselves to decide, and between this time and the first of July we shall be glad to receive the opinion of every live bookseller in Canada on the question. For the purpose of giving a definite answer each bookseller must banish from his mind all thoughts of any class of books except the particular class under discussion, i. e., the latest fiction. Let every bookseller give his opinion even if it be only on a post card. These will be all carefully read, and the result stated in the July issue for the benefit of the trade generally.

DUTY ON PLAYING CARDS.

FOR some time the importers have been concerned about a new method of importing playing cards. When imported in the ordinary way they are dutiable at 6 cents per pack. But an enterprising importer brought them in in sheets, and they were admitted by the

customs authorities as lithographs, at a duty of 20 per cent. ad valorem and 6 cents per pound specific. The jobbers found this out, and appealed to the Comptroller of Customs, and he has decided that such sheets are not lithographs and consequently must pay the full duty of 6 cents per pack. It is a shame (?) to see such enterprise baffled, for such an ingenious attempt to defeat the customs officers should, like virtue, bring its own reward—but it didn't.

A BOLD ATTEMPT.

A BOLD attempt has been made to introduce Canadian poetry into the Canadian schools, and many a lover of Canadian literature will remark with much fervor, "May it succeed." From the press of The Copp, Clark Co., comes a little volume, edited by the well-known educationist, J. E. Wetherell, B.A., and entitled "Later Canadian Poems." On the title page is that beautiful verse by C. G. D. Roberts: But thou, my country, dream not thou! Wake, and behold how night is done, How on thy breast, and o'er thy brow Bursts thy uprising sun!

For the first time in Canadian poetry, in Ontario at least, is there a chance of its introduction into our schools and a chance to be woven into the growing fabric of the Canadian intellect.

This "little anthology," as the editor calls it, contains fifteen selections from the poems of George Frederick Cameron, who died in 1885, seven from the pen of William Wilfred Campbell, eight from that of Bliss Carman, a young Canadian now in New York, sixteen by Archibald Lampman, seventeen written by Charles George Douglas Roberts, twelve by Duncan Campbell Scott, and ten by Frederick George Scott. The supplement contains a number of poems by our women poets, such as S. Frances Harrison, Agnes Maule Machar, E. Pauline Johnson, Isabella Valancy Crawford (deceased), and Ethelwyn Wetherald. Portraits of many of the authors is an excellent feature of the book.

In this list of names we miss some familiar ones, and the omission of that of J. H. Brown can hardly be excused; yet it would be hard to include all those who should be included. All the poems have been written since the year 1880, and are consequently fresh, and they demonstrate the excellence to which the Canadian school has attained.

The book will be published in three bindings, two for school use and one for presentation and library purposes. A school paper edition will sell for 30 cents, a cloth edition for 50 cents; but at the time of writing the price of the finer cloth edition had not been settled. While this little book will no doubt be used in schools as supplementary reading, it should at least be put on for literature in one of the high school forms. It will also be a book which the middle classes of this country will appreciate.

WILLARD TRACT DEPOSITORY.

DURING the past month this concern has passed into the hands of new proprietors, who will continue the business under the old name of the Toronto Willard Tract Depository. Since the death of the late S. R. Briggs, the business has never prospered, and the shareholders have been losing steadily until their entire investments have been sacrificed. A change was imperative, and the business was offered for sale, and purchased by the well-known Fleming H. Revell Company of New York and Chicago. Mr. Revell came to Toronto, and his twenty-three years of experience in the book trade enabled him to estimate the value of the stock. He made an offer of a lump sum for the entire stock, good-will, copyrights, etc., and secured the business. The price paid will be less than 50 cents on the dollar, and the inventory value of the stock is about \$55,000. Mr. Revell has consequently secured a bargain, and booksellers, who, like the camels in the desert, can scent an oasis long before it comes in sight, will receive some bargains if they buy at once.

Travellers will be out shortly for this house, and dealers will be able to get quotations and estimate the sacrifices. Visitors to the city will find the stock in charge of Mr. Geo. H. Doran, who was at one time with the Willard Tract Depository under the old management; since leaving Toronto Mr. Doran has been with the Revell Company, but he will now manage their Toronto branch, for some time, at least. Some special lines of toy books and annuals will be offered at special prices; not because the stock is not first-class, but simply to unload. Ballantyne's works can be secured to sell for a half dollar, and many other similar bargains. The stock includes some \$12,000 worth of first-class Bibles, but BOOKS AND NOTIONS did not learn whether or not any snags would be offered in these.

Under the new management the business will no doubt be more enthusiastically carried on. On account of having New York and Chicago warehouses, the new firm can manage the trade to very great advantage. They will make good use of the copyrights and of the publications such as "Notes on Bible Study," and the trade will no doubt hear more from them later on.

JUNE.

A dewy kiss of fragrant lips
Upon the budding roses' tips;
A shower of sunshine falling slow
Upon the lily's breast of snow;
A touch of languor on the air,
A living poem everywhere;
A song of birds in sweet attune
With earth and sky—and this is June.
—W. J. Lampton in June Godey's.