

ORIGIN OF PAPER HANGINGS.

WITH the increased production of paper came the idea of applying it to the purpose of hangings for rooms. At first the aim seems to have been directed to imitations of tapestry, and to produce this was employed a material called flock, a kind of woolen cloth chopped small with a machine, strewed lightly with the finger and thumb over the paper, on which a pattern had been previously drawn with fat, oil, or varnish, and the different colors and tints being carefully blended, an appearance of tapestry was thus obtained. This method is said to have first originated in England, and was invented by Jerome Langer, who obtained a patent for it during the reign of Charles I, dated May 1, 1634. According to an old French work, a manufacture of this kind was carried on at Rouen some ten or fourteen years previously by a man named Francois, and was succeeded by his son, who continued the business for fifty years after with great success. Originally the material was of an extremely coarse description, and the flock projected considerably from the paper. In the reign of Queen Anne paper hangings were largely imported from China. Jackson, a manufacturer of paper hangings at Battersea, published in the year 1754 a work on the invention of printing in chiaroscuro and the application of it to the making of paper hangings, with fruits colored in illustration. This book was probably used as a sort of advertisement of his own manufacture, and contains many just and well-sustained remarks, showing a cultivated and properly directed taste. He purposed, instead of adhering to the old system, to employ subjects of more interest than the mere repetition of flowers and ornaments, copies of the most celebrated classic subjects, statues and landscapes. He also proposed, instead of painting paper hangings in the ordinary way with size color, that oil must be used, and argued the great durability of oil in comparison with size, and that the beauties of the colors continue as long as the paper can hold together, whereas in a short time the brilliancy of the other is quite lost and requires renewing. About the year 1786 Sheringham threw a new feature into the manufacture of paper hangings. This gentleman, who had spent many years on the Continent, returned about this time to England and established a business in Great Marlborough street. His enterprising spirit and refined taste led him to engage a number of artists of first rate ability—such men as Jones, Beuleau, La Brie and Fuseli. He was thus enabled to introduce a style of decoration both unique and truly English in its character. He infused into the art a style which for beauty and grace was not equaled before nor since surpassed. Sheringham was, indeed, the Wedgwood of paper stain-ers. About that time the Messrs. Richards,

who had a manufactory at Chelsea, produced designs of exquisite workmanship. Besides the mode then generally in use, they adopted a method of applying copper plates engraved to form the outline, and by an underground of silver and gold worked up by hand in varnish colors, effects of the most beautiful kind were obtained, and they were highly illustrative of the ability of English talent when properly applied.

COMPETITION IN CALENDARS.

CONSIDERABLE competition has been aroused in Montreal this year on the question of calendar work, and prices in several instances have been cut pretty low—in fact, so low that it is difficult to see where the profit comes in. In one case that came under BOOKS AND NOTIONS' notice in that city, three different establishments were asked to tender, and they all did so. The first was a firm that had, owing to special circumstances which it is unnecessary to relate here, secured a large line of board stock at an unusually low figure. For this reason they put in an offer which they considered to be nearer the bottom than any of their competitors could go. To their surprise, their tender was refused, and they learned afterwards that one of the tenders had been higher than theirs, and the other away below it—in fact, so much below, that the successful tenderer was doing the work for little more than what their board stock cost them. Now, as their board stock, for the reason given above, was away below, they are utterly at a loss to understand how the firm in question can do the work, such as lithographing, etc., and make money. Another firm here has also adopted an entirely new line. They are in the lithographing business, too, but are not lithographing any calendars this year. Instead, they have imported a large line of stock lithographic work from Europe, and are offering to get up calendars at a reasonable cost. They have two travelers out on the road, and, from all accounts, are doing a rushing business. In fact, they have been so busy that, to get their orders through in time, they have been compelled to let out a portion of the actual printing work to another establishment. The other firms in the lithographic business who have not got on to the secret are at a loss to see how they can pay the duty on the imported stock, bring it in, do the printing, and sell it in competition with domestic work. The secret, no doubt, is that they have got their European stock lithographs very cheaply, either in England or on the Continent.

THE STRIKE IS OVER.

The difficulty between the Copp, Clark Co., Ltd., and fifteen of their employes has been amicably settled. The whole affair seems to have been a misunderstanding con-

sequent on the too hasty action of some of their men. The company have acceded to the union's demand to pay 20 cents an hour, but insist on having first-class men for that price. The best workmen among the strikers have therefore been taken back, and good men have been taken on in the place of the others. It is said that some of the men in the employ of this company are receiving as high as 27½ cents an hour.

G.T.R. NEWS CONTRACT.

The news contract for the G.T.R. has again been awarded to the Canada Railway News Company, who have held the contract for the past fifteen years, but this time the contract covers the entire road; formerly the Great Western division was operated by T. G. Davey, of London. The company also control the exclusive advertising privileges for the road, and operate the dining-rooms at Toronto, Kingston, Stratford and Allandale. They also cater on the steamers of the Niagara Navigation Co.

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