

# Books and Notions,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL,

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE

Book, Stationery and Fancy Goods Trades

OF CANADA.

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**J. J. DYAS, Publisher.**

THE BOOKSELLERS' AND STATIONERS' ASSOCIATION.  
—The next general meeting of the Ontario Association will be held in Toronto early in March.

In the meantime, the Committee on Postage intend visiting Ottawa, when Parliament is in session, to endeavour to have the postage on periodicals reduced, so as to place the trade on an equal footing with dealers in the United States.

It is desirable that prior to the meeting, the members of the Association should bring under the notice of the Executive Committee any matter of importance they would like to be introduced.

Communications should be sent to the Secretary at the earliest possible moment, so that a suitable programme of business may be arranged. The meeting will probably be only for an afternoon and evening.

Full particulars will be given in our February number.

If you intend to make a trip to Toronto in February, defer it to early March. Even if you do not desire to join the Association, it will be pleasant to meet brother booksellers from other points. We look for you.

## CHEERING NEWS.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *American Stationer*, in a late number says:—

"The closing year is not without its atonements. Life and hopefulness have pervaded trade, and confidence has increased to a notable extent. Who then shall say ill of 1885?"

And so say we.

The year 1885 has been an eventful one to the Canadian Book Trade. 1884 closed disastrously. The failure of James Campbell & Son brought with it the stoppage of a large number of firms in the retail trade. It was not an unmixed evil, for many who had been worried day after day to make both ends meet, felt relieved when compelled to assign or compromise, as they by that means got a fresh start on life's journey. But early in the year, when they were buckling on the harness for another struggle, the famous School Reader question came to the fore, the meagre profits discouraging them in their first onset. Still, brave hearts as they were, they struggled on, and with economy, and careful watchfulness of their business have been able to do a good deal towards placing themselves on a firm footing.

The year's business has been, on the whole, a good one. Despite meagre profits progress has been made, and the wholesale trade reports the state of the retailers as satisfactory, and they are certainly the best judges. The failures in Canada have been very few in number—but two of any importance in Ontario, one of them last month.

The holiday trade has been particularly good. That of Toronto has exceeded any previous year. From a careful estimate, the excess over the corresponding period of 1884, was 20 to 25 per cent. while from the reports we publish under the head of correspondence, it will be seen that this city has not been by any means alone in prosperity.

The wholesale trade, taking in books, stationery, and fancy goods, has increased. A calculation made and corroborated by those competent to know, shows that in Toronto it has increased at least 10 per cent. over the former year.

Montreal, with its old established houses of repute, has done a large business.

Winnipeg, having become of itself a distributing centre, is doing a good trade. In the Eastern provinces there has not been much life in business, but we believe jobbers have done at least as well as formerly.

That we may be able to write as cheerily a year hence of the business of the present year is the earnest wish of BOOKS AND NOTIONS.