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J. J. DYAS, Publisher.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION for Ontario has confirmed to Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh, Scotland, the one-third right to publish the New School Readers for the period of ten years. This was the right formerly accorded to and advertised by James Campbell & Son. Of course Nelson & Sons, not being located in Canada, could not produce these books of themselves, they have therefore re-sold the right to Copp, Clark & Co. for \$20,000 or thereabouts. All other publishers except the two, who have already each a third, are thereby excluded from printing, and this share of the profit goes to a distant land. This sale is not likely to be quietly acquiesced in by all parties. Report has it that the estate of Campbell & Son will contest the right of Nelson & Sons to the ownership of the privilege.

NORMAL SCHOOL.—Dr. Davies, Head Master of the Normal and Model Schools, has been compelled to resign that position, and the appointment is now in the hands of the Government—if not already promised. It is to be hoped that the new appointment will be a man of ability and firmness, not only capable of superintending the work of his subordinates, but with full power to insist on necessary aids to work being properly done, and one who will see that all is done. There can be but little doubt that the lives of Mrs. Cullen and Miss Hunt were sacrificed to overwork and an impure atmosphere. There must be no shirking of responsibility.

CHRISTMAS IN LETTERS AND ART.—If there is anything that would make one wish to be young again it is to be nursed on the literature for the young of the present day. In its art aspects it as nearly approaches perfection as it is possible to conceive; while as literature it is infinitely more attractive than anything we used to get from our sober, didactic teachers of the by-gone time. But not only has the taste been educated; there has been an unlocking of the doors of the imagination; and as a consequence a riotous profusion of gifts has come from every publishing house, till one is almost bewildered with the beauty and richness of the feast. Even the toy-books are works of art; and child-life is depicted with a quaint charm that is quite irresistible. The old-time heroes of the nursery don a new attire, and we renew our acquaintance with them with a pleasure and interest that are well-nigh indescribable. Not only in colour and in drawing are they tasteful objects of art, but the pictures are wonderful in conception. One has only to look at a Kate Greenway or a Richard Caldecott to discover what advances have been made in the nursery literature of the time, and to see how artistic is the feeling and educated the taste that produce such results. Then there is the wealth of serials and annual volumes that make their appearance with the snows of December, and bring before us such an array of competitors for public favour, that one knows not what to choose. Christmas numbers, too, are showered upon us in lavish abundance, and Christmas cards take us captive in every book store we enter. The talent and ingenuity that enter into the art of Christmas card manufacture now-a-days is simply marvelous. While the custom of sending these tokens of friendship is still on the increase, energy and industry will, no doubt, continue to be exercised to supply the demand, and each recurring year we shall see even greater excellence achieved in these issues of the season. Never, truly, have our book-stores been more attractive; but it wants but the money, and such cheery, seasonable weather as we are wont to get in Canada in December, to put every one in good spirits, and give a fillip to the buying-habit of our people, which, we trust, may make the Christmas trade of 1884 memorable in the annals of the native commerce of art and literature.

A FAIR DIVISION.—We were about writing an article calling attention to the necessity of a new insolvent act, when there appeared in the daily press the following cablegram:

A deputation from the Associated Chamber of Commerce on Friday held an interview with Sir John Macdonald, the Canadian Premier, and Sir Charles Tupper, the Canadian Commissioner in England. The deputation urged the passage of a bankruptcy