

fever of the times, the literature of the day, and the employments of the Trade, are quite sanguinary in their character. Indeed, so far in the season, the trade among the publishers has been unusually quiet; but now the fact and excitement of war has brought out a host of technical works in Military Science, Histories of Famous Campaigns, Treatises on Continental National Policy, &c., &c., and has developed, to a wonderful degree, the trade of the newspapers and the map lithographers. War maps issued by a hundred houses meet one at every turn, detailing with varying effect of colour and execution the configuration of the frontier of the two hostile powers which now resound with the clang of arms; and, tracing the beautiful Rhine-land, now smiling with the ripened autumn grain, and which, instead of the sickle of the harvester, shall see the relentless reaper of the battle-field pass over the land.

But before dismissing this subject, and as we are brought so closely into contact, in these stirring times, with what may be called the "war department" of literature; it may not be uninteresting to glance at the announcements of these "Books for the times" now being made by the publishers here—and prominent among these may be noted:

Messrs. Blackwood's issue of the 2nd edition of Colonel Hamley's *Operations of War Explained*, which has been revised throughout, and contains some important additions on the effects which the changes in weapons may be expected to produce in military tactics, &c.

Messrs. Chapman & Hall's issue of the 2nd edition of *The Austro-Hungarian Empire*, and the *Policy of Count Beust*, a very able sketch of events in connection with the internal policy of Austria, and a solid contribution to political literature.

Messrs. Macmillan's *The Seven Weeks' War; its Antecedents and Incidents*, a most interesting account, by Capt. Hozier, the *Times*' correspondent, of the struggle of 1866 between Austria and Prussia; also of the seventh annual issue of *The Statesman's Year Book*, for 1870, an invaluable and official hand-book to the statistics of all the countries of the world.

Messrs. Longman's reprint from the *Edinburgh Review*, of Lieut. Col. Chesney's *The Military Resources of Prussia and France, and recent changes in the Art of War*; also Sir Alex. Malet's *History of the Overthrow of the Germanic Confederation by Prussia*, in 1866; both timely and important works. But we fear the appetite for war literature is sufficiently indulged, if not surfeited, by the newspaper press; and we pass on to notice a few other publications—the product, nay, the triumph of peace; or, if they smack of war at all, it is the war of friendly rivalry—the co-operation of capital and labour against capital and labour.

Messrs. T. & T. Clark, of Edinburgh, the well-known publishers of the Foreign Theological Library, interest Theological inquirers and students of ecclesiastical history, by the publication of a translation of Felix Buegener's *Rome and the Council of the 19th Century*; a most interesting and important work, and one which evidences the deep spirit of inquiry abroad, and the hostility to Rome and its assumptions in these days.

Messrs. Alex. Strahan & Co. issue, in complete shape, *Present-day Papers on Theology*, edited by the Right Rev. Bishop Ewing, a rather remarkable collection of argumentative essays on the Atonement, the Present Unbelief, &c. The same firm also issue *Miscellaneous from the Writings of the Rev. Dr. Newman*, uniform with Dean Stanley's *Scripture Portraits*, a volume which is sure to be highly prized by all churchmen.

Messrs. Rivington & Co. issue the complete volume, the 8th, of Williams' devotional commentary on the Gospel narrative, being *A Harmony of the Four Evangelists*; an important work of the Rev. Dr. Blunt, *A Plain Account of the English Bible*, useful just now, while the revision of the Scriptures is being agitated; the 3rd series of Leathes' Boyle Lectures on *The Witness of St. John to Christ*; and MacCall's *Ammergau Passion Play*, reprinted from the *Times*.

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. issue *The Golden Treasury Psalter*, being a students' edition, with brief notes, of the *Psalms* chronologically arranged, by Four Friends: Ainger's *Sermons*, preached in the Temple Church; also Vaughan's *Eight Lectures*, delivered in the Temple Church, on *Christ satisfying the instincts of Humanity*; and Moorhouse's *Sermons on Jacob*, preached at Cambridge during Lent, 1870.

Messrs. Chapman & Hall issue an interesting volume to the admirers of Thomas Carlyle, which has gone into a second edition at once, viz.—*Passages selected from the Writings of T. Carlyle*, by Thos. Ballantyne. The passages are judiciously selected and the work is well arranged, and, we may add, approved by the author.

THE EDUCATION OFFICE BOOK DEPOSITORY.

To the Editor of THE CANADA BOOKSELLER.

SIR,

Permit me, as one of the trade, to thank you for the spirited manner in which you have exposed the rottenness and injustice of what you fittingly designate the "Government Book Shop," and to solicit space in your columns for a few remarks in relation thereto.

Though the people of the Province of Ontario are proud of the educational facilities of the country, and, on the whole, are satisfied with the system and machinery of the Education Department, there is no doubt that there is a wide-spread and deeply-rooted conviction that, whatever may have been its necessity many years ago, there is now no use for that appendage of the Education Office,—the Book Depository and Salesroom.

That this is not the opinion merely of a stray theorist, or an interested bookseller, the agitation in the Press in various parts of the country, as well as the expressed views of Members of the Local Parliament in the House last session attest.

The country has now grown out of its cradled infancy, and the state of the Provincial exchequer happily tells a tale of wealth and plenty. Hence, while this is the case, that an establishment should continue to exist, so injurious to an important trade in the country, and, in its working, so insidiously pauperising of the people, is, to say the least of it, highly objectionable.

The system of giving aid by government grants, to even poor and necessitous people, is often deleterious, and, at least, questionable; but a system of granting a 100 per cent. bonus, from the public purse, to wealthy townships and still wealthier towns, for the purchase of text and prize books for school and holiday use in their districts, and for which the purchasers are well able fully to pay, is a measure that must prove fatal to the growth of all self-respect in the people, and of that spirit of independence which is the pride of a nation. The first sacred and social duty of the citizen, who rears a family, is its proper and liberal education, as far as

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