

idea struck Wm. Drysdale & Co., of Montreal, so favorably that they purchased 250 copies and distributed them amongst their customers. They say that it proved to be on excellent trade stimulator, and an increase in the sale of some books could be traced to this source.

#### AN AGED CANADIAN AUTHORESS

Every Canadian bookman will appreciate the plan now being put forward on behalf of Mrs. Traill, the most venerable and one of the most distinguished of living Canadian writers. Mrs. Catharine Parr Traill, now in the 97th year of her age, lives at Lakefield, near Peterboro'. She was the daughter of Thomas Strickland, and a descendant of Catharine Parr, the sixth wife of Henry the Eighth. In 1832 she married a retired army officer, and emigrated to Canada. She wrote her first book at the age of 15, and her last when 93 years old. Her principal works are: "The Young Emigrant," "Sketches from Nature," "The Backwoods of Canada," "A Peep into Canadian Forests," "A Guide for Female Emigrants," "Studies of Plant Life in Canada," "Pearls and Pebbles," and her last, "Cot and Cradle Stories." She has never had a large income, and lately the bad investments of her agent have reduced her means so that now, in her old age, she is deprived of the comforts of life. Sir Sandford Fleming and a committee have in charge a movement to raise a fund to make the remaining years of her life comfortable. Mrs. Traill has done good work for Canada, and her countrymen will forever bear the stigma of ingratitude if they do not respond to the appeal now being made. When the private subscriptions are taken, the Ontario and Dominion Governments should supplement the amount raised by sums sufficient to relieve Mrs. Traill of poverty during the rest of her life.

#### MR. HOWLAND ON COPYRIGHT.

Mr. Oliver Howland, the well-known barrister and author, has contributed to The Toronto News a valuable paper on copyright. He points out that Canadian writers will find, as English writers have found, that the publishers are likely to be the most

effectual force in obtaining a strong copyright law. As to the Herschell bill, now going through the Imperial Parliament, Mr. Howland shows conclusively, as we think, that the spirit of such legislation is on all fours with the British legislation that produced the revolution of the American colonies—unwise, unwarranted and mischievous. In Canada we are the loyal subjects of the Queen, but not the subjects of the Queen's subjects. And if the English publishers can just their own views of copyright on Canada, the ultimate results can only be evil. Mr. Howland has initiated

is to know what our Government intends to do. Will it shamble along with its feeble protests and gruesome complaints at being stirred up, or will it act promptly and effectually?

Our advice to the Canadian Copyright Association is to act on Mr. Howland's hints and seek the active cooperation of all Canadian authors and Canadians who hope to be authors. The latter class is especially numerous. They will bombard the press with articles, and, if the Copyright Association will recruit its ranks from among the authors and would-be authors, it will add to

its fighting strength some effective weapons of war.

A decent interval, of course, must be allowed in order to see what the Ministers at Ottawa can, or will, accomplish. There are several Ministers now in England, and we ought soon to know what understanding they have arrived at with the Imperial authorities. Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a rather unfortunate remark when he said in Parliament last session that the Canadian Copyright Association had not been successful in enlisting much general public sympathy on their side. What on earth has that to do with it, if the merits of the case point their way? Copyright is an intricate question, like the metric system, or any other reform. The mere fact that the general public is too indolent to master the principle is no reason why it should be neglected by the Government. If the Copyright Association is in earnest, as it is believed to be, the agitation should be kept up until the end sought for is attained. Mr. Robertson, M.P., is not a man easily daunted or driven from a position he has deliberately taken up, and, as long as he

wields his parliamentary influence, combined with the advocacy of his powerful newspaper, the cause of copyright is not on the down grade.

The English publishers need not be alarmed. The growth of a publishing interest here would be a good thing for some of their books which do not circulate in Canada because they are not pushed, and do not circulate in the States because they do not suit the market. The Canadian book market can never be seriously exploited until Canadian houses do it themselves.



CATHARINE PARR TRAILL.

an important departure in the copyright discussion by appealing to Canadian authors, who ought long ago to have realized that the building up of a financially strong publishing trade here will inure to their benefit. A Canadian publisher, who has lately returned from London, and whose views are quoted elsewhere, believes that the English publishers think they can block any Canadian copyright law. Even Mr. Hall Caine's agreement is questioned. Well, we shall see. The point which is of present interest