

This, we fear, is unavoidable. It is not covered by an agreement as to selling, because you can't dictate to a dealer as to how he shall deliver his goods. The same thing also applies to a case where two books are offered, one an Annual, the cut being on the other. If the retail dealer chooses to continue cutting in this way it is hard to stop him. If he can't or won't see that it's to his interest not to cut on any book, no agreement in the world will hold him.

What strikes us forcibly is that the booksellers should give hearty encouragement to every honest attempt to maintain prices at a paying basis. The department stores, remember, are large customers and pay cash. The publisher, or wholesaler in any line, is understood to be human like the rest of us, and if he can't get the trade throughout the country generally to buy as largely as he can sell to department stores, how long do you think he will keep up the patriotic line of only selling to you so as to save you the cutting of the big stores? Not long enough to let his hair grow grey.

NOTES FROM HALIFAX.

The holiday trade has opened well in Halifax, dealers all reporting a good business. Messrs. Patillo & Co., of Truro, are having a "Sacrifice" sale to the trade of novelties, stationery, etc.

Messrs. T. C. Allen & Co., booksellers and stationers, have added two new Prouty presses to their printing plant, and will have their machinery driven by electricity.

Thomas Connolly, bookseller and stationer, has removed from Barrington street to Gottingen street, at north end of the city.

J. A. McKenzie & Co., booksellers and stationers, Sydney, C.B., are seeking a compromise. They offer to pay 50c. on the dollar, in four payments of 12½c. each, at 4, 8 and 12 months. Their liabilities are placed at \$14,000 and nominal assets at \$9,500.

FELLOW TRAVELERS.

By Graham Travers. Toronto News Co. Graham Travers is the name of the lady who wrote "Mona Maclean, Medical Student." It was an instant success, indicating, as it did, a wide knowledge of human nature, a sense of humor, and a ready power for constructing a plot. The five tales in this volume give evidence of much the same skill. There is no dull writing in the stories, which appeal to the better instincts, rather than the mere desire to kill time with a little light fiction.

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED.

A LOYAL LITTLE MAID.—By Edith Robinson. Cloth, 50c. Joseph Knight Co., Boston. A dainty little gift book for the season. The story, a slight one, is an episode of Washington and the American Revolution, and has much human interest. The drawings and artistic binding will be much liked.

THE YOUNG PEARL DIVERS.—By Lieut. Whitmarsh. Cloth; illustrated. Joseph Knight Co., Boston. A stirring story of adventures in Australia and the seas about with the flavor of danger to make it attractive to boyish tastes.

MY FRIEND KATHLEEN.—By Jennie Chappell. Cloth, illustrated. Copp, Clark Co., Toronto. Blackie, London. Two girls become friends, and Kathleen undergoes a number of adventures. Eventually they prove to be sisters and heiresses to a fortune. The end is happy. It is a bright book.

A MAN'S VALUE TO SOCIETY.—By Newell Dwight Hillis. Cloth, \$1.25. Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto. This book is a series of papers called studies in self-culture and character. They are vigorous essays upon the moral and physical qualities of man in his relations to the community. It is the product of a trenchant pen, a keen intellect and a well-stored memory. A book to be read from start to finish.

MAHEL GRAY AND OTHER POEMS.—By Lyman C. Smith. Cloth. Wm. Briggs, Toronto. These are verses of a poetic though not ambitious strain. "Mabel Gray" is a love tale in smooth rhymes, and the short pieces in the little volume are always full of a pleasing sentiment often prettily expressed. Here are two stanzas from some lines on "Thoughtlessness":

A rosebud in a sunbeam's arms
In sweet repose was sleeping.
Its tiny face, with cheek of pink,
From hood of green was peeping.
The sunbeam gazed upon the rose,
And fondly he caressed it,
But bruised its tender lip, as he
With kiss too ardent pressed it.

The lines entitled "Address to a Mummy Cat," reminiscent of James Smith's Egyptian mummy, have a humor quite equal to that:

Didst thou survive to honored age,
And cats around thee crowd to hear
The triumphs great of thy career,
Then go, inspired by deeds of fame
To strive to win as great a name.

Quite likely. This is an original explanation of many moonlight seances on the back fence. The publisher has bound the book tastefully, and it makes a nice gift volume for this season.

THREE CHILDREN OF GALILEE.—By John Gordon. Cloth; profusely illustrated. Joseph Knight Co., Boston. This is a life of Christ for young people. It is entirely in

simple narrative form, and is based on the sacred records with a touch of modern setting. On the whole, a desirable book for the Christmas time and likely to find many readers.

THE GOLDEN DOG.—By William Kirby, F.R.S.C. Cloth; Joseph Knight Co., Boston. This is really a beautiful edition of Mr. Kirby's famous book. The illustrations are very fine, including a portrait of La Pompadour, a lovely view of Quebec, etc. Canadians who have lately been enjoying Gilbert Parker's "Seats of the Mighty" will be in the mood to read another story of Quebec in the days of the Intendant Bigot. The legend of the chien d'or has been treated in the most artistic way in Mr. Kirby's romance, and no Canadian who professes to keep abreast of the best native writing should be without the book.

THROUGH FIRE AND FLOOD.—By F. B. Meyer, B.A. Cloth, 50c. Fleming H. Revell Co. This little book comprises eleven helpful practical addresses on various problems and temptations of daily life.

MANUAL OF THE LAW OF LANDLORD AND TENANT.—By R. E. Kingsford, M.A., LL.B. Cloth, \$1. Carswell Co., Ltd., Toronto. This useful law manual is for Ontario, and Mr. Kingsford has not only kept his eye on the legal profession in writing it, but has made the book lucid to the lay mind. To property owners and tenants, especially those in the country who are not afraid of the sneer about the man who is his own lawyer "having a fool for his client," the book will often save legal expenses. It is a very complete synopsis of the whole subject by a thoroughly competent hand. The forms and covenants, according to the terms of the Short Forms Act, are given in the appendix.

A. J. GORDON: A BIOGRAPHY.—By Ernest B. Gordon. Cloth, \$1.50. Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto. This is the second edition of a life of the distinguished New England Congregational minister, who is well-known for his writings as well as his career in the religious world. The book is a most entertaining one, giving a well-drawn picture of the Eastern States during the past half-century, and the labors of an able, earnest man.

VIOLET VEREKER'S VANITY and A GIRL'S LOYALTY.—By Annie E. Armstrong and Frances E. Armstrong respectively. Cloth; London, Blackie, and Copp, Clark Co., Ltd., Toronto. These two books are capital tales of young English girl life in the middle class of society. The plots are highly interesting and the tone wholesome. The books are bound exactly to suit the Christmas season and make the nicest gifts for girls of any age.