

THE Bookseller and Stationer

Vol. XIX.

MONTREAL AND TORONTO, CANADA, AUGUST, 1903.

No. 8.

CURRENT TOPICS.

A GREAT deal of complaint is at times heard from that portion of the community which prides itself on its imperialistic sentiment, regarding the immense preponderance of United States periodical literature which enters this country over British publications. This may be due in

*British
Periodical
Literature.*

part to the existing postal arrangements which act as a barrier to British matter. But the propinquity of the United States must also be taken into consideration. Canadians are much more familiar with United States publications, because they are near their place of origin. Were we to become as familiar with British periodicals, the difference in the postal rate would have much less effect. We take it, that if our booksellers would make an effort to introduce more British magazines and weekly papers, these publications would be appreciated by Canadian readers as soon as their merits became known to them. As an instance, how many Canadians are acquainted with, say, *The English Bookman*? It is an admirable monthly literary production, which, once read, is ever after prized and preserved. Its pages are filled with valuable illustrations and no less valuable reading matter. Few people in this country are aware of its existence. The same may be said of many more British periodicals. To remedy the postal grievances effectually there must be a demand for British matter and the demand can only be occasioned by an appreciation of the merits of British productions.

FROM the publisher's standpoint, the month that has passed has been a quiet one. Few new books of any importance have appeared, and activities have been directed towards supplying the retail trade and getting out paper editions of popular works. The retailer has found July

*July Book
Trade.*

a good month, and much current literature has been disposed of. As was predicted in these columns, "Gordon Keith," by Thomas Nelson Page, has advanced to first place in the Canadian selling list, and has received a well-deserved popularity. The other popular books of the month include "Lady's Rose's Daughter," "The Banner of Blue," "The Virginian" and the older favorites, "Lovey Mary" and "Letters of a Self-made Merchant." A demand from Quebec and Eastern Canada—no doubt attributable to the influx of Summer tourists—has been noted for the works of Parker, Roberts and the other novelists who have made a study of that region. Parker's "Right of Way" and "Seats of the

Mighty" exhibit renewed popularity. It is as yet too early to make statements with regard to the Fall trade. The special number of *THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER*, to be published next month, will contain full announcements.

ON the 13th inst. Professor Goldwin Smith, of Toronto, completes his eightieth year. Canadians from ocean to ocean will note this event with deep and earnest respect. Though Professor Smith's opinions on many subjects have been at variance with those of certain of his fellow-countrymen, there are few who fail to respect him or who deny him place as the most distinguished litterateur in Canada at the present day. His energy, his learning and his courtesy are three attributes which have made him a great man and have won for him the esteem and honor of his fellow-countrymen. It was a distinct compliment to Canada that Professor Smith should have selected this country as his place of residence and Canadians should not be slow in showing their appreciation, not only of his presence but of his influence.

A SUIT of much interest to Canadian booksellers and stationers has recently been settled by a judgment of the Privy Council in England. It was the case of Henry Graves & Co. v. Gorrie. The plaintiffs are the registered owners of the copyright of the well-known picture "What we Have We'll Hold." They acquired no copyright in Canada. The defendant published the picture in Canada without securing any license from the plaintiffs. The latter held this to be an infringement of their copyright. The case was first heard in the High Court of Ontario and the plaintiffs' application for an injunction was dismissed with costs. Appeals to the Divisional Court and the Court of Appeal met with no better fate and the case was carried to the Privy Council. There the judgment of the Canadian court was upheld. This practically means that so far as paintings, drawings and photographs are concerned, the English copyright law does not apply in Canada, but that if an English publisher wishes to protect his works here he must register under the Canadian law. From the imperial point of view this judgment is a distinct blow to those who are looking for a copyright law for the whole Empire. On the other hand, many Canadians are inclined to view it as most beneficial to Canada, giving us a freer hand in regard to copyright matters.