

3. SEPARATE SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

To the Editor of the Canadian Post, Lindsay:

SIR,—There are no Separate School Libraries in the Province of Ontario. The 20,594 Catholic children attending the Separate Schools have no books to read. The 50,000 Catholic children attending the Common Schools are practically on the same footing. The Common School libraries not being such as to recommend themselves to Catholics, much less the *Sunday School* libraries. There are 2,202 Sunday School libraries, containing 326,937 volumes, purchased at one hundred per cent. The total number of Public Libraries is 3,656 with 728,227 volumes, value, \$127,474.

The public money goes at the rate of 100 per cent. on sums raised by local authority for the purchase of those libraries. About one-sixth of the population is Catholic. The Annual Report shows one in six of the School children Catholics. It does not show and indeed it would be hard to find out what proportion of the money invested in Sunday School and Public Libraries, is drawn from the Catholic minority. The amount must be large, and I am sure the publication of even approximate estimates would tend to awaken interest in this matter. However, one thing is clear, that no money public or private, is employed for the purchase of Sunday School libraries for Catholic children or for Separate School libraries. There is not one Separate School library in the Province, at least the Annual Report says so.

No one finds fault with the expenditure on Common School libraries; on the contrary, every man who takes an interest in the progress and advancement of the country and the development and cultivation of the intelligence of its youth, must admit the usefulness, the necessity even, of a well-chosen supply of good reading accessible to all. But this supply does not exist for Catholics. The books in the Common School libraries are chosen with a view to suit the tastes and wishes and sentiments of the majority. They are not palpable to Roman Catholics, and will not be read by them.

The enquiry I wish now to make is, why do not the Trustees of Roman Catholic Schools purchase libraries to suit the tastes and wants of their children. They have the same rights and privileges as the Common School Trustees have, and further they have the same duties. "It shall be the duty of the Roman Catholic Separate School Trustees of every city, town and village respectively, * * * do whatever they may judge expedient * * * for establishing and maintaining School libraries."—*Seventy-ninth Sec. C. S. Act.*

There is constantly on hand at the Department a supply of suitable books, for sale at half-price, so they have no excuse.

As to the 50,000 R. C. children in the Common Schools, they also can be supplied in the same way as they are, in some places, already supplied with prize books. In certain School Sections the Common School Trustees, in sending to the Department for prizes, ask for books suitable for each class and receive them in separate parcels. Could the same thing not be done in the matter of libraries?

H. C. H.

II. Papers on the Book Trade of Canada.

1. THE TORONTO BOOK TRADE.

The houses in this department of trade report a large increase of business during the year, especially in books. British publications continue to take the lead in the market. The importation of American books, which have been chiefly reprints of English works, does not increase, and is likely to become less under the operation of the Dominion Copyright Act of last Session, which secures for English works produced in Canada the privilege of protection from American imitations. The English mania for a certain class of cheap publications has greatly subsided, the predominant taste being now for neat, inexpensive editions of the more popular standard works. This wholesome change has been to some extent reflected here, and a considerable trade in shilling editions has been done during the year. American publishers have faint hope of competing in this direction, as similar works of their print would cost no less than sixty cents. The expiry of numerous copyrights of English standard works has occasioned their re-issue at reduced rates, and thereby greatly increase their sale. The magazine and periodical trade is largely on the increase, and both the English and American press teem with new and old issues in this line. The new series of reading books still remains in use, which with some others added to the list, are the work of our own publishers, who have now completed their arrangements to produce the whole of their series in this country. There is no reason why the greater part of the school books used should not be of native production.

In fact the book and stationery trade during the year 1869 has been marked with a spirit of enterprise and progression, from which we augur future and permanent success.—*Globe.*

2. THE TORONTO BOOK TRADE.

This important branch of trade continues each year to show a marked and steady advance in the country; and it is a gratifying feature to the educationist and legislator, as well as to every one who is interested in the intellectual progress of the people, that there exists an increasing desire for reading among the masses and an improved and more wholesome taste in the selection and character of that reading.

As education extends, and the character, reputation and facilities of our importing book houses advance—for the book houses are educators of the people—so must the taste and habits of reading increase; and it is a matter of no little satisfaction to find that these houses which are engaged in the business—or we might almost say the profession of book importing—are of such a high class as to have, in no little degree, influenced and elevated the character of the reading matter current in the country, and have done much towards supplanting the pernicious literature in vogue amongst the people in former years, by a more healthy, wholesome and instructive literature, which is most noticeably popular now.

While saying this much for our native booksellers, of course, it is also due to the British and American publishers to acknowledge the efforts made by them to improve and make attractive and interesting, as well as (which is an important matter) to *cheapen* the issues of the press in these days. Certainly, at no former era of our literature has there been so prolific an issue of good entertaining and instructive reading. Our standard authors have been cheapened and brought within the reach of all. Science and abstruse subjects have been popularized. Politics, history, &c., has narrated its story. Travel and exploration have brought their treasures to the press—while the thoughtful toiling mind has been working to extend thought and knowledge wherever the enterprise or speculation of the publisher has been met with. In the busy producing centres of the trade, our native houses have not been indifferent frequenters; but have been in the past year, as the statistics of the year's importation in books show, heavy and constant buyers, and the new warerooms and enlarged premises of our importers evidence the steady growth of the trade of this year.

One feature in the progress of the book trade of 1869 we cannot close without alluding to—that is the inauguration of the trade sale, an institution having many advantages to the country dealers, which the enterprise of Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co. suggested and carried successfully out in September last, and which this firm promises to repeat annually.—*Telegraph.*

3. BOOK IMPORTS INTO ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

The following statistical table has been compiled from the "Trade and Navigation Returns" for the years specified, showing the gross value of books (not maps or school apparatus) imported into Ontario and Quebec.

YEAR.	Value of Books entered at Ports in the Province of Quebec.	Value of Books entered at Ports in the Province of Ontario.	Total value of Books imported into the two Provinces.	Proportion imported for the Education Department of Ontario.
1850.....	\$101,880	\$141,700	\$243,580	884
1851.....	120,700	171,732	292,432	3,296
1852.....	141,176	159,268	300,444	1,288
1853.....	158,700	254,280	412,980	22,764
1854.....	171,452	307,808	479,260	44,060
1855.....	194,356	338,792	533,148	25,624
1856.....	208,636	427,992	636,628	10,208
1857.....	224,400	309,172	533,572	16,028
1858.....	171,255	191,942	363,197	10,692
1859.....	139,057	184,304	323,361	5,308
1860.....	155,604	262,504	408,108	8,846
1861.....	185,612	344,621	530,233	7,782
1862.....	183,987	249,234	433,221	7,800
1863.....	184,652	276,673	461,325	4,085
1/2 of 1864.....	93,308	127,233	220,541	4,668
1864-5.....	189,386	200,304	389,690	9,522
1865-6.....	222,559	247,749	470,308	14,749
1866-7.....	233,837	273,615	507,452	20,743
1867-8.....	*224,582	*254,048	478,630	12,374
1868-9.....	278,914	373,758	652,672	11,874

* Estimate.