

**RAILWAY BOOKSTALLS.**—Almost at the same time as the recent debates in Parliament was taking place whether Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son were to enjoy the liberty of managing their own business as they thought proper, the French Tribunal of Commerce were engaged in trying a similar question. Messrs. Hachotte et Cie., who have the railway bookstalls in France, considered themselves at liberty to refuse to sell certain books. The grounds for their objection seem to us outside the question, although we believe they thought it necessary to state reasons in their pleadings. The Tribunal affirmed the right which they claimed, nor do we see how it could have done otherwise. That booksellers, whether in a large or small way of business, should be debarred the right enjoyed by other traders of deciding for themselves what goods they will deal in, would be infamous if it were not absurd.—*The Bookseller*.

**THE LONDON OF TO-DAY.**—We speak of the rapid changes in our American cities, but nothing like the changes of London can exist with us. Growth is not a change of this kind. Paris alone, in certain respects, can show such meta-morphoses as London. But on the whole, Paris, as I saw it at this first visit to the Old World, was more like the Paris one sees now than was London of 1850 like the London of to-day. The mere question of growth is a minor matter. London was not the metropolis of the world in 1850, and now it is. Then it was only a huge provincial town, The Londoner in general measured nothing but himself, and nobody came to London for anything but hardware, good walking-boots, saddles, etc.; now it is the *entrepot* of the civilized world. The World's Fair of 1851 and succeeding similar displays of what cosmopolite industry can do, the common arrival of ocean steamers, rare at the time I am writing of, have changed the entire character of London life and business and the tone of its society. It is not merely in the fact that 48,000 houses were built in the capital in the last year, or that you find colonies of French, Italians, Russians, Greeks in it, but that the houses are no longer what they were, inside or out, and thus the foreigner is an assimilated ingredient in its philosophy. All this has come since 1850.—*W. J. Stillman in May Atlantic*.

**SCRAP BOOKS.**—The pleasure afforded by the miscellaneous page of reading matter in a well-appointed newspaper, ought to induce more people to prepare careful scrap-books for delectation in leisure hours. A really good scrap-book is a treasure. It is not always one wishes to attack a book, and there are times when the collection of odds and ends of curious and interesting matter, ranging from gay to grave, from lively to severe, exactly meets the craving of the mind. A skillfully prepared scrap-book of the best poems floating around in the papers and magazines has long been a desideratum, and it would be possible to have one with two departments; one solely devoted to choice poetry. In this way one may make a literary collection to suit one's individual taste, and preserve a fine fund of varied writing, that would otherwise disappear in the great ocean of print. How constantly we regret the loss of some poem or prose article that on our first acquaintance with it gave signal pleasure or the precise information we

desired to have. Young persons ought to be encouraged to make scrap-books, and old persons should find them alike entertaining and useful. Managing housewives do endeavour to collect recipes of all kinds, but there are other printed utterances as well worth preserving as the art of pickling or the science of removing stains from domestic goods.—*British and Colonial Printer & Stationer*.

## BOOK NOTES.

**HIDDEN DEPTHS: A TALE FOR THE TIMES**, by F. M. E. SKENE, with an introduction by W. SHEPHERD ALLAN, M. P. Toronto, S. R. BRIGGS.

A powerful tale of a noble woman who, grievously disappointed in the man to whom she was engaged, and learning too of her own brother's base conduct in the treatment of one who trusted him, devoted her life to those poor deluded ones who suffered from men's treachery. The tale is vouched for as being only a too true leaf from nature's book. Of the book the *Literary World* says: "The author writes with rare delicacy and tenderness, and the fact of her moderation will enhance the value of her earnest Christian appeal on behalf of the erring. The story is admirably planned, and the style refined, yet rigorous." The book has had a very large sale in England, and the Canadian publisher had to cable the other day for another supply.

The same publisher will shortly issue a cheap edition of Canon Wilberforce's "The Trinity of Evil," with an Introduction by Hon. S. H. Blake. Also, "Recent Events and a Clue to their Solution," by the Right Hon. Robert Montague, whose name has of late been brought prominently before the people by the publishing of letters that passed between him and a high dignitary of the Roman Catholic Church.

**FATHER CHINIQUY'S FIFTY YEARS IN THE CHURCH OF ROME**, formerly announced, is now ready.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL HISTORY OF ENGLAND AND CANADA.** Edited by G. Mercer Adam and W. J. Robertson, B.A., LL.B. Toronto, THE COPP, CLARK CO.

A carefully prepared work, well fitted for the introduction to youth of our nation's history. The compactness of the book does not detract from its literary excellence, while its simple language makes it easily comprehensible.

**Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.**—Announce the Riverside Paper Series for Summer reading, comprising such authors as Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Scudder, Mrs. Whitney, Holmes, Aldrich, and Howells. Last season's issue was so successful as to warrant the continuance, now announced.

**IN PRIMROSE TIME; A NEW IRISH GARLAND.** A new book of Poems, by Mrs. S. M. B. Pratt.

**THE WIND OF DESTINY**, by Professor Hardy, author of "But Yet a Woman," is issued by the same house. They also publish "The Transfiguration of Christ," by Rev. F. W. Gannausulus, "a book of positive value and freshness on this topic."