

CANADIAN PULP AND PAPER MILLS.

MR. J. D. Rolland, president of the Rolland Paper Co., of Montreal, is just now in England upon matters of a city character in connection with Montreal finance; but happening to pass Shoe Lake, he called at our office on Monday last, says the Paper Trade Review. Our first question was: How about the Canadian Paper Trust?

Said Mr. Rolland: "He was not personally interested so much in it as very many of the mills, for his company only manufactured loft-dried writing papers and fine book papers, of which they had just completed a new sample book."

"Concerning the prospects of the proposed Trust?"

"The steps taken at present may be looked upon as preliminary, being more an effort to unite proprietors of the mills and concentrating their ideas, bringing them down to a crisp, solid and all-important reasonable working basis, for negotiations."

"As regards the actual progress," continued Mr. Rolland, "the mills making brown and manilla had come to an understanding as to price of selling, and are worked harmoniously at rates which are reasonable to the consumer."

"On the other hand, the mills running on news and book papers, of which there are about a dozen, have not yet settled as to price, and competition continues to be excessively keen. The Eddy Paper Co., of Hull, near Ottawa, and the Royal Pulp Mills, have increased their output considerably, thus tending to still further depress prices, a factor which may have an important influence in causing an early decision as to a combination price."

"And the outlook?"

"It is evident to the commercial mind that these new mills cannot be making much profit, therefore as soon as all are united as to the selling price, it will be easier for the proposed paper trust to negotiate."

Enquiring as to the welfare of some of the mills in Ontario we heard that the Toronto Paper Manufacturing Co., of which Mr. John R. Barber is president, a gentleman, who, through his energy in carrying the mill through even the most troublesome times withoutmost safety, is running full time and maintains its reputation."

"The Napanee Paper Co., are producing a very good quality of cheap news, and their capital location helps them in trade."

"The operations of the Eddy Manufacturing Co., Ltd., are looked upon very critically by their opponents, now that they have two machines, both eighty-four inches. The general excellence of the quality of their output affects some smaller mills very seriously."

"The Canada Paper Co., Ltd., are a strong concern, making a good grade of news and book, and run four machines."

Concerning the Rolland Paper Co., Mr. Rolland was naturally very quiet, but it transpired, after some pressing, that "the company were contented with their prospects. During the summer the mill had been extended, additions being made to the loft drying and finishing departments, two new super calenders having lately been put in."

Mr. Rolland spoke very well of the work done by, and value of, refining engines, and he was not surprised at their steady introduction into this country for they are most economical in use.

"How are our friends, Messrs. Buntin & Co.?"

"The firm of Alexander Buntin & Co. is

a good old-established house, and lately they have made some additions as to their machinery. They have two wide Fourdrinier machines, running chiefly on news and book papers."

Reverting to the pulp trade Mr. Rolland said: "A great deal of chemical pulp is shipped to the States by the Eddy Co., the Royal Pulp Co., and the Chatham Co., but the manufacturers of ground wood pulp are in a depressed condition, and there is a feeling that efforts must be made to stimulate the Government to put an exportation tax on wood shipped to the United States, as American pulp producers are buying large quantities, which naturally tends to be detrimental to the manufacturing interests of the trade of the Dominion. Advanced men in the trade speak very strongly upon this question, and are likely to make united efforts before long to get remedial measures carried, and in this movement they will have the good will of the whole Dominion."

"The largest chemical pulp mill is that of the Maritime Chemical Pulp Co., Ltd., who are one of the principal exporters of chemical fibre; they produce a pulp of very good quality. The shipments are mostly to the New England mills of U.S.A."

WHITTIER AND TENNYSON.

William J. Fowler, in the December Arena, offers some thoughts on the resemblances and still more important differences between Whittier and Tennyson. Tennyson had more of the sense of melody that may be thought essential in a poet; yet it sometimes seems as if this advantage had been turned to loss and that his fancy was the slave of the melody he loved to make. Much of his poetry seems the play of a dilettante. On the other hand, Whittier's work is all characterized by intense earnestness, even the lightest touch of his fancy bearing earnest purpose; and this atones in the eyes of the masses for artistic defects. There is a good deal of "art for art's sake" in Tennyson; but Whittier's art is all for use.

Before the death of Hallam, Tennyson was full of noble aspirations and hopes. He was in step with the progressive spirit of the time. But that death came as a pall to his hopes. He lost step with his time and became morbid. Whittier's career shows how surely spiritual strength grows by use and exercise. Early in life he took upon himself the burdens of an oppressed race, and as life advanced his sympathies broadened. Tennyson vainly sought perfect comfort for his personal bereavements. Whittier found happiness under far heavier burdens. Tennyson, too, acknowledged the idea of self-effacement; but while Tennyson sang, Whittier realized it in his work.

The lesson of these contrasted lives is that there is no consolation for sorrowing hearts like work, especially work that helps mankind. It is not alone that work absorbs the faculties; a thrill of keenest exaltation rightly belongs to all who contribute in smaller or greater measure to the happiness of humanity. "Revery is not sacrifice. Introspection, if carried to extremes, is morbid and injurious. But in working for human welfare, the highest energies of the soul may be employed without waste or loss of power. No rust can corrode a life based on love for one's fellowmen."

"The world will never outgrow Whittier's thought, because it is based on pure

love for mankind." But England has already outgrown much that Tennyson lived for. He will not be a teacher of future generations; his lines will be grateful as expressing, in beautiful language, ideas that the world is outgrowing.—Weekly Review.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NOVEL.

"Figures given by a trade journal" writes Richard N. Titherington in Munsey's Magazine for December, show that of 4,665 books published in America last year, 1,105 were novels, of 5,706 books published in England, 1,216 were novels. *This one class was much more than twice as numerous as any other*; and a glance at the statistics for former years shows that its tendency has been toward a steady increase."

The novel is indeed the most characteristic form of contemporary literature. It is a form essentially modern, since the last century saw its birth. It is easier to recognize a novel than to give a definition of it. It may, perhaps, be characterized as a fictitious narrative founded on the human passions. Love is almost invariably, though not necessarily, its central motive. A considerable degree of length is a mechanical necessity, to differentiate it from that much older form, the short story.

The novel was created in England, and in the eighteenth century. Its development has been foreshadowed in various ways by the literary schools of Italy and Spain, whose monuments are the Decameron and Don Quixote, and it was partially paralleled in France by the productions of Lesage; but as far as time and place can be set by the birth of a new idea in literature, the honor of its paternity belongs most truly to the work of Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, and Tobias Smollett, during the decade between 1740 and 1750.

The first American novelist, in point of date, was probably Charles Brockden Browne; but it was Cooper who first gave to transatlantic fiction the flavor of the soil.

Mr. Titherington reviews briefly the literary careers of the English and American novelists, pointing out the salient features and characteristic tendencies of the work of each of them. "If a score of critics," he says, "were called upon to select the one most typical instance of the English novels *Vanity Fair*, would perhaps be named more frequently than any other." It is typical in its theme, characters, and keen satiric humor and constant under currents of didactic purpose. As to this last point—didactic purpose—it is remarked that the moral strain has run along the whole current of English fiction.

There has never been an English Zola. The French theory that bids literature be artistic only and never didactic, is squarely contradicted by every great English novel. Of course, admits Mr. Titherington, there have been variations in the moral level. Excess produces reaction, and the studied refinement of Richardson brings out a protest in the coarser tones of Fielding and Smollett.

George Eliot's "Romola" it is said, is regarded by some good critics as the first novel of this century. Coming to our own day, the greatest literary success recorded is Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the D'Urbervilles."—Weekly Review.