

even eight and nine months' credit which is allowed, subject in the long period of credit to many vicissitudes and mishaps in his customer's career.

As it affects the retailer it is clearly, too, an injustice and evil, as he, taking advantage of a long credit, buys often carelessly and assumes imprudent risks, which, had he before him the wholesome responsibility and check of a *short* credit, and an early payment of the goods purchased, he would not do. The system, moreover, makes him inactive and indifferent about turning over his stock, presuming that the day is distant when he will have to pay for the goods which he has no incitement to work off.

It further is objectionable in still extending the evil complained of, and in repeating between the retailer and *his customer* the careless indifference to obligations that is likely, under the system, to exist between the retailer and *his creditor*. We are glad, however, that now several of the trades in the country—the wholesale dry-goods, the grocery, and hardware merchants—are waking up to a sense of the impolicy and recklessness of the system, and are now shortening the credits formerly current; and our neighbours across the line most approvingly endorse their thirty days' credits.

We desire sincerely to see the Book Trade unite in following suit in this matter, and endeavour to effect a change which cannot but prove advantageous and satisfactory, both to wholesaler and retailer. The people have been taught a bad habit—a little firmness and common sense will effect much, however, in inaugurating a change. With shorter credits ruling, thousands of dollars and much anxiety to every business man would be annually saved, and, we are convinced, trade would be found more healthy, more active and far less discouraging and risky.

THE BOOK DEPOSITORY AT THE NORMAL SCHOOL.

We want to have as little as possible to say about this Institution. Its existence, however, is such a glaring injustice to the Book Trade of Canada, that we cannot but allude to it here; though, in doing so, we feel heartily ashamed that the existence of such a thing as a *Book-shop conducted by the Government of the country* should be more widely known through the columns of our serial. The fact is, the playing at shop, at this time of day, in one of the departments of the

Government of the Province, is a disgrace, and a discredit to it; and the appendage of such an institution to the educational machinery of the country is an *implied libel on the intelligence of the people*.

What but this is the natural inference of having such an establishment—and what but this, the natural interrogation: Is Canada so benighted that it requires its government to *run a RETAIL BOOK-SHOP* for the enlightenment of her people? Is there destitution North as well as South, necessitating an official Bureau for the dissemination of reading matter to the masses? What! do her people who boast of their intelligence, their institutions, the progress of their country—do they need a subsidized book-shop?—and her Legislators—do they who negotiated a consolidated Dominion for their several Provinces and with advanced thought, we believed, treated for territorial accessions, intercolonial railways, &c.,—do they have to *legislate for a Book store*? It is time this high farce was 'played out.' It is time that the Book trade of the country should be left to its legitimate dealers, who, surely, have facilities enough and are intelligent enough to transact all that appertains to their business. And as regards numbers and enterprise, are efficient enough to assume the small additional business conducted at so much expense to the country, by the Educational Depository.

The teachings of political science, the maxims of political economy;—above all, the common sense of the age cry out against such an institution. No subsidized monopoly, no state interference with trade, no embargo, no trammels on commerce—these are the maxims of the times. Away, then, with such an effete, antiquated notion! away with this useless and costly concern!—This reproach of mendicancy, this stigma of pauperism, sweep it out!

But possess us, why haven't we a Government Rag-shop—a Departmental Boot and Shoe Store—or a Bureau for the sale of Cottons and Calicoes? With equal reason, why haven't we these? Let the country be consistent!—and give us more of these depositories—depots for Maps and Mops—for Books and Brooms!

A highly creditable specimen of Canadian book manufacture has just reached us from the press of Mr. Lovell, of Montreal. We allude to Mr. Fenning's Taylor's "Lives of the Last Three Bishops appointed by the Crown for the Anglican Church of Canada." In paper, binding, and typography, the work is a model of excellence, while the literary character of the work is creditable to native talent.