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But some years ago about "casual advantages" and the perquisites of this Government Book-selling affair? Is it so that philanthropy, alone, characterizes the one, and greedy gain the other? But if so, how would it be were the tables turned? Come, let us know how would the "gain"-seeking be were the conductors of the Government Book-shop cut off from the monthly "pay list," and made to rely for their "bread and butter" on the profits of their bookselling concern, with no public purse to draw on for rent, salaries, and other expenses of their book-store? Pray, let us have no more taunts of the "gain" motive in the conduct of the book-business of the country from behind departmental pay rolls!

Now, let us see what the Depository officials "are bound to see" in connection with their duties in the Education Department, as set forth in the extract we have made. In this extract, as well as in a recent letter to a city paper from that "martyr to his error," the Chief Superintendent, in defence of this Government Book-shop, there is an arrogating of *quasi* duties, an assumption of national authority for the so-called public good, that no one having had any dealings with the Book Depository can suffer; and moreover, is more than any government or legislature would now sanction, were the duties arrogated by these officials "under assent." In fact, apart from public disapproval of the questionable practices indulged in by the Department, and the arrogation of literary censorship and dictatorship in morals and theology by its officials, that the whole institution has not been abolished long ago, with all its "condemned stores" and sectarian rubbish, is simply because the thing was *in existence*, and, like many other decayed institutions, is suffered to continue its lease of life out of respect for its connection with the Educational machinery of the country, and the conventional dislike to apply the "broom of reform" to even long existing evils.

But as to this business the Departmental officials are "bound to see" to—the supply of "the best and most extensive variety of good sound reading books." Will any one at all familiar with the stocks kept by our city booksellers and importers, or that are readily obtainable by any country dealer of the wholesale houses, and who knows what good sound reading books are—will any such hazard the statement that the teachers and superintendents of schools, aye and the professors, examiners, and even the highest educational functionary of the country, cannot get as good and as extensive a variety of "sound reading books" at the stores of our booksellers as they can find at the Government Depository? We apprehend, so far from any such statement being made, that hundreds of these teachers will state the reverse of this, and assert that for variety and comprehensiveness, particularly in the more important field of modern professional and general literature, the stocks of the leading city booksellers are more valuable and interesting than are the stocks of the Depository: while, in the matter of orders entrusted for execution, they are far more likely to get what they want,

and get that as cheaply and with less trouble, at the stores of the legitimate book-dealers than at the Depository's salesroom.

The truth is, this "amateur" bookselling by the officials of the Educational department, in the so-called public interest, is a grave trifling with the important duties entrusted to that department; and this hobby of bookselling, under an illegitimate educational guise, is so absurd in itself, and the concern so absurdly conducted, that it is no wonder that nothing but dissatisfaction is heard of from many who have had transactions with the establishment, and which must so occupy the time of the officials to reply to, that the duties proper to the Department of Education cannot but be indifferently attended to. And, alluding to this departmental correspondence in the way of replies to refractory and dissatisfied purchasers at the Depository, we may say that we have beside us some of these voluminous epistles, and which, as specimens of the art of "badgering" and "whipping-in," as well as evidence of direct interference in, and greedy snatching-up of orders destined to firms in 'the trade,' we may feel it our duty, in another number, to give publicity to.

As to the species of reasoning which figures at the head of our extract, and in reply thereto—we need hardly take space to say that it is quite illogical.

There is no necessity to attack the "Militia," or, since the *Journal* refers to the "Dock-yards" of the country—we ought to say the "War" and "Admiralty" departments for supplying uniforms, &c., &c.—for these articles are bought either by contract or by tender "from the trade," and are only supplied to the servants of the State and employees of the Government. These articles and the departmental stationery stores are *not* supplied to all and sundry like the prize and library books of the Depository. Were the Militia Department to undertake to uproot the business of the clothiers of the country, and supply civilian garments for all members of Associations, Mechanics' Institutes, &c., &c., and to bedeck the youth of the Dominion in pantaloons and pinafores, the case would be similar; but in the departments referred to, where the Government legitimately confine themselves "to providing for the wants which arise in the various branches of the public service," by limiting all supplies to the consumption of officers and employees of departments—no one can have a word to say. And, were the Government Book Depository, if it will play at bookselling, to confine its duty to legitimate operations, and provide simply an Educational Book-bureau, where specimens of school furniture, maps, apparatus and samples of books and libraries for professional and scholastic uses, may be seen, instead of doing the peddling, semi-religious "gift" book business they now do, the country would be saved a large annual outlay, the proper booksellers of the country would be relieved from an injurious monopoly, and ourselves saved an unpleasant task.