

that the Department would satisfactorily meet its wishes.

"In most cases, when a change of book takes place, even with notice, some loss is bound to take place or lose sale of books. When the public school geography was contemplated, I was out of the old ones and would tell my customers that a new one would be out beginning with the next term, but invariably they wanted the old one anyway.

"I would advocate a notice of at least a year to the booksellers and publishers only, the second half of the year through which to lessen stock of any book to be changed.

"Also, why change a book so often? The public school geography had a run of, say, 15 years and probably was needed, but the new French and Latin change was sprung on us all without notice and when my stock was particularly heavy; also the German, which is about ready.

"The old stock is of no use, for the teachers know of a new edition to be ready soon, but will not commence a class until it is ready.

"In the case of these last three text books, there was no reason why the change could not have taken place next year and notice given to us. A scholar, as a rule, would only use the above one year and be through with same and so would not feel any personal loss.

"I would be glad to help urge on the Department any changes you think best in order to provide a remedy.

"Yours truly,

"J. W. HAMLY."

MR. WILSON, OF SEAFORTH.

"In regard to the loss sustained by the trade on account of frequent changing of text books in our schools, it's an old sore and one very difficult to cure.

"The Department must maintain the prestige of our educational system, and not allow our boys and girls to be at a disadvantage through the use of inferior books. But, at the same time, they ought to deal fairly with both publishers and dealers.

"I do not think that a public announcement six months before the book is authorized would be at all satisfactory; in fact, that would, I think, simply aggravate the present situation. As I often find it, teachers get the information that a new book is coming out, whether from inspectors, educational journals or publishers, it does not matter, they get it, and the consequence is that (particularly in public schools) promotions in that subject cease, and no more books are purchased. They struggle on with what they have until the new book comes out, which in many cases entails a heavy loss on the dealers, although the trif-

ing cost to each individual pupil would have been doubly repaid by the regular work of the school continuing, each pupil supplied with the text book still in use.

"I think that if the Department mailed a confidential circular to each bookseller, wholesale and retail, in the Province, six months before the new book would be permitted, or secured a permanent space in THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER for the express purpose of announcing such changes, giving the name of book to be replaced, title of new book, publisher and price, when it may be used, and when it must be used, then, at the expiration of that six months, the inspectors and educational journals might announce that a new book was ready, and use of it would be compulsory after six months.

"This to my mind would be an improvement, although no doubt there will be objections to this plan. I give it for the purpose of encouraging discussion on the subject, trusting that some remedy may be found that will lessen the evil.

"Yours truly,

"ALAN, WILSON."

"Seaforth, October 23, 1900."

STRATTON & CO., OF PETERBOROUGH.

"Re changes in Ontario school text books, we might say that we do not see that we have any very serious complaints to make, as we have always found that the publishers have been willing to give us any information asked for in regard to forthcoming books.

"We think a great many of the losses are caused through carelessness. We would not be in favor of the Department publicly announcing the changes six months ahead of time, as it would, no doubt, interfere with the sale of the old books during that period.

"Yours truly,

"A. H. STRATTON & Co."

"Peterborough, October 31, 1900."

THE NEW WEBSTER'S.

The first Webster's International Dictionary was published 10 years ago, and, notwithstanding its completeness, the numbers of words and phrases which have since come into the English language render it necessary to make additions to it if it is to keep its name of the standard dictionary of the language.

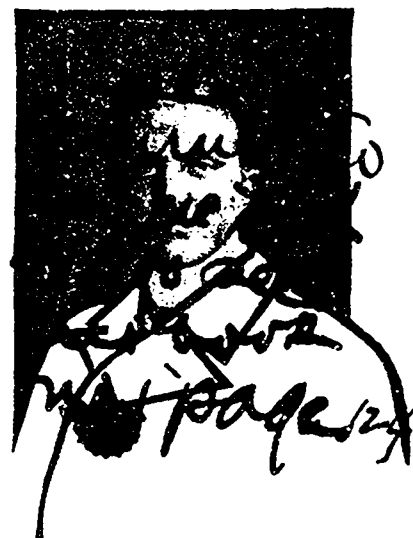
Accordingly, in the new edition there are 25,000 additional words, phrases and definitions, and the illustration plates have been renewed throughout. It retains all the excellencies of the old International, with several new ones. The ideas and principles are the same, and the scholarship and knowledge employed in producing the present edition surpasses even that of the first International.

NEW NOVEL BY A CANADIAN.

There are many historical romances in the fiction of to day, and all of them are not well done. "With Ring of Shield," by Mr. Knox Magee (Toronto: Geo. J. McLeod, cloth, \$1.25, paper, 75c.), is,

however, a novel of real dramatic power, entertaining, vivid and picturesque. It is a tale of the days of Richard Crookback, the last of the Yorkists. The fortunes of two knights, Sir Frederick Har-

leston and Sir Walter Bradley, are traced throughout the stormy reign of the bad king. Fate ordains that they champion the cause of King Edward's widow and her two sons, who ultimately fall into the hands of their murderer-uncle. Bradley is sent to the Tower. His escape is thrillingly told, but he and his lady-love fall into the hands of a bitter enemy, Catesby, one of Richard's creatures, and the persecutor of the Lady Hazel. The finale comes with the fight at Bosworth Field, the lovers are reunited, and the long peace that settles down on England at the accession of Henry VII inspires Bradley, in his old age, to



MR. KNOX MAGEE,
The new Canadian writer and author of
"With Ring of Shield."

recount to his sons the doughty deeds of his youth. It was the period of blood and iron, when the sword was seldom sheathed, and men in armor fought in the forests. Mr. Magee has evidently studied his materials with care before using them, and reproduced the terrible features of the time with vigor, but without repelling the reader. The author, who is a Canadian, has, in this, his first tale, given evidence of talent above the ordinary, and the novel is a strong and able piece of work for which, without exaggeration, a considerable success may be predicted.