

AMONG THE WHOLESALEERS.

THE book trade has been very good during October. Of course the volume of school books, exercise and scribbling books was not nearly so large as in the previous month, but for October it was satisfactory.

Stationery is quiet, except in fancy lines and in papetricks. There has been a small trade doing regularly, but no large proportions have been attained.

Fancy goods and notions have been more active than other lines, and no time is more suitable than the present for stocking up with leaders. This is due to the fact that nearly all import goods are shipped, and some of this stock remains on hand, with dealers who carry them only for import. Men have died or failed, and their orders are cancelled. The consequence is that these orders can be bought at reasonable and low prices, and the live dealer who is always looking for snags scores another point just at the proper period of the season's trade.

NOTES.

Nerlich & Co. are doing a good trade in music boxes. Some new novelties in these are introduced. They run in price from \$37 to \$75.

The Rosebud Annual for 1893, for which the Copp Clark Co. are sole agents for Canada, has sold well and the stock is depleted. They expect a strong demand for this book next year.

H. A. Nelson & Sons are doing a good all-round trade at present, fancy goods receiving somewhat strong attention.

The Barber & Ellis Co. have made a great run on gold pens this season. They have been selling an assortment for \$18, consisting of twelve different pens, with ebony, pearl and other handles. In fountain pens they are doing a good trade in Blair's and Holland's leading lines. Their fancy inkstands have also had good attention from buyers.

The Copp Clark Co. are showing a patent muelleage bottle of a nice shape and size and fitted with wiping blades, which remove the excess of muelleage from the brush as it is being drawn out for use. This bottle is called the Scientific. Among their large range of non-evaporating inkwells is Darke's Patent. In this bottle a very small quantity of ink is exposed to the air, and it consequently is always clean and fluid. When not in use the stopper may be slightly raised and the ink sinks out of sight. It is an excellent ink bottle. Their other patent ink wells are worthy of attention.

Nerlich & Co. are already making a strong bid for next season's rubber ball trade. They have secured the Phoenix Brand and are quoting close prices. Their range in this manufacture is increased this year by the addition of solid balls.

The artists' colors and materials of Reeves & Sons, London, Eng., are handled in this city by W. H. Jagger, 24 Front street west. The latest addition to this line of goods is Young's Fine Art Studies, which Reeves & Sons are now handling by special arrangement with Madame E. Vouga, of Geneva, Switzerland.

Messrs. Nerlich & Co. have secured a neat and attractive line of mechanical figures for store windows. Some run an hour, some twenty minutes.

These will prove interesting features for the holiday window dressing.

The Methodist Book Room has recently issued an edition of the Psalter and Hymnal in large type, thin paper, cloth binding, gilt stamp and red edges. It promises to be popular because of its cheapness and because of its large clear type and the use of figures instead of Roman numerals in numbering. The book is compact and neat in all particulars.

The Canada Paper Co. have issued samples of a new heavy blotting paper which they are now offering to the trade. It is called the Bank Blotting, and the absorbing qualities of the paper are excellent. They report a fair trade in all lines of papers, card-boards, etc.

Among the many beautiful designs which are invented to embellish the backs of playing cards there are some which are singularly attractive for elegance and artistic skill. These features are characteristic of the Texan cards which have just been imported by Warwick & Sons. There are two designs of this series called "The Lone Star," one of which shows a five-pointed star with radiating lines, and has an extremely pleasing appearance, the other is a diffusion of lance-shaped leaves, surrounding a coin, in the centre of which is the "lone star." The patterns are very neat and the enamelled paper is of a high-class grade.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Williamson Book Company make the following announcements for the immediate future:—By special arrangement the new volume of Lord Tennyson's "Akbar and Other Poems," containing his latest, and, as will be found, some of his finest work, will be issued in Toronto simultaneously with its publication in London and New York.

The same house will offer to the Canadian public a native work of exceptional brilliancy and versatility. The story is entitled "The Two Knap-sacks," and begins in Toronto with the starting out on a pedestrian tour of two bright youths, one a Toronto lawyer and the other a school teacher, from one of our leading institutions. What befell them on their journeyings, their conversations and adventures make up a tale of remarkable interest. When we say that their way led them into the wilds of Simcoe, over the blue mountains of Collingwood, that they had encounters with white key distillers and other outlaws, moonlight frays against the swamp angels, leading to the death of a noted detective and the capture of a notorious offender, it can be seen that there is good ground for an interesting book. The author, Cawdor Bell, has made the most of his subject.

At the request of many of the admirers of his literary gifts, Mr. Goldwin Smith has at last consented to the issue of an enlarged and illustrated edition of his "Translations from the Latin Poets," published some time ago under the name of "Bay Leaves," for private circulation only. One need only say that the privately issued copies have given delight to many friends.

The wider range of cultured readers now to be reached may look forward to a literary treat.

The same house have also the pleasure of introducing a native poet, whose work will worthily compare with the native bards already before our poetasters. Mr. J. Allister Currie's little volume, "A Quartette of Lovers," will be shortly ready. Mr. Currie, being a well-known member of the fourth estate, we commend his first attempt to his fellow workers and all others interested in the growth of literary taste in the Dominion.

THE GREAT STAR ALMANAC.

Before this issue of BOOKS AND NOTIONS reaches our readers the great Star Almanac and Year Book will be launched, and the great bulk of them, no doubt, disposed of. Although the first edition is fifty thousand copies, they are all bespoken before the first number reaches the public. We hear the Star Almanac and Year Book is the greatest thing of the kind ever issued. They say it appeals to purchasers in a thousand ways, and is really a thing of wonderful merit. Although it is 400 pages, with six colored maps, we hear the Star Almanac is to be sold at the small sum of 25 cents.

Great writers are sometimes the victims of mishaps in the matter of losing valuable manuscripts. Tennyson was not without his experience of this kind. In his youth, while returning home from a market town, he lost from his overcoat pocket the manuscript of his and his brother's first volume, "Poems, Chiefly Lyrical." The poet rewrote the volume from memory.

Before the Hamilton association recently Mr. Sanford Evans, nephew of Senator Sanford, read an interesting paper on the "Possibilities of Fiction." The writer has evidently devoted a great deal of thought and care to his subject, and was able to present to the large audience a well-arranged, logical and interesting treatise on the subject. He thought the novel of the present was not a mere toy, something with which to pass an idle moment, but had rather become one of the most important text books in the study of human life and human nature. Those who read for excitement only select sensational novels. Good novels extend human sympathies and conduce to a fuller knowledge of life in all classes of humanity. They are also excellent guides to the study of self. The greatest novel is that which portrays human life, not only as it exhibits itself in action, but as the actors are conscious of it. Besides words and actions, a novel should have a faithful portrayal of the inner life of its characters. Realism is not for the most part real life, but idealism turned upside down, the ideal being the extremity of ugliness in crime and immorality. Taste in novel reading must be developed. Young people should steer clear of novels that contain false ideas and make readers unfit for the practical business of life. In conclusion he recommended the works of George Elliot to the audience as containing plenty of material for earnest, careful study.