

coast of Samatra, are described as rare and in good condition, and are worth the attention of Orientalists. They are priced from £5 to £35. Amongst them are the following: "Hikayat Gomola Rahrin," the history of Sultan Pakarma, Indra's son, his war with Raja Too Selah, written very carefully in very excellent Malay, with coloured title page and illustrations in red and black ink at the end of each chapter, a large volume of about 400 pages, in splendid condition. The Hikayat Rajah Burma Sahadan, a story of the same character in 2 quarto volumes, and the Hikayat Sajahra, or Sultan Iskander's war with the king of Hindee (India), his marriage with that king's daughter, his war with China and with the Portuguese, with a description of Pohore and Malacca. Also the "Hikayat Goolam," the history of a boy of that name, whose father, King Zat Bakhtin, married the daughter of his prime minister, quarrelled with his father-in-law, was driven away by him, wandered about with his wife who bore him a son called Goolam.--*The Bookseller.*

WILLIAM BRIGGS, Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto, has published recently "The Scott Act and Prohibition the Hope of Canada," by Rev. A. Wallace, pastor, West End Presbyterian Church, Toronto, price 10 cents. "What Harm is There in it?" by Byron Laing, with introduction, by Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., F.R.S.C., price 25 cents. "Old Christianity against Papal Novelties," including a review of Dr. Milner's "End of Controversy," by Gideon Ouseley, fifth edition, cloth \$1.00. "Sermons and Sayings" of Rev. Sam. P. Jones, with portrait, price 50 cents. "A Guide to Young Christians," by Rev. D. Rogers, paper, 5 cents.

## Correspondence.

*To the Editor of Books and Notions.*

DEAR SIR,—You want something from London. It is hard work to get a line. Business has been very quiet, but seems to improve some. Schools having opened, there is the usual demand for books; but oh! what a small amount is left for the dealer after paying expenses. What with seaside libraries cutting out standard works with some profit, and new discount for readers, etc., book business is about "played out." The season's crops around London will be a fair average. The heavy rains and cold weather have spoiled a good deal of the grain and root crops; but I think business this fall will be somewhat better than a year ago. I notice that at the annual meeting of the Booksellers' and Stationers' Association you took action in reference to the postage on periodicals. Some change should be made. If it included books of all kinds I believe the increased amount of business would make up the shortage on postage, at the same time the limit of four pounds should be increased. The deputation might at the same time see if something could not be done in reference to the duties on books. We are charged a copyright duty of 12½ per cent. on libraries in addition to the 15 per cent duty. It, in my opinion, is a piece of imposition, as no memorandum, as far as I can find out, is kept of what book the copyright duty is on, and the amount therefore goes to the Govern-

ment. I have never yet heard of an author receiving any copyright duty. If wrong, am open to correction.

I also notice you mean to take action in reference to the men who sell stationery of any kind in small quantities to the storekeepers, at wholesale rates. I would not see so much objection if they did not cut the prices so much that it spoils the retailer's chance of selling again. We are subject to cutting up here more, I believe, than in Toronto or elsewhere. For instance, Xmas and other holiday numbers of *Graphic and News*, are sold here at 35 cents. *Leisure Hour*, etc., sold last year at 15 cents. School teachers got discount from some dealers of 15 per cent. Sunday schools 25 to 30 per cent. Think of it!

Babcock & Luscombe have dissolved partnership. T. Luscombe continuing the business.

LONDON.

*To the Editor of Books and Notions.*

STRATHROY.—Friend Books & Notions. In former issue you request to hear from the trade. Well, here we are, trusting a few words concerning our small town may not be amiss in your valuable paper. We flatter ourselves we have the neatest, cleanest and most picturesque town of the west; the streets are wide and well kept being paved with cedar block, the sidewalks are good being made of asphalt, sandstone, plank. The buildings on all the principal streets are brick, and many of them fine buildings. In a word, everything as near perfection as you can imagine. The population is about four thousand which number does not increase or decrease to any alarming extent; this year there is an upward tendency. The mechanical industries are well represented; but there is one line which, we are sorry to say, is very much neglected, i. e., the manufacturing interest—not that we lack the needful, but, on the contrary, have enough and to spare; but the capitalists require stirring up. In matters of education Strathroy is not far behind her sister towns. We have numerous schools, all of which are fine buildings, and this year we have the honour to possess a collegiate institute. The number attending this year was unusually large, and we trust that when returns come to hand it will be found that Strathroy has done her duty in maintaining the high standard she has attained to. But you ask: What of the book trade? We answer—flourishing. There are four book and stationery stores, which means one to every thousand inhabitants. Scarcely a mark for Strathroy! Our patrons have it all their own way when there is so much competition. We have no business at present to speak of, but are preparing for a great boom when Fall appears. Yours, etc.,

STRATHROY.

NOTE—Of book stores at least one, and perhaps two too many. One dealer has a drug store in connection with his other business, and another does a good trade in jewelry. Our correspondent's pride of his town is justified.—ED. B AND N.

B. H. Rothwell writes—I am expecting a good fall business. Crops in Brantford county are good; a little damaged by rust, but not enough to make any serious loss. Business at present keeps very quiet, and collections slow.