

and interesting, while the illustrations are amusing.

No. 3 of "Books of the Day" is just out from the Wm. Drysdale Co. This is proving a valuable medium for reaching book buyers and book lovers.

The "Transvaal under the Queen" is a book well illustrated, and up-to-date, published by Sands & Son.

"Scottish Clans and Their Tartans" (W. and A. K. Johnston), which has been out of print, is in again and frequently called for.

#### SOME POINTS ABOUT ALUMINUM.

Prof. W. Artus has stated some interesting facts about aluminum. This metal has been known for several hundred years, but the first practical use of it in sheet form was by a German metallurgist named Wohler, in 1827, who made the thinly rolled out plates for telescope tubes. Sulphuric acid will dissolve it under heat; it melts at 700 degs. Centigrade; is not affected by nitric or muriatic acid; soda or fixed alkali will dissolve it; under the influence of oxygen it produces the aluminum oxide, or aluminum earth, a substance which, if crystalized upon an aluminum plate, is insoluble in water, alcohol, or some inorganic acids, but soluble in hydrofluoric acid, which forms the basis of the well known Strecher Sholtz patent in algraphy. Regarding the substitution of aluminum for stone, we find the first successful use made of the metal in that direction described by the celebrated French lithographer and author, Villon, in his work on lithography, published in 1890, giving full directions as to acids and other substances to be used in preparing and etching the plates.

Professor Roberts, the Canadian author, is publishing, with Mr. Lane, an English edition of his new story "A Sister to Evangeline."

It seems that there is natural, as well as artificial, ink; at any rate, the ink plant is a curiosity of nature. Its juice can be used as ink without any preparation. At first, the writing is red, but after a few hours it changes to a permanent black.

England is to have a new Nonconformist weekly, the title of which only remains to be announced. While devoted to the interests of all the free churches, it will appeal especially to Congregationalists. It is understood that influential Nonconformists like Dr. Fairbairn, the Rev. Arnold Thomas, and Dr. Mackennal have manifested a strong interest in the enterprise. The Rev. W. B. Selbie will direct the theological policy of the paper, and with him Mr. Andrew Melrose and Mr. David Williamson will cooperate, the latter being general editor. The price of the weekly will be the popular penny.

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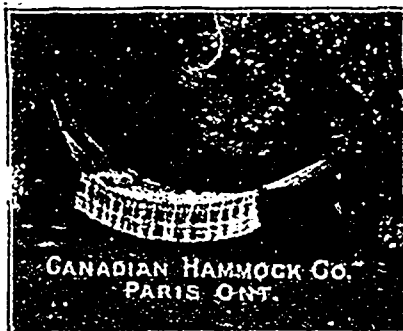
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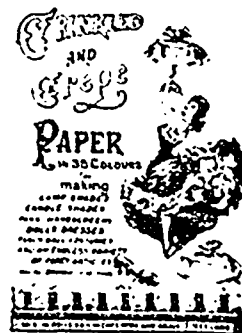
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