

has never been recovered. Colonial editions of books sprang into existence in the Motherland, and to these we have steadfastly remained till this year, when we have decided to print our own books. But it does not appear as if these will be printed in Montreal, for the centre of gravity has shifted. This city has never been a city famed, in the book line, so much for its literary as for its mechanical productions. Our publishers seem always to have preferred to turn out a blank book to a novel. Yet at the present time there are some good books printed in Montreal, principally by the French houses, and they should be proud of their work.

The advance we have made in the stationery lines is no less phenomenal. Sixty years ago we were importing all our papers from England, Scotland, and France. Now we manufacture and export. This, too, has changed the Montreal stationery trade.

Among other proofs that Montreal was once the Canadian centre of publication and distribution of books and stationery, we have the fact that *The Canadian Magazine* was published in Montreal in the early twenties, and such periodicals as *The Dew-drop*, *The Maple Leaf*, *Punch in Canada*, *The Literary Garland*, *The Life Boat*, and others, were published in this city up to 1850. From Montreal, it may be said, that all literature was disseminated throughout the Provinces. On the cover of *The Canadian Magazine* for 1823 we see a list of Canadian periodical agencies. They were:

#### LOWER CANADA.

Isle Aux Noir, J. McVay.  
Laprairie, L. Kidd.  
St. Johns, Louis Marchand.  
Chambly, John Sexton.  
St. Andrews, Guy Richards.  
Terrebonne, John McKenzie.  
Berthier, Hercule Olivier.  
William Henry [Sorel], James Dorge.  
Drummondville, James Millar.  
Riviere du Loup, A. A. Dame.  
Three Rivers, Ovide de Blanc.  
Quebec, Joseph Tardiff.

#### UPPER CANADA.

Cornwall, George Jarvis.  
Perth, Josias Taylor.  
Bath, James Rankin.  
Brockville, Henry Jones.  
Kingston, J. Corbet.  
York, J. H. Howard.  
Niagara, John Crooks.  
Queenston, Alexander Hamilton.  
Amherstburg, John Wilson.

How intimately the book and stationery businesses of Montreal were associated in 1840 is shown by a glance at the directory of 1840. Nearly all the books made at that time were stationery—that is, blank books. There were then 16 booksellers and stationers. They were: Armour & Ramsay, John Bain, Campbell Bryson, Thomas Carey, Andrew Connell, H. H. Cunningham, E. R. Fabre, R. Graham, Wm. Greig, C. P. Leprohon, Lyons & Brothers, R. & A. Millar, J. H. Scott, J. H. Tebbetts, E.

C. Tuttle and R. D. Wadsworth. This list does not mention Mr. C. O. Beauchemin, John Lovell, or J. B. Rolland, who were in business at that time and all of whose names figure in the titles of firms at the present day. The only other name that survives in a business title is that of E. R. Fabre, of Fabre & Gravel. In marked contrast to the number at that time stands the fact that there are now about 20 wholesale and 100 retail booksellers.

Armour & Ramsay did the largest business in their line in the city, and both partners were wealthy enough to come to business in a carriage. They did a wholesale and retail trade on St. Paul street, and a few years later at 21 St. Francois Xavier street. This firm printed *The Gazette*, but their business also comprised the publication of the National system of schoolbooks and various colonial editions of standard English works "at greatly reduced prices," as well as the manufacture, "in the most approved and latest style," of bankers' and merchants' blank books. Before 1852, Mr. Armour had died. The business was continued under the style of Hew Ramsay, who later sold out to Mr. Charles Dagg, who did not keep up with the times and ultimately failed.

Campbell Bryson was a prominent man in the trade in his day. He, too, did business on St. Francois Xavier street, opposite St. Sacrement street, in school and account books, wholesale and retail. For some time Mr. George Horne was his head salesman, but in 1850 we find him in business for himself. It soon came to be a common saying that if an article could not be got at George Horne's it could not be got in town. He was long one of the best known men in Montreal. In 1882 the style of the firm was changed to George Horne & Son, but, in 1887, Mr. Robert M. Horne died, and the original trading title was resumed. Mr. Horne was an energetic man and was much interested in military and sporting matters. He died not long since, after disposing of his stock and trade to H. A. Dawson & Co., who still carry on the business at 71 St. Francois Xavier street.

Thomas Carey made blank books and did bookbinding at 58 St. Paul street, and Andrew Connell was engaged in a similar business at the corner of Vitre and St. Charles Borromeo.

Two other important stationers were Messrs. E. C. Tuttle and Robert Graham. Mr. Tuttle had his store on St. Paul street, where Frothingham & Workman are now. He had a small bindery, and did a custom trade in first-class books, for a long time supplying *La Banque du Peuple*. He was an American and a very fine man, and had the reputation of turning out the best books

in the city. Nearly all the work was done by hand. The only machine Mr. Tuttle had in his bindery was a ruling machine, made from oak taken out of the beams of a broken down French house in the city. Mr. Tuttle died some time in the sixties, and his stock was put up at auction. Someone bid \$150 on this old ruling machine, and then refused to take it away.

Mr. Robert Graham also had a first-class bindery on St. Francois Xavier street, in which Mr. Morton, sometime of Morton, Phillips & Co., was foreman. Mr. Graham had established his business in 1828. He had been successively journeyman and partner with Mr. Neckless in a bindery east of St. Lambert street, but they separated in 1828. Mr. Graham was very successful, and for a long time did the trade of the Bank of Montreal. In 1842 he had a second shop at the upper end of the site of the British Empire Assurance building on Notre Dame street. In 1869, Mr. Graham was, from sickness and other causes, unable to carry on the business, and the stock and good-will of the business were purchased, first, by Miller & Bury, and, some weeks later, by Morton, Phillips & Co. Mr. Morton had been foreman in Mr. Graham's bindery, Mr. Phillips had been clerk in the store, and the third partner, Mr. Bulmer, was a workman in the bindery. The firm name was changed on July 1, 1872, to Morton, Phillips & Bulmer. Thomas C. Bulmer withdrew in 1890, and the name then became again Morton, Phillips & Co. This firm have always done a large trade in account books. In 1869, eight persons, including the partners, did all the work in both the manufacturing and ruling departments, which were confined to one building; now there are over 80 employes, and the premises extend to the adjoining building in the upper storeys. Hugh Cameron entered the firm as partner in 1879 to take charge of the printing department, which had just been added. Robert James Gibson entered the bindery as an apprentice, and was admitted a partner in 1890. This firm has patrons in every part of Canada, and their output of blank-books, stationery and office supplies to Governments, city, town, county and local corporations; to banks, insurance companies, registrars, lawyers and merchants is enormous. The head of the firm now is Mr. Phillips.

The oldest business in the city is that of Fabre & Gravel, now doing business in their beautiful "Lebrarie" on Notre Dame street. The business was established by Hector Bossange in 1815. In 1823, Mr. E. R. Fabre became sole proprietor and continued so until 1844 when the title was changed to E. R. Fabre & Cie. At this time the firm were doing a very extensive business in publishing and importing books at 3 St. Vincent street. Stationery too was handled, both in a wholesale and retail way. In 1853, the style of the firm became Fabre & Gravel, and the establishment was moved to 30 St. Vincent. In course of time it was transferred to their present commodious premises on Notre Dame street, where a large retail business is carried on.

E. H. COOPER.

(To be continued.)