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**CURRENT NOTES.**

**A** CORRESPONDENT and reader of THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER in Bermuda complains that when he purchases Canadian editions of books he finds himself in conflict with other editions. We have some readers in the West Indies who occasionally find it convenient to purchase books in Canada rather than in New York or England. But the defective state of our copyright law, which gives us no rights which anyone is bound to respect, makes it difficult for our firms to sell books in the West Indies. It is complained that our publishers don't mark a Canadian copyright edition "copyright." The outsider would then know that they could only be sold in Canada. But what's the use of marking "Canadian Copyright" on a book? We only think they are copyright. The cheap

colonial editions can come in here and interfere with the sale of reprints of British books, even when the British publisher has promised they shall not. They will slip in through other sources.

A. R. Forbes, of North Sydney, C.B., one of our Atlantic Coast readers, got out a Christmas card which had a fine sale. The idea is original and clever, and we do not wonder that it "took." The card is in booklet form and on the inside cover is pasted a photograph of the sender's residence. Mr. Forbes had a negative taken of the house and grounds, finished one card, which also contained a leaf with "Mr. and Mrs. — send their greetings and best wishes for the coming year" printed in gold, and submitted the idea to the lady of the house. In every case an order was given, — as indeed it deserved to be. For a town with lots of pretty residences the idea should be successful.

What has become of the agitation in Toronto against the methods of department stores? Both parties, before the general election of March, 1898, were in favor of an investigation before a committee of the Legislature. Although Mr. Middleton, the Hamilton member, who brought the matter up before, was defeated in the elections, there are others in the House who profess interest in the subject. Let them be urged to act. In Montreal, the city council is going to ask the Quebec Legislature for power to impose a special tax on each additional branch of trade carried on in department stores, leaving the principal lines to pay the ordinary tax. The department stores did a good Christmas trade in books. They cut prices on the current novels and on most of the new books. Their staples in books, however, do most of the trade. If you want a yard of Shakespeare, or a pound of Milton, and a few ounces

of popular poetry, the place to go is a department store. Their qualities are thick paper, not as tough as manila wrapping, but equally attractive, and broken faced type. These, done up in flashy bindings, constitute the bulk of the "book trade" done in some big establishments.

The largesale of Canadian editions during the holidays should commend itself to the booksellers as a hint to push these editions. They give a better profit as, in many cases, no cheap reprints from abroad come in to compete with them. Besides, all the money in producing them is spent in Canada, which is an advantage.

A determined effort is going to be made at the coming session of Parliament to secure a law on copyright. The benefits to the bookselling trade are that it will secure fixed prices on a certain number of books, that it will impose on the Canadian publishers the duty of advertising and pushing their books to such an extent as to create a demand, which the bookseller now has to pay for himself by independent effort and at much expense. If anyone knows any reason why the writers, printers and sellers of books in Canada should not have practically the same rights as the same persons in the United States or Great Britain, we would like to hear from him. Now is his chance to speak. There may be differences of opinion as to the wording of the Act. In this respect, every reasonable objection should be met. In Parliament, no one on either side of the house opposes copyright. In exists in every civilized country. It is a duty which the community owes to its author. Why should we not have it? Interest will be felt in Mr. W. P. Gundy's statement, reported in this issue, that English authors are disposed to concede the reasonableness of the Canadian contention.