



**WEBSTER'S
INTERNATIONAL
DICTIONARY**

WEBSTER'S



In its Various Attractive Bindings it Makes the
Choicest Gift for Christmas.

It excels in the ease with which the eye finds the word sought; in accuracy of definition; in effective methods of indicating pronunciation; in terse and comprehensive statements of facts and in practical use as a working dictionary.
Specimen pages, etc., sent on application.

G. & C. Merriam Co., Publishers, Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY

"I have read the 'Witness' with much interest. I cannot say that I know of any other daily paper in the United States that is conducted on such high Christian principles. I wish I did, for if ever we needed such a paper in our country we need it now.

"Let me express to you my appreciation of the Christian heroism and consideration which make a paper like the 'Witness' a possibility. I have always believed it possible for a Christian daily to succeed. You have proved that it can. So much of the ideal newspaper in 'In His Steps' is therefore real.

"I pray that you may continue to be blessed in your work. I do not know a more glorious opportunity for building up the kingdom on earth than by means of Christian journalism. I take the greatest pleasure in sending the copies of the 'Witness' to newspaper friends of mine for their inspection."

NEWSPAPERS VS. BOOKS.

The London "Telegraph" lately devoted a column of editorial discourse to a suggestion of Mr. James Bryce that the British public wants cheaper books, and if the publishers would supply that want the habit of reading books would be stimulated and the business of the publishers increased. Mr. Bryce's idea seems to have been that only by the cheapening of books was it possible to meet the formidable competition of the magazines and newspapers. The "Telegraph" is by no means ready to admit the expediency or effectuality of this method of cure. As to British readers, it says that "while a leisurely and contented class who buy books has not increased in number, the large chaotic and indeterminate class, bred by the board schools and taught to read by expeditious methods, have practically decided that they do not want books." It finds that the number of British readers who read literary work is relatively small, and that the great mass of the reading population is quite content with sixpenny magazines and newspapers. It notes the familiar fact that the circulating libraries are the mainstay of the British publishers of good books, and it doubts if the sale of such books could be materially increased by lowering the price of them. Obstacles to reduction of price it finds in many considerations that the publishers have to regard, and in particular in the cost of advertising, and the large royalties paid to successful authors. Then even in the case of novels, the trade in which constitutes the most important part of the book business, the publisher has no assurance that a re-

duction of price will be followed by a proportionate increase of distribution. If you appeal to a particular class, says the "Telegraph," it is always doubtful whether you will widen your appeal by lowering your price. Many and many a book has sold fairly well for twelve shillings and not a whit better for being reduced to five or six shillings.

Book reading, it adds, is subject nowadays to the competition of a much greater variety of entertainments than in earlier times. Theatres, concerts, and lectures abound more than of yore. Aye, and so do bicycles and all sorts of out-door sports, but yet the great competitors of books seem to be the newspapers and the periodicals.

It is not held that the demand for books is falling off, but only, apparently, that it does not increase in proportion to the increased number of readers. It seems to be the "Telegraph's" opinion that that desired increase may not be trusted to follow a reduction in the price of new books, and that it is by no means clear that a lowering of prices is the publishers' best policy.—*Harper's Weekly.*

NOTES ABOUT AUTHORS.

Mr. H. G. Wells, the author of "The War of the Worlds," "Thirty Strange Stories," etc., which are published by Messrs. Harper & Brothers, has been, according to the London "Bookman," very seriously ill. At the time of writing a slight improvement has been shown, but at about the middle of last month it was feared that an operation would have to be performed for the internal malady from which he has been suffering. Cycling has to be blamed for aggravation of the cause of Mr. Wells's illness. When taken ill, Mr. Wells was engaged on the novel at which he has been working so long, and he hopes to finish it as soon as he is allowed to sit up in bed.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's reminiscences, written down for "The Atlantic," will cover a period of sixty years or more. The three instalments will be published under these titles: "Recollections of Childhood," "New York in the Forties," "Boston in Abolition Days."

A very interesting forthcoming marriage will unite Byron's great-granddaughter and Bulwer-Lytton's grandson. The contracting parties are the Hon. Neville Lytton, youngest surviving son of the late Lord Lytton ("Owen Meredith,") sometime Viceroy of India, and Miss Judith Blunt, the only daughter of Mr. Wilfrid Scawen Blunt.

LITERARY NOTES.

"Windyhaugh." By Graham Travers, author of "Mona MacLean," etc. Cloth, \$1.25. Copp, Clark & Co., Ltd., Toronto.

By far the most striking feature of this picture of life is the tenacity of purpose and the depth of thought which the heroine exhibits. This innate seriousness, which only a master hand could make credible in a child so young as this one, is, on our first acquaintance with her, brought out in the very first scene, where we find the child of seven years discussing the question of her own "election" with an elderly grocer.

"A pair of chubby, sunburnt legs drummed nervously now and then against the side of the cask, and an ill-used sunbonnet had been carelessly pushed back, revealing a chubby, serious face.

"For you see, Mr. Darsie," she was saying, 'perhaps I'm not even one of the elect.'

"A smile of keen amusement puckered up the grocer's queer old face, concealing for a moment the shrewd grey eyes.

"I'm no' feared o' ye, Miss Mina."

"She looked up, hopefully, but her face clouded over again as she spoke.

"You can't tell; nobody can. 'The hot little hands tugging strenuously at each other.

"For," as the grocer said, 'she was extraordinarily forward in doctrine for her years.'

"And so thro' all her life we find her striving to grasp the nature of her relation to the Infinite One. And always there was that troublesome question in her mind, 'How do I know?'

"Her character is a unique and interesting one, each step in its development being powerfully worked out. Her life is not a cheerful one, indeed it is almost a tragedy, tho' the end is peace. Yet we would scarcely have it otherwise, for we are persuaded, in spite of ourselves, to say with her, 'What folly it is to regret anything in life. The design is so big—so big.'"

The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd., have just issued a very attractive Christmas Catalogue, containing several full-page illustrations and complete reviews of the most important books of the year, which will be mailed free to any person upon application.

N.B.—Mention that Christmas Catalogue is the one desired.

It was in the year 1847 that the first issue of the "Canadian Almanac" was published, and every year since then for more than half a century it has regularly made its appearance, and been welcomed by business and literary men alike as an invaluable assistant and store of information. On turning over the pages of the issue of 1899, now before us, one is struck by the evidences of the growth and prosperity of our country shown by the increase in the size of the Almanac, which has grown from a pamphlet of about 100 pages to a handsome book of 376 pages.

Among the contents of the book which are especially valuable are: the Customs Tariff, Post Office Guide, and Directories of various persons and officials, all of which are brought up to date, while the articles on the British Army and Navy, and Forms of Government throughout the world are interesting and reliable.