



The trade has been better than it usually is at this season. The reason probably is that there has been less sameness in stocks. Most of the houses have some distinctive specialty in which trade is lively. The common experience of the summer trade is that all have pretty much the same lines to offer, and none have any very strong business in anything. The wares on the market this season partake less probably than ever before of the trashy nature. There are many very interesting objects among them, interesting as bric-a-brac, and interesting on account of their utility. There are more articles of the curio description than we have had for some years, articles such as the traveler might pick up in foreign countries.

The first shipment of C. M. Taylor & Co.'s Japanese goods went off very rapidly in the assorted cases in which it was put on the market. It comprised some rarities that were never seen here before in notions, such as carvings in ivory, in wood, etc., etc. The second shipment is now in the firm's warehouse. It includes some fine basket work, and an innumerable array of other lines.

Hickson, Duncan & Co. are now unpacking some very taking specialties in Japanese fancy goods that they have brought direct from Yokohama. The marvellous ingenuity that characterizes Japanese handiwork of the first-class is abundantly illustrated in this fine stock. The very art of detail seems to be summed up and embodied in the collection. It would be an easy matter to make up a cabinet of curiosities from this stock, in which there is nothing that will not sell. Not is the individuality of the stock its only feature. Its remarkable cheapness will push it forward quite as much as its beauty and freshness. There are papier mache goods, card receivers, paper knives, lamp shades, curtains, conceits in bells, wall brackets, and a multitude of other things that the trade should see.

H. A. Nelson & Sons have got out their new catalogue. It covers the whole extensive range of the house's manufactures and wares. It is finely illustrated, is well arranged and has a full index at the back. Every member of the trade should obtain a copy.

A doll that writes letters on a slate is a recent invention of a machinist in Nuremberg, Germany.

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Benjamin R. Tucker, of Boston, will publish very shortly "Russian Traits and Terrors: A Faithful Picture of the Russia of To-day," by E. B. Lanin (a collective signature, employed by several contributors to the Fortnightly Review). This work out-Kennans Kennan in its description of the atrocities practised by the Russian Government, and includes the ode written by Swinburne in justification of tyrannicide.

The Trip to England continues to be one of the leading books of the summer. The publishers are thinking of getting out an

illustrated edition. It would be difficult to find a body of letter press better suited to illustration than that teeming with references to castles, abbeys, cathedrals and the stately homes of England.

Hart & Company have in press and will issue in October two books of poems. One is entitled songs of the Human, by W. P. Mackenzie. The other is Within the Night, by John Macfarlane.

TRADE NOTES.

"Toronto" is the name of a very pretty little book, whose contents are views of the chief buildings and points of interest in this city. Wm. Bryce is the publisher.

A well-known artist is preparing for the Dominion Illustrated a picture of which a copy will be a colored supplement to the Christmas number of that periodical.

The portrait of Sir John Macdonald, which William Bryce has got out, is in colors and on fine stiff paper. It is sure to arrest attention in any shop-front where it is exposed. The picture sells unframed at 50c., and framed at 50c., \$1, \$1.20 and \$2.60. The frames add greatly to the effectiveness of the picture.

The solicitors of William Bryce, publisher, Toronto, have advised the trade that G. Mercer Adam's Illustrated Toronto infringes upon a right of Mr. Bryce's, inasmuch as it contains the picture of a plan of the new Parliament building, which plan belongs to Mr. Bryce. The sale of the work is forbidden in the same notice.

The J. L. Morrison Company's catalogue of its "Perfection" wire-stitching machine is a very neat manual. It is not a mere collection of cuts and labels, but is a reasonably full presentation of the descriptive matter which an inquiring mind is likely to look for. The illustrations are excellent, the press matter is light, and the paper is very fine. The machines and their parts are always to be had in the Company's Canadian office at No. 28 Front street w., which is under the management of Mr. James Brown.

The new High School History, which has been authorized for use by the Department of Education for Ontario, is now ready for the school term which begins on the 1st of September. It is Miss Buckley's history adapted to Canadian students by Mr. W. J. Robertson, B.A., LL.D. The book is wonderfully cheap for its size. It sells for 65c., though in compass and appearance it is a dollar book. The Copp Clark Co. are the publishers.

Mr. J. L. Robertson, who for the past five years held a responsible place on the staff of Messrs. Warwick & Sons, closed his connection with that house a few days ago to accept an important position in an insurance office in this city. He was not allowed to depart, however, with the high esteem in which he was held by his co-workers untestified. They waited upon him on his last evening, and presented him with a handsome easy chair, whose massive walnut frame was luxuriously upholstered in leather. It had been imported expressly for Mr. Robertson. Mr. J. M. Rutherford was the spokesman of the feelings which prompted the offering, and he did justice both to them and his own tact. Mr. Robertson made a fitting reply.

MARVELS IN METTALLURGY.

The fecundity of ideas which has characterized the present century has been nowhere more strikingly exemplified than in the diverse application of metallurgical products to the domestic needs of life. And now the ingenuity of modern mechanism has been applied to the reproduction in metallic form of an infinite variety of articles considered essential to the completeness of a lady's toilet. The gaudy taste of the denizens of the Orient, which exhibits itself in the ostentatious display of bright colors, tangles of rich and varied design, has found a field for its fullest gratification in the possession of the metallic marvels of personal attire now being produced by their less showy brethren.

The collars and cuffs of women's dresses are now trimmed with metallic lace, and the sons of Vulcan are displacing the jeweler in the production of ornaments for the neck, arm, wrist and ankle. Designs by the thousand are now in the market of collars, collarettes, waistbands, belts, sashes, braids, lace, bonnet frames, crochet work and embroidery, all deftly woven by skillful hands from gold, platinum, silver, steel, german silver, pewter, lead and Berlin iron.

So vast has been the improvement in mechanical science that the metal smith can now turn out fabrics as delicate as Brussels lace. Indeed, so exquisitely delicate is the process that seeds not exceeding the thickness of silver foil can be produced with great facility. The lace loom and the knitting machine are now modified so as to enable them to use metallic thread as a substitute for others, and the wire weaver now manipulates threads of metal as fine as silk, and in some instances it is rendered almost imperceptible to the human eye.

The web thus formed is as delicate as the gossamer threads of which the poets speak in rapturous and entrancing song. By the use of an improved form of what is known as the Jacquard loom colored pictures can be woven in vari-tinted colors, and where the proper kind of metal is used these new fangled devices of artistic taste can be rendered almost indestructible.

By a new process the article to be reproduced is immersed in a strong bath exposed to the action of heat, electricity and powerful reagents; the atoms of the article are then abstracted under these conditions and replaced by those of any metals desired. Insects, seeds, shells, blossoms, leaves, lace and basket work may be thus treated, and language is altogether inadequate to describe the fidelity with which the tiniest point and line are copied in the hardest metal. So marvellous indeed is this process in the reproduction of those things submitted to it that even the "fuzz" of the geranium leaf and the antennae of a fly are duplicated with remarkable naturalness.

These wonderful advances in the field of metallurgy, evoked by the growth of civilization, in the progress of æstheticism and the onward march of metal culture and the consequent refinement of manners, has still further stimulated the growth of invention, and in the endeavor to cater to the fanciful tastes of the votaries of fashion there is but little doubt that a standard of mechanical delicacy and perfection will be attained superseding all the wonderful achievements of the past quarter of a century.—Age of Steel.