



CURRENT NOTES AND COMMENTS
OF INTEREST TO THE TRADE.

Colonial Editions Decline. It is a strange thing that the series of colonial editions of English novels are not selling nearly as well as they used to do. One dealer went so far as to say that they were "dead." Perhaps this is putting it somewhat strongly, but the fact remains that the demand for them by the public has considerably abated. This is all the more unaccountable when we consider the prices are, for the most part, no higher than those charged for the Canadian copyright editions in paper, that is 75c. But the truth seems to be, as one large dealer remarked, that the public have ceased to care for the appearance of the colonial editions. They are usually of a single design on the cover which never changes. The Canadian editions, on the contrary, are turned out with bright covers, usually in colors, which look well on the counter and attract the eye.

This falling off in the demand for colonial editions which used to sell so largely here is just one of those features of trade which a dealer cannot afford to ignore.

The State of Business.

The book trade has now settled down to its usual Summer basis, and we hear no complaint except from Winnipeg, where the crop prospects are not as good as expected, and where, in consequence, some people are apt to take a blue view of things. But there is no Province better able to stand

a poor harvest than Manitoba—its resources and the self-reliance of its people are guarantee of that. The activity of trade in Canada, both in books and stationery, has been so marked the past year that we give below the monthly returns of imports in both lines, to let the trade see the extent of the increase in importations as compared with last year :

IMPORTS OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, ETC.

| | 1900. | 1899. |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| January | \$86,016 | \$66,651 |
| February | 69,775 | 61,482 |
| March | 87,971 | 75,011 |
| April | 98,000 | 88,590 |
| May | 95,000 | 91,543 |
| | \$445,362 | \$385,279 |

IMPORTS OF PAPER, ENVELOPES, ETC.

| | 1900. | 1899. |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| January | \$ 98,229 | \$ 66,519 |
| February | 109,437 | 81,744 |
| March | 133,541 | 116,672 |
| April | 120,714 | 98,951 |
| May | 146,694 | 123,927 |
| | \$608,615 | \$517,813 |

Copyright Again.

The Copyright Bill—the text of which we gave in our last issue—is still (July 7) before Parliament. The Special Committee of the House of Commons, to which it was sent, have, after consideration, reported the bill as follows :

"Your committee find that the legislation covered by the proposed bill has been asked for by the Canadian Authors' Society and the Canadian publishers, and it is on their representation, and for the interests of the Canadians who are concerned in copyright and publication in Canada, that this bill is proposed.

"Your committee also find that the pro-

tection to the Canadian publishers to be obtained by the proposed bill has the approval of the Society of Authors of Great Britain and of the British public.

"Heretofore there has been constant friction and clashing of interests between those interested in copyright in Great Britain and those interested in copyright in Canada.

"At the present time we have the very satisfactory spectacle of these formerly clashing interests expressing themselves in harmony. It therefore appears likely that the passage of this Act will remove causes of difference, will confirm the harmony now existing, and tend to do away with that conflict which has been a constant source of trouble in copyright legislation for many years past.

"Fear has been expressed by some critics of this bill that the passage of such legislation by the Parliament of Canada would show that Parliament is receding from the position taken by Sir John Thompson, and would be an acknowledgment at the present juncture that Canada could not legislate upon copyright by virtue of Imperial legislation, Lord Monkswell's bill now before the Imperial Parliament being the occasion of this legislation. Your committee are, however, of the opinion that this fear is groundless. It is quite true that Lord Monkswell's bill contains a clause authorizing colonial Legislatures to pass just such legislation as is provided for by this bill, but Lord Monkswell's bill has not yet, and may never become law, and it cannot be contended that this bill, which will precede any British legislation upon the subject depends upon the latter for its validity, and your committee are of the opinion that the passage of this bill will not in any way compromise the Government of Canada in protesting in the future, as it has in the past, against the claim of the Parliament of Great Britain to legislate for colonies in matters of copyright. "The committee,