

correspondents, men who are well acquainted with the facts of the case.

The North-West and British Columbia, we group in a phrase an immense tract of country, business on the whole has been good, wholesalers being particularly well pleased with the results from Winnipeg.

As nearly as we can judge the retail trade throughout the Dominion has been, so far, in advance of 1885, and there is an increasing confidence in the state of affairs.

Prospects for the fall trade are good. It is not likely that anything will take place to mar the hopefulness of the present.

INFORMATION WANTED.

From time to time we have given much space to the affairs of The Booksellers and Stationers' Association to the exclusion of other matters of interest. It has been to us a pleasure to do so, believing as we do that organization of trade is highly beneficial. The response in membership has been disappointing. (Only a little over one hundred members is a poor result of the efforts made to induce the members of the trade to join. Very different has been the result in the district associations. Those organized, Huron and Toronto, are for all practical purposes supported by the whole trade. Men who would not join the Provincial are taking an active part in the branches. We know why some will not have anything to do with the Ontario Association, but we can hardly think that the same reason actuates all the non-associates. We would like to know just why the response has been so comparatively meagre. Our journal is published in the interest of the whole trade, and we do not desire to take up the limited space at our disposal with anything that is not of general interest. We would therefore be pleased to hear, either for publication or as private letter to the publisher, as to why so many hesitate to belong to the Association. It is but just to the officers that the reasons should be stated.

A PERSONAL MATTER.

Almost from the time of the first issue of BOOKS AND NOTIONS until the present, the report has been current that it had a connection in some way with a wholesale Toronto house. We treated the matter with indifference, until having heard it so frequently and in such widely separate localities, that we feel compelled to refer to it.

The person whose name appears as publisher, is not only such, but is also the editor and proprietor of the journal. We would be sailing under false colours (which we detest) were it otherwise. No other has ought to say as to its policy. What the journal is is

the creation of the writer; whatever credit or discredit is due is solely his own. Those whom he has had the pleasure of meeting need not be told this, but there is a very large number of readers with whom he has no personal acquaintance. We can fully understand, on account of the independent stand we have taken from the first, that some would consider it to be to their interest to have people believe the falsehood, for glaring falsehood it is.

Now, at the close of a second year, we thank most heartily those who by their kind approval and support, have made it practicable to continue the publishing of a journal exclusively in the interest of the Canadian trade. There are some, however, whose subscriptions are still withheld, partly we suppose, on account of the supposition that it was other than a personal venture. We look for the support of everyone in Canada who deals in books and stationery.

SEEING in *The Bookseller* a number of letters recommending certain books as means of instruction to bookseller's assistants, the thought occurs to us that there is no systematic plan for developing the ideas of the young men and young women employed in our stores. Would it not be a praiseworthy act for the Toronto Association to devise a way during the winter months of imparting knowledge by those who are well versed in the art of bookselling. Our future booksellers should have a thorough training.

THE issue of this number has been necessarily delayed owing to the desire to obtain reliable reports on trade from members in the various points of the Dominion. The correspondence—glad to have so much—will be found very interesting.

IN last month's issue the name of the President of the Toronto Association was incorrectly spelled. No *n* should have been in it. It should have been Henry Hutchison.

TRADE NOTICES.

ALL IN A BUNCH.—Early this month no less than six ambassadors of commerce put in an appearance at the Queen's, Toronto. The batch comprised James McDonald, of John Walker & Co.; John R. Russell, of Marcus, Ward & Co.; McPherson, of Wm. Collins, Sons & Co., all of London; Fred. D. Irish, with Estes & Lauriat, Boston; J. H. Anderson, jr, travelling for A. C. Armstrong & Son; and William Lewis, representing Anderson & Krum, both of New York.

Their presence strongly reminds us of Kennedy's famous story of the seventeen pipers in a small room over the Canongate, all playing different tunes at the