

## BOOKS AND STATIONERY.

The Japanese silk copying letter-book is still "on deck."

The second volume of The Standard Dictionary is announced.

"The Ralstons," by Marion Crawford, is a continuation, and a weak dilution, of Katharine Lauderdale.

Bad ink is a bad thing, as the Hielan' man said about bad whiskey. Stephens' ink is a good thing. Then buy it.

George Augustus Sala's "Life and Adventures" is a delightful book. It is also an expensive one: 2 vols., \$5.

Gillott's pens, like the lad in the fairy story, have the gift of satisfying every one who gives them reasonable usage.

Sara Jeannette Duncan has published another book, entitled "Vernon's Aunt"; being the Oriental experiences of Miss Lavinia Moffat.

"Chimmie Fadden," the adventures in society of a New York newsboy, is published by Lovell, Coryell & Co. at 50c., paper, or boards, \$1.

The Eagle Pencil Company has put upon the market the Eagle compass and divider, the cheapness of which will rejoice the heart of school boys and girls as well as of mechanics and artists.

The latest novelty in handy things for a desk is the "Best Paper Fastener," a simple little contrivance to fasten papers together. It sells at 25 cents for a box of 100, and Brown Brothers, limited, are the agents.

A young lawyer in Chicago, name not avowed, has written "The Rights of Labor." He explains the present status of employer and employee before the law, and advocates a specific reform in the law that would secure to the workmen a share in the product.

In a series of 12 mo. books entitled Economic Classics, edited by Professor Ashley, formerly of Toronto University, and published by Macmillan at 75c., one volume contains the first six chapters of Political Economy, by Ricardo; another, select passages from Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations.

To save time is to benefit the business community. This is what Grand & Toy profess to do by means of the Waterman Ideal Fountain Pen, which is new in Canada. Its strong points are that the pen is gold, the best that can be made; that the feed is reliable, and that the whole is trustworthy every day and all day.

Something that is constantly needed by those who are type-writers is a ribbon which does not fill up the type of the machine, and which will guarantee perfect copies, not smudged or dirtied. The Rochester Ribbon and Carbon Company provide such a ribbon, and the sole agents for Toronto are corner Jordan and Wellington.

Rev. Prof. Grant, of Queen's University, Kingston, has written a little book, published by A. D. F. Randolph & Co., at 30 cents. The author believes "that Jesus is 'the way, the truth, and the life,' and that His religion is the absolute religion." Therefore he believes it to be right and wise to call attention to the excellent features of Confucianism, Hindooism, Buddhism, and Mohammedanism, rather than to their defects.

One of the reasons why municipal reform proceeds so haltingly with us [in the United States] is that many citizens who desire sincerely to aid in the regeneration of their town life, have formed no definite municipal ideas. This is said by *Public Opinion* of Dr. Albert Shaw's book on "Municipal Government in Great Britain," a book which shows that improved methods of municipal management have obtained in the old country to a greater extent than in the new.

Among the ingenious novelties of the day is the Victoria computing postal scale. This contrivance enables a man who wishes to know the postage on a certain letter, book or parcel to any part of the world, to tell, in an instant, by putting the letter or package on the scale, the sum to be paid in postage up to three pounds to any Postal Union country. Concurrently with the weight shown by the indicator is the price that weight costs. Grand & Toy are sole agents for it.

Another portion of that convenient and valuable publication, *Current History*, edited by Alfred S. Johnson, Ph.D., and published by Garretson, Cox & Co., Buffalo, is issued, being the fourth quarter of 1894. It contains, as President Schurman, of Cornell, says, a marvelous deal of solid information condensed into small compass. Any one who wants for his shelves the contents of the daily newspaper condensed into small compass should send to the publishers or to his bookseller for back numbers, bound, at \$2. The subscription price is \$1.50 per annum.

Among the concerns which have been established in the United States for more than 100 years is the Methodist Book Concern, New York, publishers, established by John Dickens in 1798, and always managed under its present name. Another is the Presbyterian Ministers' Fund, Philadelphia, life insurance confined to ministers, and Presby-

terially governed; established in 1759, as a purely benevolent institution, and later placed on a semi-business basis. The *Shipping List* says that the total number of centenary houses in that country now on record is eighty-three. That journal will issue a Centennial number next December, when a special feature will be devoted to the history and the interests of these old firms.

## HARDWARE AND METAL TRADES.

The Dominion Coal Co. are seeking accommodation for the handling of their coal business at St. John.

There is apparently an increased demand for Ontario mica mining properties, and this industry may have bright things in store for it.

The consumption of coal by locomotives in the United States in 1893 amounted to 50,000,000 tons, or about one-third of the whole production of this country.

The combination price of cut nails is \$2.10 per keg, but the board price to the trade is \$2. To actual buyers, however, says the *Montreal Trade Bulletin*, the price is \$1.90, and to close buyers the price is lower still. Take your choice, gentlemen.

Letters patent have been granted incorporating Samuel Hayward, of Hampton, Geo. B. Weldon, H. N. Nelson, G. H. Burnett and Ward C. Pitfield, of St. John, N.B., as the Hayward Company, to carry on a general wholesale and retail hardware business. The capital stock is \$200,000.

Application is being made to incorporate Messrs. Hyacinthe Beauchemin, Philippe Beauchemin, A. E. Pontbriand, Alfred Monarque and J. B. O. Pontbriand, all of Sorel, under the name of Pontbriand & Frere (Ltd.), with a capital stock of \$50,000. The object of the new company is to manufacture engines, boilers, etc., at Sorel.

James Watson & Co., Glasgow, March 22nd, report: "The fluctuations in the price of Scotch iron warrants have been about 2d. per ton, and these have been brought about by operations confined to members of the trade. The outlook generally has not improved, and there is a great absence of animation."

Metal chromium has been successfully combined with aluminum, producing a compound as hard as steel. The two metals cannot be combined as such, but the ores are mixed and then submitted to the action of the electric current in the furnace, when the compound metal is produced.

Pure titanium has been obtained by M. Moissan by means of the electric furnace. It is an extremely hard metal, capable of scratching the diamond, but is soluble in lead, copper and iron. It is the most refractory metal with which M. Moissan has yet dealt, being less fusible than pure chromium, tungsten, uranium, molybdenum, or zirconium.—*Boston Journal of Commerce*.

The heart of the producer of oil grows jubilant as he watches the upward march of the price of his commodity. The upward tendency we referred to last week has been very much in evidence lately, and Petrolia crude is now worth \$1.30 and Oil Springs \$1.32, with a very firm feeling on the market; some enthusiasts are already prophesying \$1.50 oil.—*Petrolia Topic*, March 21.

The total production of all kinds of Bessemer steel rails, including light and heavy and street and mine rails, in the United States in 1894, was 1,014,034 gross tons, against 1,129,400 gross tons in 1893, a decrease in 1894 of 115,366 gross tons, or 10.2 per cent. The production of Bessemer steel rails in 1894 was composed of 899,120 gross tons rolled by the producers of domestic ingots and 114,914 tons rolled from purchased blooms.

## SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS A DAY.

A little sum in simple division enables one better to grasp the meaning of some of the enormous figures representing the business of the Mutual Life of New York. For instance, that company paid out to policyholders during 1894 the sum of \$21,089,257, which is equal to more than \$67,000 every working day. The business done by the Mutual in 1894, when the depressed condition of affairs in the United States is considered, is very remarkable. There was an increase of almost fifty-two millions in total insurance in force, of six millions in income, of four and a half millions in surplus. The sum of \$11,929,000 was paid in death claims, and a further sum of \$9,159,000 for endowments, annuities and dividends. If any such distribution as this has been made in any one year by any life assurance company we have not heard of it. A vast fund of beneficence is represented by these payments, and they illustrate in a vivid way the advantages and benefits of life assurance. An addition was made to reserve fund sufficient to bring it up to more than \$180,000,000, by way of enabling the management to maintain such liberal payments. This wealthy company has now passed its fifty-second year.