

Books and Notions,

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J. J. DYAS, Publisher.

LAST month, in referring to those of our trade who have "gone to the wars," we spoke of only four, whereas almost every wholesale house in Toronto and many retail houses are short-handed on account of the warlike proclivities of their employees. Noble work those citizen soldiers have done. The Anglo-Saxon transplanted to Canada loses naught of its military ardour and prowess.

FAILURES.—Within the last few months quite a number of failures of publishing houses in the United States have taken place. R. Worthington, Frank Tousey, and E. Claxton & Co., have been notable examples, and now we see that one of Boston's leading houses, J. R. Osgood & Co., have had to succumb with \$150,000 liabilities. Mr. Osgood was noted for the high class of books he published, and his desire to elevate the tone of the trade. His failure, which involves also that of the Heliotype Co., is much regretted by the trade.

WE have on hand a few complete sets of **BOOKS AND NOTIONS**. Those in want of them, and the careful bookseller always files away his trade papers for future reference, will please apply at once.

AT HOME.—We notice that our English exchanges are just now devoting considerable attention to "The Colonies," and although the expressed object is increase of trade—told in a bluff, honest English way—there is so much heartiness in their words that it makes us desire more than ever to join hands heartily in our relations with our mother land. The *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer*, in the course of a lengthy article, says:—

"Here we regard the prosperity of Canada, Australia, South Africa, and the rest, with pleasurable eyes. Their growth is our growth. In them we can find that extension, which our four sea-walls forbid us in Europe. In them we can distance our great continental rivals in square miles, and they are our counterpois to the armed legions of autocratic forces. Not one shade of jealousy crosses the Englishman's mind when he hears of great doings at the antipodes, or in the western dominion, or at the Cape. We feel that it is our own, and just as Stonehenge, Westminster Abbey, Runnymede, Shakespere, Milton, and the memory of our host of glorious dead are part and parcel of the family estate of which we are custodians, and in which they have a possession. So do we look upon their expansion, their broadening empires, and boundless resources as things in which we may take an interest and pride. These recent offers of Colonial assistance are not to be measured in simple numbers, they have told us something more eloquent; for they speak of union of heart. and it is a lesson which Englishmen are beginning to learn."

And thus the *Stationer, Printer and Fancy Goods Registrar*:

"More as to our Colonies: the statement that the trade follows the flag, is not far wrong, as some have supposed; and therefore we should do all we can to draw nearer the Colonies to the Mother Country. They evidently need but little coaxing, and are only too ready to acknowledge their parentage. The old love still remains—and may it endure as long as the British Constitution!"

Here across the Atlantic hearken to the echo. Glorious, freedom-giving British Constitution!

THE ENGLISH REFERENCE CATALOGUE.—The trade will be glad to know that Mr. Whittaker has now ready this important work of reference for the trade; it is five years since the last one was published. "The Reference Catalogue of Current Literature" was published originally in 1874, and again in 1875, 1877, 1880, and now after a lapse of five years, in 1885. The new volume is an enormous one, octavo size, nine inches thick, and weighs ten pounds. It contains the lists of over one hundred publishers and index of over 300 pages, with 53,000 entries. In some form or other every book in the Catalogue is indexed, no regular plan is adopted, the entry being made in the way in which the reader would most probably seek the book desired.