

TRADE CHAT.

Messrs. C. M. Taylor & Co., who purchased the insolvent estate of Menzies, Peterboro', have brought up all the desirable staples, such as current school books, to their warehouse here, and the remainder they sold in that town.

The Publishers' Weekly, in its review of the books of 1888, says:

Out of the 4,631 books recorded during the year it appears that 3,520 were manufactured in this country, the other 1,111 are English importations—a surprisingly small number of which were imported in plates or sheets. Out of the 3,520 made here nearly 3,000 are the works of American authors, or are translations by American writers, or adaptations, as in the case of school-books and medical works, to the needs of our own students. 590 only are actual reprints, 375 of these being works of fiction published in cheap, paper form. The sensations of the year, as everyone knows, were "Robert Elsmere" and "John Ward, Preacher." No other works had such phenomenal sales, though a few other novels—notably some Spanish translations—were very flatteringly received, and a few religious works, biographies, and histories were recognized as of permanent interest. The end of the year witnessed the advent of Bryce's "American Commonwealth." It was met with an enthusiasm which promises to grow. The Russian revival came to a climax in 1887. The past year paid little attention to Russian literature. A few of Tolstoi's minor works were alone translated. The topics of our "educational" campaign—the tariff, civil service reform, free trade and protection—stimulated many new writers. Light, popular works were again the largest in demand. No profound scientific treatise, nor thoughtful philosophical work can be found among our titles. The most read and the most discussed novels of 1888 were written by women. This was the case, not only in American fiction, but also in English fiction, the four notable novels of the year being "John Ward, Preacher," "The Quick or the Dead," "Robert Elsmere," and "The Story of an African Farm."

Among the works lately published by the Religious Tract Society are many that should be good selling books in this country. The following are the latest:

RAROMI. By A. A. Fraser. This story is full of exciting interest on every page. The hero, Falconer, afterwards re-named Raromi, is saved from the drink by a little man, Noble by name and nature; and soon afterwards, under a false accusation, he is seen in the midst of the Maori warriors. How he fought, what he suffered, and the friendship of the old chief, Dog's Ear, who adopts him as his son, make up this capital and stirring yarn, with its thread of love and Christian teaching interwoven. The pictures, too, are excellent.

CONSTABLE 42 Z. By E. A. B. D.—The picture on the cover of this volume introduces us to this stalwart policeman, in close quarters with two burglars, settling an account with one of them with his own revolver. This

story shows 42 Z in a more tender character, however, and his kindness to little Paul is repaid by priceless lessons, which change the constable's heart. Some trials and sorrows shadow these pleasant pages ere the story ends.

THE CUP AND THE KISS. By Rev. P. B. Power. The first of these brief sketches, which gives its title to the volume, tells how Alexander gave to one of his friends a cup and to the other a kiss, the latter being so much the richer in value. From this Mr. Power, in his usual happy style, points a Christian moral. The other pages speak of the "Two Happy Ps," "The Home Beyond," "Who is That?" "Buy a Flower," and similar topics, upon which hang expositions of evangelical truth and practice.

THE CHRISTMAS CHILD. By Hesba Stretton. Another of this writer's pretty little stories; in this instance a little Welsh girl, impressed with the incidents of the sacred birth at Bethlehem, finds a little baby in the manger of the stable. There is a tender pathos in the narrative, which is intended for young children.

ON A DOG. By Hesba Stretton. Uniform with the above is this tale, of which a dog, Jock, is the four-footed hero. He had been the pet of the family, and ends his mischiefs and joys by going mad and dying by the merciful hand of his master.

A. C. Armstrong & Son have just published three important works on the Asiatic continent. "Through the Heart of Asia over the Pamir to India," by Gabriel Bonvalot, has been translated from the French by C. B. Pitman, and is published in two volumes, with 250 illustrations by Albert Pepin; "The Industries of Japan," by Prof. J. J. Rein, of the University of Bonn, gives an account of the agriculture, mining, forestry, arts and commerce, from travels and researches in Japan, undertaken at the cost of the Prussian Government; and a second edition of the same author's work on "Japan, Travels and Researches," which, by verdict of the London Spectator, will be "the standard authority in such matters" for a long time to come. The new volume in the Book Lovers Library is "Foreign Visitors in England, and what they have thought of us," which makes the ninth arrival in this well-liked series.

Charles Scribner's Sons have just ready "French Traits," by W. C. Brownell, a subtle and extremely entertaining analysis of French character and French society. The method of criticism is comparative throughout, the social customs, intellectual habits, art instincts, and moral standard of the French being brought into juxtaposition with those that prevail in the United States. They have also just ready a treatise on metaphysics, by Dr. James McCosh, entitled "First and Fundamental Truths," which is regarded by the author as the keystone of what he

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