

The Jubilee Anniversary

1846 - 1856 - 1906



THE completion of an honourable and successful business career, covering a full half-century, is an event sufficiently rare in this young country of ours to excite no ordinary interest. But when there lies behind that again a family reputation in precisely the same line of business in the Mother Country, extending back three-quarters of a century farther, the record becomes practically unique.

Brown Brothers, to the present generation, seems as much one of the institutions of Toronto as the Cathedral spire. In the realm of book-making, book-binding, and all that pertains to stationery, the firm has ever held a foremost place, and now, at the close of fifty years of continuous activity, stands as strong, as progressive, as highly esteemed in the commercial world as ever.

It was in the latter part of the eighteenth century that one Thomas Brown, a worthy apprentice, having completed his service with William Charnley, the famous bookseller of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, was admitted a member of the Stationers' Company, and set up in business for himself.

So thoroughly did he understand his trade, and so upright and enterprising was he in the practice of it, that as Robert Robinson, the well-known author of "The Life and Times of Thomas Bewick," the renowned wood engraver, testifies therein, he was called "the father of the trade in the North of England."