

OCT., 1870.

expenses incurred by the wholesale dealer, rendered it almost imperative that the trade should be, as much as possible, confined to himself. But, even then, it was only justifiable when he could offer to the producer some guarantee that his interests would not suffer by the arrangement; and hence it was desirable that houses to whom such exclusive rights were given, should have access to the whole of the retail dealers throughout their district, and should possess their confidence and support. If the constituency of the merchant were either limited or lacking in its patronage of his house, the interests of both the manufacturer and the public must of necessity suffer by the creation of the monopoly.

But the times have changed, and vastly changed. Where one wholesale house used to hold undivided sway, a dozen have sprung up; and those younger men, springing as they have done, from the people, possessing their own personal friends and supporters, both in trade and among the public, have surrounded themselves with a constituency of their own, and if they prove equal to their position, will receive a share of public patronage and support. Thus, a competition, a wholesome and honest competition, has been created in the various branches of trade and industry; a competition, the necessity for which is found in the increase of population, the growing necessities of the country, and a variety of kindred causes.

The increase of the wealth and available capital of the country, which has also tended to create this competition, by enabling men to choose their business or profession, presents a great obstacle to the creation of new monopolies, or the continuance of the old. The day has long since passed away, when, either in commerce or the professions, a man can hope or expect to hold undivided possession of the field. Men of enterprise and of means, having qualified themselves for that particular profession to which their abilities and inclinations have prompted them, and believing in their right to choose for themselves, have entered the field; and the wise and prudent man of the world will, we think, accept the situation thus made inevitable, and seek by reciprocity, rather than by protection, to advance the interests of his house.

It is useless for any man, in the present day, to attempt to make the public believe that he is the *nonsuch* of his particular sphere; others there are, and the public are conscious of the fact, who consider themselves worthy to compete with him on his own ground, and the results prove that their opinions are not wholly void of foundation. And so long as these new aspirants to public confidence have the means to maintain the

strife, and find themselves supported by their friends, so long will they continue to contest the ground occupied by their opponents, and to assault a principle which is condemned alike by the most advanced thinkers of the present day, and the accumulated experiences of the past.

The ultimate issue of such a struggle cannot be doubtful. With an increased liberalism in politics, and with the higher education of the people, men will claim to think for themselves, and the spirit of freedom which is so rapidly diffusing itself through all the other walks of life, cannot be without its influence on the commercial relations of the age.

It is in the interests of commerce, of the manufacturer, of the consumer, and of our young Dominion, that all existing monopolies should cease. We must, however, look to the manufacturer, and in our own trade, to the publisher, for the correction of existing evils of this sort. And we think the result of throwing open to the trade the publications in which a monopoly now exists, would be such as to prove to the publishers the wisdom of the change. Inducements would then be held out to the wholesale houses of the Province to represent those publications in their stocks, to carry samples of them on journey, and to push them as they do any other line of goods upon which they hope to make a profit; but so long as there is no advantage to be gained by offering the books of any publisher, and so long as any one house is allowed to make its own terms in the supply of these books to the other wholesale houses of the Province, so long will those houses refrain from offering them, and content themselves with supplying such only of these publications as may be *bona fide* ordered by their customers.

These they will undoubtedly submit to purchase upon the terms which the monopolists may dictate, rather than oblige their clients to purchase direct; but we warn those advocates of monopoly that its existence cannot possibly drive their competitors from the field, or materially benefit themselves, though it may, and doubtless will, greatly restrict the sale of their goods.

A CANADA WEEKLY IN ONTARIO.

Remark has often been made upon the constant failure of Canadian literary enterprises, where these attempts have been purely literary. It has been an unfortunate truth that, with one or two exceptions, and these are only partial exceptions, the public have declined to support or properly appreciate