

AN INCIDENT.

A FEW days ago, in a small country town, a meeting of the directors of a Mechanics' Institute was taking place. The work of selecting new books was begun and catalogues enumerable were being waded through. Incidentally one of the directors who was on the book committee remarked that it was a shame that they had no catalogue of Canadian books to hand, and forthwith the committee began to enquire for a list. After some trouble a list was secured, and it was found to be the only complete list of Canadian books in print. It was found in the May number of BOOKS AND NOTIONS.

If any person doubts the above we can give the name of the—but no one will doubt it. Booksellers should make good use of the list when the Mechanics' Institute and other institutions are making their selections for the season's addition to their libraries.

COMBINE IN WINDOW-SHADES.

FOR some time the prices of window-shades have been demoralised, owing to the great competition among the three Toronto firms. Some time ago the old firm of McFarlane, McKinley & Co. dissolved, and Mr. McFarlane started a new factory. Then Mr. McKinley was burned out and was running a temporary factory in North Toronto. At each of these two men desired the trade of the old firm, a war of prices was induced. The other city firm, Geo. Hees, Son & Co., were also trying to extend their trade.

Finally all three decided that the cutting had continued long enough, and a few weeks ago began to make arrangements for the adjusting of prices on something like the old basis. In the meantime Mr. McKinley has surprised, and it is thought his business will be wound up. The cutting is almost over, at any rate, and prices will soon go back to their old level. Dealers with small stocks should order at once.

HART & RIDDELL'S REMOVAL.

MESSRS. Hart & Riddell have successfully accomplished the removal of various departments of their business to their new buildings. For some years past their business has been carried on from three different buildings, the growth of their manufacturing trade requiring additional space from time to time, but the expiry of their old leases gave them the opportunity of securing new and more commodious buildings, which have been adapted to suit the requirements of their rapidly developing trade. They have been enabled by this change to arrange their various departments on the most convenient and modern plan. In their new warehouse and factory at 27 Wellington street west, they have been able to bring under one roof their blank book manufacturing, lithographing, embossing,

printing, law, municipal and wholesale stationery departments. This is a large new building, five stories and basement 30x130, one of the finest business blocks in the city. In concentrating all these departments in one building it gives Hart & Riddell the unique position of being the only house in the line manufacturing stationery, binding, lithographing, engraving, embossing, printing, etc., all under one roof. In these various changes the firm will still be represented on King street, where their place of business has been a landmark for the last twenty years. Their retail branch will be found located in very handsome premises at 12 King street west, north side, near Yonge street; all their usual well-known lines will be found here, such as their fine stationery, books, periodicals.

THE PRINCE OF INDIA.

THE Prince of India, or Why Constantinople Fell, is the title of the new book by General Lew Wallace. The author of the Ben Hur is the author of this new book, and this was sufficient to secure for the book an inspection at least. The first to inspect it were the reviewers, and the result has been uniformly favorable to the work. The man who could describe the chariot race as Lew Wallace describes it, could find few men bold enough to make an adverse criticism.

The book was issued simultaneously in the United States, Europe and Canada, and the Canadian copyright edition is a neat double volume issue which retails at \$2.50. The Methodist Book and Publishing House have produced a book which looks well on a bookseller's counter, and which will grace any library. The issuing of such an edition in Canada is an event. But the fact that so expensive an edition was more than half sold during the first four days, proves a decided tendency towards a better class of novel. Dealers can draw many useful lessons from the manner in which the public are receiving this book. The book is not written for those shallow readers to whom one book is as good as another. It is written for the class who know and appreciate merit and therefore are willing to pay a fair price for the product of genius.

The Prince of India is introduced to the reader in the opening chapter. He is the "Wandering Jew" of history—the man who insulted Christ and was condemned to live on the earth until His second advent. He is on his way, when the story opens, to visit the tomb of King Hiram, the contemporary of Solomon, and knowing its secret he is able to secure many of its treasures. These are what make him rich and entitle him afterwards to be called the Prince of India. This is 1395, when the Wandering Jew was about 1,400 years of age. Disgusted with religious contentions he retires to Cipango (probably Japan) for a half century, and ap-

pears again in 1445 with a new idea of a Universal Brotherhood of Man with God as its accordant principle, in which it will no matter whether Christ was the Messiah or Mohammed His prophet. The first glimpse of him now is on the road to Mecca with the caravans, where he has gone to study the Mohammedan faithful and see whether the ground is ready for the new seed he has to sow. From this on the book is a succession of oriental pictures, faithful and ample in detail. The pictorial quality which the author has displayed in his other books is here given full freedom, and from the opening scene to the last event, the destruction of Constantinople, this quality finds a full utterance and a perfection of execution. Love, war and religion are blended with this picturing of the East as it was half a thousand years ago, when the Romans had a Byzantine Empire, and the fall of whose capital was the final catastrophe of Christianity in the East and marks the first success of the Turk in Europe. The picture of the Byzantine Empire just as it was about to fall shows the author as a student of history, intelligent and thorough. It was a huge task to draw an accurate picture of this period, but right nobly has he accomplished it and all the world will call him great.

The character of the Prince of India is a peculiar one, showing that the effect of the constant dealing with men through centuries of life is to constantly strengthen the mind without changing the morals of the man. He is an adept in human nature and a manipulator of kings. His lifetime of 1,400 years made him conversant with all the religions of the world and all their sacred books. His aim was to create one grand Brotherhood, in which all minor details would be forgotten. But he, even he, loses his great idea when a Greek carries off his beautiful Irene; and as a result of his anger, the Turk takes Constantinople.

It is a romance of great magnitude, and its conception and execution are worthy of all praise.

ENGLISH GOSSIP.

THE BOOKSELLER contains the following items in its August 5th edition:

Messrs. David Bryce & Son are about to issue an English dictionary containing about fifteen thousand words, comprised within a tiny volume about an inch square, and one-third of an inch in thickness. This miniature volume contains three hundred and eighty-four pages, a result which could only be attained by the use of Oxford India paper. It is bound in limp leather, and enclosed in a metal locket, having a magnifying glass on one side by means of which the microscopic type is easily legible.

In the painting competition of Tuck & Sons it has been arranged that the committee of judges is to be under the presidency of Marcus Stone, R. A., and the committee dealing with the literary competition under that of Mr. Grant Allen. They have just issued an illustrated catalogue of their illustrated books, booklets, Christmas cards, etc., for the coming season. The extent of their preparations may be judged from the fact