

ENGLISH GOSSIP.

MESSRS. Raphael Tuck & Sons lately received the appointment of publishers to Her Majesty the Queen.

In consequence of the increase in the publishing part of his business, Mr. E. P. Holder, proprietor of the Electra-type Company, will in future conduct that branch under the style and title of Holder Brothers.

The Longman Cricket Club is able to boast that it has vanquished every trade eleven which it has met so far this season. The clubs played against were those of Low, Murston & Co., "Black and White," S. W. Partridge & Co., F. Warne & Co., and Ward, Lock & Bowden.

A society, founded for the encouragement of the study and circulation of Irish literature, has been established in London, with every promise of success. The scheme of the society is to gather together a brotherhood of Irish literati, and, generally, to promote the publication of old Irish epics, folklore and legends in good English translations.

The publishing name of Rivington returned, on July 1, to the trade, after an absence of one and a half years. On July 1, the firm of Messrs. Percival & Co., 34 King Street, Covent Garden, London, becomes Rivington, Percival & Co. The partners are Mr. Septimus Rivington, of Trinity College, Oxford, a partner for 21 years, from 1867 to 1889, in the late firm of Messrs. Rivington, 3 Waterloo Place, London, and Mr. John Guthrie Percival, of Magdalen College, Oxford, a son of the Rev. Dr. Percival, head master of Rugby School.

Florence Marryat's new book, "Parson Jones," which Griffith, Farran & Co. have just published is the sixtieth work of fiction which she has written since she began in 1865 twenty-eight years ago. Considering the fact that during these twenty-eight years Miss Marryat has been on the stage and on the platform both in England and America, and has done a great deal of work on the press, this is not a bad record of a busy life.

The Bookseller speaks thus of Walter Scott's new book from Canada: Canadian Poems—Arranged and edited by W. D. Lighthall, M.A.—Not without justification has this volume been added to the "Canterbury Poets." It would be too much to say that the Dominion is rich in poetical literature as the epithet would be used in connection with older communities, but many of the lays here collected show considerable spirit, power and culture, they are, in the words of the editor, "voices cheerful with the consciousness of young might, public wealth and heroism." Lady poets are well represented, their number, indeed, seems to indicate something special in the conditions of a new country. The

arrangement of the collection is in sections, dealing with the "Imperial Spirit," the "New Nationality," the "Indian," and so forth. Mr. Lighthall having excluded those poems which do not illustrate the country and its life in a distinctive way. In the introduction a brief account of Canada's principal poets is given.

Straw Boards.—Manufacturers have again advanced their quotations in consequence of the high prices and scarcity of straw. Trade being quiet at present the full effect of the advance has not yet been felt by the consumer, but with the customary activity in the autumn, and the probable enforced shutting down of some mills owing to the want of straw, prices are likely to rule very much higher later on. Current quotations are as follows: Common qualities, thin, £6 10s.; thick, £7 10s.; Medium thin, £6 15s.; thick, £7 15s.; Best thin, £8; thick, £9 5s. per ton.

J. K. CRANSTON.

MANY of the readers of this Journal are familiar with the name of the subject of this sketch, and the portrait reproduced here is that of one of the best-known retailers in Canada. Many will no doubt remember the



numerous and worthy contributions which Mr. Cranston has found time to give to this Journal for the benefit of its readers. He is intensely public-spirited, and desires to see the booksellers of this country become worthy of their profession.

Mr. Cranston was born within 5 1/2 miles of the town in which he now resides. The first fifteen years of his life was spent on the farm, and his boyhood's advantages gave him a strong and hearty constitution, which enables him to accomplish so much work. His first situation was as junior clerk in the bookstore of the late A. L. Middlemiss,

where he spent four years. When this gentleman sold out he took a situation with Fleming & Co., of Galt, where he remained until October, 1880, when he and Mr. H. Dickinson bought out the stock of F. Nisbet & Co., of Woodstock. On November 24th this fine business received a great blow by means of a fire which destroyed about \$20,000 of stock. The business was in the greatest prosperity at the time of the fire, and great preparations were being made for a large Christmas trade. Both men felt the severe blow, but, undaunted, they went to work to sell their stock. Their creditors in the meantime agreed to accept 66 2/3 cents on the dollar. But when the stock had been mostly sold, Mr. Cranston and Mr. Dickinson found that they could pay 100 cents on the dollar, and notified their creditors accordingly. Their unusual act caused much surprise and comment at the time, and they received unbounded praise, while this act of honorable honesty has never been forgotten by the wholesalers. As soon as all debts were paid the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Cranston bought out a small stock in Galt, Mr. Dickinson remaining in Woodstock. Galt for the past eight years has been the scene of Mr. Cranston's labors, and he has no reason to be ashamed of his record. His business has increased, and he has made money—facts which prove his business ability beyond a doubt. While retailing has been his chief occupation, he has also added a general jobbing trade in a few specialties. Two of these are well known, viz., the Happy Thought Counter Check Book and a Trade Due Bill. This is the part of his business that Mr. Cranston likes, and for some time he has desired to sell out and start a wholesaling business in Toronto. This spring he had almost sold out when circumstances arose which prevented the closing of the bargain, and consequently he is still in Galt waiting for a man to come along with money enough to buy his stock and good-will, which is very valuable.

Mr. Cranston's special quality is his indomitable energy, combined with a cool head and quick brain. He is modest over his success, and desires only to be known as an honest and successful merchant. Had the bookselling profession a few more men with the same knowledge, ability and integrity there would be a much larger and more satisfactory trade in Canada than there is at present.

CANADIAN PAPER TRADE.

While United States mills are closing down to meet the slack demand for papers of all kinds, Canadian mills are all running full time, and some of them have rather a plethora of orders. The mills are rapidly enlarging their capacity by increased buildings and improved machinery, and the quality of the product is much better than in previous years.

Present trade is excellent for the season; enquiry for all classes of paper being very steady and occasionally brisk. Payments are generally satisfactory; although some are complaining of a little looseness in the way some merchants meet their accounts.