

# Books and Notions.

PUBLISHED THE FIFTEENTH OF EVERY MONTH.

OFFICE:--

20 WELLINGTON ST. EAST, TORONTO.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - - - 50 CENTS.

*Organ of the Booksellers' & Stationers' Association of Ontario.*

*Organ of the Toronto District Association.*

*Organ of the Huron District Association.*

*Organ of the Brant and Norfolk District Association.*

VOL. III. APRIL, 1887. No. 9.

## RATES OF ADVERTISING:--

	1 month	12 months
1 page.....	\$16 00.....	\$160
1 column.....	10 00.....	100
do .....	8 00.....	80
do .....	3 00.....	30
do .....	1 50.....	15

All Communications intended for publication must be sent in not later than the 8th of each month.

**J. J. DYAS, Publisher.**

Commencing with the May number BOOKS AND NOTIONS will be issued on the First of each month instead of the Fifteenth as has been the case formerly. We issue earlier than usual so that April and May Numbers may not come close together.

All communications and changes of advertisements must be sent in on or before the 22nd of the previous month.

WE have at different times invited correspondence on subjects discussed in this journal. We again particularly ask for such, whether they be differing from the views expressed editorially or otherwise. There are matters written of in this number which are fairly open to argument on the other side. Let there be no hesitation in boldly attacking any principle laid down. It is only by the expression of contrary opinions that we can arrive at that which is right.

— 00 —  
**ON GUARD.**

THERE has not yet been an occasion when the necessity of an organized body of our trade was more exemplified than now. The Executive Committee learning that the Publishers' Association proposed to peti-

tion the Government to put a heavy duty per pound on a certain class of cheap paper covered books called a meeting in Toronto on the first instant. It will be seen elsewhere what was the business transacted. Since the meeting the Publishers' Association has met and dropped the proposed action, at least for the present, but we are informed the papermakers took such a lively interest in our trade's welfare that they asked for increased duty on cheap books. So vigilance will be still necessary.

The first proposition was to put a duty of 25 cents — afterwards changed to 15 — a pound on such books (what an intelligent idea this pound is of the publishers' estimate of the real value of a book), this would practically prohibit the importation, or if imported a higher price would be charged. Now that the existence of the 25 cent book is threatened we begin to see what a boon to the retail trade it has been. The Franklin and Seaside Libraries with their infinitesimal profits have almost disappeared, and this newer feature of books at an even quarter with a fair margin of profit has taken their place. It is safe to say that they have not materially, if at all, affected the sale of high priced books — but have displaced the bulky, profitless libraries.

There is no doubt but that the meeting of the trade had a beneficial effect. It strengthened the hands of those in the Publishers' Association who opposed the extra duty, and secured the result we have mentioned.

— 00 —  
**PAPER.**

ANOTHER matter considered at the meeting was the proposed increase of duty on paper and those articles in which paper is the raw material. The general view was adverse to tinkering with the tariff in this respect, particularly in the matter of envelopes, in the way proposed. It is considered that it would shut out to a great extent the papetries of English manufacture that have found such ready sale in this market as such goods in passing through customs would be taxed on the article, envelopes, on which the highest duty would be chargeable. The advance in price of these expensive goods would be such as to likely lessen the sale.

People of moderate means will go to a certain extent for a rich and expensive article, but when beyond a certain limit purchases will not be made.

— 00 —  
**A THIN SPOT IN THE ICE.**

HAVING been made a party to what we considered then, and what we consider now, a fair business understanding, the arrangements between jobbers as to price of annuals last year, and the Association