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BOOKS and BOOKS NOTIONS

ORGAN OF THE

THE BOOK, STATIONERY & FANCY GOODS TRADES OF CANADA

VOLUME I }
No. 5. }

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1884.

{ ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
FIFTY CENTS. }

MODERN BOOKBINDING.

BY J. W. ZAEHNSDORF.

(From *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer.*)

Bookbinding has certainly very much altered since the days of Grolier and his contemporaries. Could he but see some of the clothwork that is now in the market, he would, there is no doubt, be astonished. Seeing that there are comparatively few books bound now but in cloth, it behooves us to ask, Is not clothwork modern bookbinding?

On some of the clothwork there is doubtless good taste shown in the selection of colour and general get-up of the book; but on how few is the book itself studied that the binding should be in keeping with its contents! Compare the volumes of Keepsake and other table books that were issued some few years ago bound in silk or in stamped velvet to the books now cased in gaudy cloth. Of the thousand and one published, how many books are issued in a properly bound form? For one must make a distinction between a cased book and one bound in boards. A cased book, or, in plainer words, a cloth cover, is, after all that can be said in its favour, only a superior kind of wrapping; at the first fall or rough usage the book parts from its jacket, and the cover then offers but little protection to its contents. True, there are a few books to be had which are placed in a better sort of binding, but as the leather used and the binding altogether is scarcely better than a fraud, it takes a place but very little higher than clothwork, and of the two, one would almost prefer the cloth-cased copy, because one knows what to expect if the book be used much, and the cost is very much less. Again, how many are there who understand or even know a properly bound book? So much of this cheap work has been done that it is almost a rarity to have a well-bound book in one's hands.

Is the binder to be blamed for this deterioration of solid work? One can hardly censure him, for he, being under the direction of the publisher, has to do as ordered; or, if the work is estimated for, the publisher accepts, in almost every case, the lowest tender, and the binder has, very often, to scamp the work to make it pay, and does not care how it is executed, so long as his work be accepted. This, then, inculcates the publisher, for one cannot blame

the public, who are attracted by anything that is cheap and of a gaudy character. No doubt the public require retraining as to the choice of books and bindings. An attempt was made in this direction some three or four years ago by an enterprising publisher, who certainly did print a very choice book, and who promised its subscribers the book in a properly bound form. So that everything should be correct, a first class binder was consulted, who finally took the order to get up two copies in different styles, each copy consisting of a few sheets of letterpress, but filled up to the proper thickness with blank paper so that the travellers could show the style of printing, woodcuts, thickness of book, and, lastly, the beautiful binding, perhaps also quoting the binder's name as a further inducement for orders. The binder having promised of such an unusual order—viz., some hundreds of copies in fancy vellum, took great trouble, had his men working during holiday time, and turned out two very fine samples of binding just in time for the travellers. The books were shown and admired, but when the time arrived for them to be bound, instead of the original binder reaping the benefit of his brains, the two books were taken to a cloth binder, the sides were electroed, the books cased, and issued to the subscribers, very few of them knowing the fraud practised. This is quoted as one instance that few of the public—ay, and very few booksellers, really know a properly bound book when they see one.

Another example happened in which the writer was a silent spectator. A gentleman came to a binder of good repute; he wanted a book very nicely bound, and, after having a number of books shown him bound in various styles, from plain russia to daintily inlaid morocco, at last selected a superb Grolier for pattern; the colour was next selected, then the price was asked; a modest sum was named. "What!" exclaimed the customer, "I don't want to pay more than 2s. or 2s. 6d." A plain green cloth binding, lettered on the back, with sprinkled edges, was afterwards chosen, and the gentleman expressed himself quite as well satisfied as with the morocco copy.

Here was a man, evidently moving in good society, who, taking quite one hour of a tradesman's time, expected a rich Grolier in morocco, with gilt edges, for 2s. 6d.

These facts are mentioned to show the necessity of retraining, if one may so use the term; and such work lies more in the hands of the publishers and booksellers than with binder.

It has been said over and over again that a properly bound book should open easily and remain open at any page. Now, if a book is printed on very heavy or stout paper to make it appear bulky, as is sometimes done for want of matter, is it possible for the binder to make such a book open easily and remain so without putting each leaf on a guard, and thus making it a guard-book! Books printed three hundred years ago had good paper; their bindings are in many instances in fair preservation, and in all cases these books were bound with tight backs, a thing perfectly impossible to do with the present class of paper. The very fact of them having tight backs tended to their good condition; the paper allowed of such treatment—it was good, thin, and pliable. As the paper altered in the manufacture and became adulterated, so the binder had to meet the requirements such paper demanded, and the hollow back was introduced to enable the book to open more easily. There is a great deal of difference between a tight back as above and a flexible back. The former had paper glued upon paper until the back was as hard as iron. In many cases these layers were quite one sixteenth of an inch thick; in the latter the leather is almost fastened direct upon the sections, thus permitting the book to open perfectly flat. But this method is not suitable for all bindings of the present day. It has been asked, Why cannot one get a book bound now equal to those of two hundred and fifty years ago? This is answered, that one can get better binding and more accurately done by going to a binder of good standing, for books are quite as elaborately decorated now as in former years; but modern books are of less money value, therefore have cheaper bindings. But when a book has over fourteen days spent on its decoration, one must be prepared for the charge of time expended on it. When Channing said, "God be thanked for books," he ought to have added, "and good bookbinders."

France is producing some very fine books, the paper made purposely for the work, the type all that can be desired, illustrations perfect. Let our publishers follow the example and produce some works worthy of the name of books, and our bookbinders will, it is quite certain, put a jacket around them equal to the printer's efforts.

WOOD FOR BOOK COVERS.—There is a process of "carving" wood by softening it, and then pressing it in moulds. In a Parisian process, known as Xylobasty, the wood is softened by steam and imbued with certain ingredients, which impart to it sufficient ductility to enable it to receive bas-relief impressions from four to five millimetres in height. For medallions, bosses, &c., mastic is forced into the hollows, so that all tendency in the compressed wood to split or open is completely overcome. For bookbinding purposes, much seems expected from this process, as it is applicable to the scented or odoriferous woods—cedar, teak, cypress, rosewood, &c.—which repel worms.—*Ex.*

BOOKBINDERS' THREAD SEWING MACHINE.—Mr. Aug. Brehmer is perfecting a new thread sewing

machine for bookbinders, of which great things are predicted. Although bookbinding is a trade in which hand labour must always be largely employed, the adoption of machinery is fast altering the complexion of the business, and has promoted the growth of vast bookbinding factories conducted on a scale which a generation ago would have been thought impossible.—*London Bookseller.*

BOOKSELLING IN RUSSIA.—The experience of a Russian bookseller has just come to light, who was for some time systematically persecuted and outraged by the Government officials, and finally robbed of three-fourths of his property for no other reason than that he fostered the study of literature in the district in which he kept his shop. He thereby offended the Government accustomed to treat literature and science as enemies, and to punish with the utmost severity those who became conspicuous as students of either. The unfortunate man who just now is described as an instance of the Russian Government's brutality is one named Kervelli, a French citizen, who obtained patents from the Crown to sell books in Karkoff, a city of 60,000 inhabitants, in Southern Russia. M. Kervelli excluded entirely from his stock all so-called "illegal" books. His shop was several times examined by the police, but no illegal literature was to be found, and everything went well with the book-seller, his business growing rapidly. In August, 1883, M. Kervelli was taken into custody, and his house and shop again ransacked; but no forbidden books were discovered. Yet he was detained twenty-five days, and then "examined." The Russian mode of examining political prisoners is a process entirely unique, and almost invariably results in the sending back of the suspected person to prison, who has no idea of the nature of his crime. After the farce of questioning M. Kervelli had been gone through, he was sent to St. Petersburg, where he was confined for the next seven months. At the end of that time the French Consul interfered, and gained another examination. In reply to a demand for a statement of the prisoner's offence, the chief of political police said: "You have done nothing openly illegal, I admit; but that only shows how prudent you are, and therefore all the more dangerous. It is true also that we have found no forbidden literature in your possession. All the same, we know quite well that it is possible to arrange an assortment even of authorized books so as to spread subversive ideas quite as effectually as if they were revolutionary pamphlets printed at Geneva." Or, to speak candidly, a person living in Russia who may show unusual intellectual activity is deemed a traitor to his country, worthy of such a punishment as fell to the lot of M. Kervelli. The final outcome of this affair was that, owing to the perseverance of the French Consul, Kervelli was set at liberty, with instructions to leave the country forthwith. He was allowed, however, to revisit Karkoff to dispose of his business. On the 22nd of last March he reached his destination, escorted by two guards. With wonderful consideration the officials had closed up the shop, and he was ordered to liquidate his business in twenty-four hours. The result was that a valuable stock of books was sold for one quarter of their actual cost. The next day he was accompanied to the frontier. His travelling expenses and the expenses of the soldiers who guarded him

were deducted from the results of the sale of his business.

A VERY SMALL FANCY STORE was established by a young girl in a little Shropshire village, much frequented for its breezy hills. Her stock consisted mainly of what are described as "view goods"—small albums, needle cases, boxes, card trays, inkstands, &c. The views of the neighbourhood were in the first place photographed by a local artist, at the expense of the little woman of business, who forwarded them to a London house, to be copied and used to adorn the multitude of articles she intended speculating in. She sold out completely by the end of the season, and then employed the dreary winter months in dressing a number of dolls, of all sizes, and in all sorts of costumes, Welsh being predominant. These goods sold equally well during the next season. It is but five years since the little shop was opened, and now it has blossomed out into a bazaar, where tourists may obtain almost every variety of fancy goods. The young girl has blossomed, too, into a very comely woman of business, and the cheery expression which illumines her face assures one that she is on the right track to make her fortune.—*From Self Help for Women, a Guide to Business by a Woman of Business.*

PENMAN'S paralysis is said to have found a remedy. It is in the form of a new magnetic pen, the holder of which "by the warmth of the hand evolves a thermo-electric current, which operates upon the blood, nerves and muscles of the hand and muscular system of the fore-arm, and in an almost marvellous manner alleviates and is a preventative of the disease mentioned." Therefore, clerks, book-keepers and business men, editors and others, will rejoice to learn that they need no longer fear one of life's most perplexing ills.

I have handled a pen considerably in my life time, and have never yet had this peculiar kind of palsy, I imagine that the disease, if such it be, must result from a want of vitality.—*TRADE LOUNGER, in American Statesman.*

MR. HENRY GRAY has learned that, in the thirty two novels of Sir Walter Scott, no fewer than six hundred and sixty-two distinct characters appear. From "Count Robert of Paris," the date of which is 1093, down to "St. Ronan's Well," the story of which is supposed to take place in 1812, there is but one century, the thirteenth, which has not furnished a historical background for one of the fictions. The gap in question lies between "Ivanhoe," which opens in 1194, and "Castle Dangerous," the date of which is 1306. Three of the stories are assigned to the sixteenth century, seven to the seventeenth and thirteen to the eighteenth.

THAT the small coins of all nations may be a most potent factor in disseminating disease is a discovery due to the researches of Dr. Reinch. Taking specimens of coin which had long been in circulation he scraped off the thin organic incrustations, which he then divided into small pieces and dissolved them in distilled water. Microscopic inspection of the solution disclosed abundance of bacteria and vegetable fungi. After this there is ample reason for caution in handling money made of metal; of the dan-

ger of filthy paper currency the public has long been aware. Application to coins of a boiling weak solution of caustic potash will, however, free them of their organic impurities. Withdrawal from circulation of old, dirty dollar bills and replacing them by new ones is perhaps the best way to prevent paper money acting incidentally a not inconsiderable role in the mechanism of epidemics, as well as of mercantile exchange directly.

BOOKSELLERS are often made aware, in a manner that is more painful than pleasant, that there are such things as book-worms in existence. However, it is not many booksellers who have ever seen one, for, despite its large ravages, the worm itself is very rare. Mr. G. Suckling discovered three in London at Messrs. Sotheran's Strand house a few days ago. They were half way through a bundle of quires, and were evidently on their second or third journey, judging from the number of perforations. They are tiny wax-like creatures, resembling a Stilton maggot.

THIS appears to be the centenary year of printing in relief for the blind. The method is of French origin. In 1784 VALENTINE HAIIO, a resident of Paris, having got the idea from a map in relief that he had seen in Germany, produced several books in relief, the characters being substantially the same as the Roman letters. Some important improvements have been made since that time.

N. P. WILLIS.—What bookseller has a copy of his works on their shelves? Yet "before the war," before the drawing of that great dividing line in the United States, in all its internal relations, Willis was looked upon as the leading writer of "polite literature," and not without good reason.

What finer fancy than that in his last letter "To the unknown purchaser and next occupant of Glenmary," a farm which it had been his delight to occupy, and from which he dated his several letters.

"Sir, in selling you the dew and sunshine ordained to fall hereafter in this bright spot of earth, the waters on their way to the sparkling brook, the tints mixed for the flowers of that enamelled meadow, and the songs bidden to be sung the coming summer by the feathery builders in Glenmary, I know not whether to wonder at the omnipotence of money, or at my own impertinent audacity toward nature.

"How can you buy the right to exclude at will every other creature made in God's image from sitting by this brook, treading on that carpet of flowers, or lying listening to the birds in the shade of these glorious trees! How I can sell it you is a mystery not understood by the Indian, and dark, I must say, to me.

"'Lord of the Soil' is a title which conveys your privileges but poorly. You are master of waters flowing at this moment perhaps in a river of Judea, or floating in clouds over some spicy island of the tropics, bound hither after many changes. There are lilacs and violets ordered for you in millions, acres of sunshine in daily instalments and dew nightly in proportion. There are throats to be tuned with song, and wings to be painted with red and gold, blue and yellow; thousands of them and all tributaries to you. Your corn is ordered to be sheathed in silk and lifted high to the sun. Your grain is to be duly bearded

and stemmed. There is perfume distilling for your clover and juices for your grasses and fruits.

"Ice will be here for your wine, shade for your refreshment at noon, breezes and showers and snow flakes all in their season, and all 'deeded to you for forty dollars an acre!"

"Gods! What a copyhold of property for a fallen world!"

READER.

PAPER TEA BOXES.—Paper Tea Boxes have been repeatedly suggested as feasible. The only difficulties are to make the pieces so that they can be brought closely together and be waterproof. Varnish or liquor could be used on the outside. A writer in the *Indigo Planters' Gazette* has taken up the idea thus:—It does not matter much how the tare differs so long as the net weight is correct; but we consider it just as essential as ever to try and improve upon the old boxes. A neatly got up package will often attract attention where a heavy, clumsy one would probably only be noticed in a disparaging way. The subject of neat boxes must be kept carefully before the public and dinned into its ears until some one comes to the rescue with a good patent, and to ensure its success, a cheap one. If tyres for railway carriages and wagons can be made out of paper, which we understand they can, then why cannot a tea box be made out of it, and lined with lead paper, which would possess advantages over everything else in its cheapness, uniformity of size and even tares. The outsides, too, could be covered with pictures in the same way as the Chinese boxes are with characters of one kind and another. The lining with lead paper would, no doubt, be quite sufficient to protect the tea from damp, etc., and no question could arise regarding the corrosion of the tea leaf that takes place when some kinds of wood are used, and of course the deterioration of the tea in consequence. Of course the pieces would have to be made so as to pack conveniently for freight and to fit well into each other.

POPULAR LITERATURE AND INFIDELITY.—One of the most interesting subjects under discussion at the Church Congress was the foregoing: and of the papers read, that of Dr. James Macaulay, editor of the *Leisure Hour*, has received most favourable comment. Taking into account the whole mass of cheap newspapers and periodicals which has come into existence since the remission of the paper duty and the improvement of steam printing. Dr. Macaulay says, very truly, that notwithstanding occasional faults and defects, its influence is on the side of truth and right, as well as of order and freedom. Addressing ourselves, as we do, to those who are in the best position to know its real character, it is safe to assert that good wholesome morality pervades most of the popular literature of the day. The speakers at the Congress, however, omitted to mention one very important factor, and that is the part played by the distributors of literature, the booksellers throughout the country. Booksellers, as a class, will not sell impure literature if they can help it. There are plenty of booksellers who will not, under any circumstances, allow impure or mischievous literature to enter their premises; and even those who think themselves obliged to supply whatever is demanded, very rarely encourage the demand, or do anything to promote

the sale of what they privately condemn. This is particularly the case with regard to literature for the young. Without in the least suspecting it, many a lad has been put off the scent of literary impurity by some clever evasion on the part of the bookseller to whom he applied for a book or periodical that was not fit for him to read. Booksellers exert an enormous influence upon the character of popular literature, and that influence is invariably exercised in favour of what is good and wholesome.—*London Bookseller.*

NOVELTIES.

FROM THE *American Stationer*:—An ingenious and very useful article to bookkeepers and accountants is a pen extractor, which may be affixed to the desk for the purpose of extracting old pens from the holder without soiling the fingers. Another form of extractor comes in the guise of a paper-weight.

A MAN in Pennsylvania has taken out a patent for a paper shirt. The shirt is made of very tough paper that will not tear without a great deal of strain, and the bosom is made up of seven layers, one for each day in the week, so that the wearer may present a clean shirt-bosom every day. Enough collars and cuffs go with the shirts for the seven fronts, and the whole outfit only costs thirty-five cents. I forbear to remark on other conveniences which this shirt suggests.

A NEW enamel, which is said to be a perfect representation of burnished iron, has been brought out. A porcelain vase, or piece of statuary, covered with this enamel is said to pass with experts for artistic iron-works.

A NEW toy, which retails for five cents, consists of two pieces of round tin soldered together close on the edges and widening out in the centre to about a quarter of an inch in thickness, with a hole in the centre. A string is attached to a hole made for the purpose on the edge, and when the toy is twirled in the air a sound is emitted which is like a partridge call. There is a variation in the sound according as the device is whirled rapidly or slowly. The toy is brilliantly painted, and is a little larger in size than a silver dollar.

CONFECTIONERY pails are now made of a solid sheet of waterproof paper and are guaranteed to hold either hot or cold water. Why they should hold water deponent saith not.—**TRADE LOUNGER.**

SOME of the most remarkable specimens of paper that we have ever encountered have been sent to us by the firm of Fritz Victor & Co. It is pretty well known now that paper can be found to suit almost any purpose—from making a book to a bottle, a house to a carriage wheel. But these samples show that this material, possessing such infinite adaptability, can also be made to imitate or counterfeit almost any other substance, whether textile, like satin or silk, or organic and animal, like skins. In the little books sent to us are imitations of nearly every fabric to be found in the draper's shop—such as chintz, rep, brocaded silk, etc. Then there are imitations of

wood—oak, mahogany, ebony, and so forth; of manufactured wood, such as parquetry, and mosaic of metal, as gold and silver; of basketwork, of needlework, of floor-cloth and linoleum, of tile work, of tapestry, and a host of other things. Along with these are some marvellous imitations of skins, and such peculiar ones as crocodile, serpent and fish skins. The latter papers are "un-tearable." These remarkable products will suggest a variety of new applications of paper in the industrial arts. There are also samples of ordinary fancy papers, printed in gold, gold and colours, silver, embossed, etc. All the patterns are registered. They can be had in reams of 480 sheets, assorted, if required. We strongly advise the trade to take an early opportunity of inspecting these novelties, which are sure, ere long, to enjoy a large sale among bookbinders, manufacturing stationers and printers.—*The British Colonial Printer and Stationer.*

A SUBSTITUTE FOR WALL-PAPER has been found in tinfoil, which is stamped and printed with the designs desired by some patented process. The tinfoil is in sheets, thickness of ordinary paper, pliable and waterproof. It is varnished, and in every way is artistic.

CRAPE BORDERED MOURNING STATIONERY.—In this new paper and envelopes just brought out by Messrs Dean & Son, the black borders are stamped with a die so that they present the peculiar crimped appearance of crape. To put a crape border to mourning stationery seems most natural and appropriate, and therefore we are not surprised to learn that the novelty is selling very largely.

The stationery used by ladies in the United States includes a variety of tints and oddities, such as silver grey, terra cotta, marguerite, inazarine, white, shrimp, lavender, turquoise, café, sea shell, azure, rose, court grey, opaline, crushed strawberry, drab, cadet blue, cream, and olive. Of these, white, cream, olive and azure are the most in vogue among ladies of taste and refinement. In size, octave takes the lead—the envelope being nearly square. The paper which appears to have the run over all others at the present time is the white and cream, with fancy initials at the centre top of the sheets. These initials are embossed and illuminated with gold, silver, and carmine. Paper having embossed monograms is also much used. Linen papers are preferred by many, and consequently they have a very good sale. Pomona is the name of a new writing paper, having for a tint what is termed winter sky. The surface is smooth, and quality extra fine. It is very neat.

THE WILLEDEN WATERPROOF PAPERS.—The promoters of this company are being congratulated on the wonderful success of their comparatively new enterprise, the manufacture of the Willesden paper. We extract the following from a contemporary:—"This wonderful substance has been shipped to every part of the globe. It is most extraordinary stuff, lasting, one would think, rather longer than galvanized iron, over which it has, moreover, several advantages, principally relating to weight and price. No statistics regarding the enduring quality of the paper have as yet been obtainable. The fact is that the material

does not wear out. It has been used during the past five or six years for drain-pipes, hot-water pipes, boats, cisterns, &c. besides serving its normal purpose as a roofing material; and the fabric still holds its own against the action of earth, water, and weather."

If you have not had a run yet on correspondence cards, prepare yourself for it in a cautious way. We will say, for the benefit of some of our readers who are not up to them, that correspondence cards are used for writing short notes, letters, or invitations. On a card that in some instances has a picture on it, this is slipped into an envelope to match. They are at once pretty and handy. Ladies like them.—*Newsman.*

LITHO. WRITING PENS.—Lithographic pens for writing on stone are now made by the best steel-pen makers, and are used to a limited extent. Such pens are exceedingly small and fine, even finer than a crow-quill, but the best lithographic pens are yet made by the artists themselves. They are made of thin steel ribbon, very slightly hollow-shaped, and slit by a fine pair of scissors made specially for the purpose. These pens are not fitted for working on paper, but on the surface of the stone they give lines of extreme fineness unattainable in any other way.

THE sixth and concluding volume of the new revised edition of Bancroft's History of the United States will be published before the close of the year, and the second volume of McMaster's History, which virtually continues Mr. Bancroft's life work, is to be expected in November.

Business Changes.

Hy. Allemang, Berlin, books and stationery, assigned.

R. B. Andrew, Bowmanville, books and stationery, assigned.

T. P. Conolly, Halifax, N.S., books and stationery, assigned.

G. E. Desbarats, Co., Montreal, lithographers, style changed to Can. Bank Note Engraving and Publishing Co.

Dickenson & Cranston, Woodstock, books and stationery, burned out.

A. Freeland, Brandon, Man., books and stationery, assigned.

O. E. Henderson, Almonte, books and stationery, asking extension.

J. C. Overell, Brockville, books and stationery, removed to Hamilton.

Alex. Perry, Winnipeg, books and stationery, assigned.

Pratt & Tracy, Stratford, publishers, Tracy retires, G. A. Jamieson admitted.

C. W. Ray & Bro., Montreal, pictures, &c., assigned.

James Robb, Stratford, publishers, G. H. Chandler admitted.

G. Shepherd, Goderich, books and stationery, sold out to Mrs. H. Cook.

Wilson Bros., Winnipeg, books and stationery, assigned.

Books and Notions,

MONTHLY JOURNAL,

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE

Book, Stationery and Fancy Goods Trades

OF CANADA.

PUBLISHED THE FIFTEENTH OF EVERY MONTH

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

Subscribers will oblige by informing us at once of any irregularities in delivery.

J. J. DYAS, Publisher.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION for Ontario has confirmed to Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh, Scotland, the one-third right to publish the New School Readers for the period of ten years. This was the right formerly accorded to and advertised by James Campbell & Son. Of course Nelson & Sons, not being located in Canada, could not produce these books of themselves, they have therefore re-sold the right to Copp, Clark & Co. for \$20,000 or thereabouts. All other publishers except the two, who have already each a third, are thereby excluded from printing, and this share of the profit goes to a distant land. This sale is not likely to be quietly acquiesced in by all parties. Report has it that the estate of Campbell & Son will contest the right of Nelson & Sons to the ownership of the privilege.

NORMAL SCHOOL.—Dr. Davies, Head Master of the Normal and Model Schools, has been compelled to resign that position, and the appointment is now in the hands of the Government—if not already promised. It is to be hoped that the new appointment will be a man of ability and firmness, not only capable of superintending the work of his subordinates, but with full power to insist on necessary aids to work being properly done, and one who will see that all is done. There can be but little doubt that the lives of Mrs. Cullen and Miss Hunt were sacrificed to overwork and an impure atmosphere. There must be no shirking of responsibility.

CHRISTMAS IN LETTERS AND ART.—If there is anything that would make one wish to be young again it is to be nursed on the literature for the young of the present day. In its art aspects it as nearly approaches perfection as it is possible to conceive; while as literature it is infinitely more attractive than anything we used to get from our sober, didactic teachers of the by-gone time. But not only has the taste been educated; there has been an unlocking of the doors of the imagination; and as a consequence a riotous profusion of gifts has come from every publishing house, till one is almost bewildered with the beauty and richness of the feast. Even the toy-books are works of art; and child-life is depicted with a quaint charm that is quite irresistible. The old-time heroes of the nursery don a new attire, and we renew our acquaintance with them with a pleasure and interest that are well-nigh indescribable. Not only in colour and in drawing are they tasteful objects of art, but the pictures are wonderful in conception. One has only to look at a Kate Greenway or a Richard Caldecott to discover what advances have been made in the nursery literature of the time, and to see how artistic is the feeling and educated the taste that produce such results. Then there is the wealth of serials and annual volumes that make their appearance with the snows of December, and bring before us such an array of competitors for public favour, that one knows not what to choose. Christmas numbers, too, are showered upon us in lavish abundance, and Christmas cards take us captive in every book store we enter. The talent and ingenuity that enter into the art of Christmas card manufacture now-a-days is simply marvelous. While the custom of sending these tokens of friendship is still on the increase, energy and industry will, no doubt, continue to be exercised to supply the demand, and each recurring year we shall see even greater excellence achieved in these issues of the season. Never, truly, have our book-stores been more attractive; but it wants but the money, and such cheery, seasonable weather as we are wont to get in Canada in December, to put every one in good spirits, and give a fillip to the buying-habit of our people, which, we trust, may make the Christmas trade of 1884 memorable in the annals of the native commerce of art and literature.

A FAIR DIVISION.—We were about writing an article calling attention to the necessity of a new insolvent act, when there appeared in the daily press the following cablegram:

A deputation from the Associated Chamber of Commerce on Friday held an interview with Sir John Macdonald, the Canadian Premier, and Sir Charles Tupper, the Canadian Commissioner in England. The deputation urged the passage of a bankruptcy

law or the adoption of some mode that will end the fraudulent preferences of bankrupts, by the Canadian Government. Sir John Macdonald replied that it was difficult to prevent fraudulent preferences, and promised the deputation that he would submit the question to the Canadian Parliament."

It speaks more loudly than anything we could write, and shows the need of prompt action.

The late examples, in our own trade, of unfair preference—that of James Campbell & Son—fully written on last month, and that of Boyd, Watson & Co., of London, in which a moiety only was left for all the creditors except some half dozen—are sufficient incentives for exertion to put the trade of the country on a more reliable basis.

Necessarily large amounts of the goods sold in the trades we represent are purchased in England, Germany and elsewhere.

Hitherto Canada's credit and the credit of her merchants has stood high. Shall it remain so?

The stability of trade, the good name of our merchants, and the honour of our own Canada, all combine to demand equity and right.

IN THE UNITED STATES there is a strong desire for a bankrupt law, and President Arthur in his annual message to Congress remarks:

In view of the general and persistent demand throughout the commercial community for a national bankrupt law, I hope that the differences of sentiment which have hitherto prevented its enactment may not outlast the present session.

GEORGE BROWN.—On Tuesday, November 25th, was unveiled in Queen's Park, Toronto, the monument erected to the memory of the Hon. George Brown, whose forceful and valuable life was cut short by the hand of an assassin, but who left behind him in the annals of his adopted country many marks of his ability and patriotism.

George Brown was a man of immense force of character, quickness of decision and firmness of purpose. From these characteristics arose his failures as well as his successes. Started on the right road he was a power for good, but if from wrong impression or bias his first step on any question was wrong he remained obstinately wrong all the way through.

As a political factor he was a tower of strength, and as a journalist he was supreme. He knew the newspaper business from beginning to end, and had such faith in himself and his paper that he never feared to pledge his credit to the utmost to secure means to carry on and improve his life work—the *Globe*. His enterprise in that direction is well shown by contrast with the work of his successors. Where his constant query was "what can be done to improve the *Globe*? in what direction can more money be ex-

ponded, more energy imparted?" theirs is "how can we reduce expenses, what feature may we lop off that will not be noticed?" George Brown's was the right course.

He was a faithful husband, a loving father, and a good citizen. With his many employees he was strict, with time servers severe, but to men who did their whole duty he was not only just but kind.

The monument he would have preferred above all others would have been a successful, enterprising, dominating *Globe*. As matters now stand the statue will have to serve.

THE MUTUAL NEWS Co.—The October Number of *The New York Newsdealer and Stationer* (which we place on our Change list as a welcome addition) takes the same view of this new Company as we did in last month's number.

Editorially, *The Newsdealer* says:—"While we welcome anything that will enter into competition with the American News Company, yet we would prefer to suffer as we have been doing, rather than encourage our pronounced enemy and traducer the *Herald* management," and to show how little the trade may expect in the way of a broad liberal policy, it gives the names and occupations of the first Board of Directors; "The Board of Directors consists of James Gordon Bennett, John W. Mackay, his partner; George F. Williams, of the *Herald* Delivery Department; Gardiner S. Howland, business manager of the *Herald*; John Townsend, its counsel, and Isaac Bell, jr., Mr. Bennett's brother-in-law. The only other members of the Board are George Jones, of the *Times*, and his son, Gilbert E. Jones."

"Better to bear the ills we have than fly to others that we know not of," even though that ill be no other than the *Toronto News Company*.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

This number of BOOKS AND NOTIONS is issued a few days earlier than usual, on account of the near approach of Christmas.

THE ADMIRABLE HOLIDAY NUMBERS OF *The American Stationer*, and *Geyer's Stationer*, have come to hand, and vie with each other in presenting journals excellent in style, and full of interesting matter to the trade. It is certainly creditable to the Stationery and Fancy Goods Trades of the United States that they support two such valuable weeklies.

THE FALL NUMBER OF *The Dominion Dry Goods Reporter* is readable and newsworthy. Only eleven months in existence, it is evident, from the large advertising patronage it has received, that though only an infant it promises to remain till a good old age. The full-page illustration, "Canadian Snow-shoe and Tobog-

gan suits, introducing the well-known features of Lord and Lady Lansdowne, is a creditable piece of work.

NEW COMPANY.—Notice has been given of an application for a charter of incorporation, for *The Canada School Journal Printing and Publishing Company*, with a capital of \$10,000. The applicants are Edwd. Westhead Arthy, Supt. of Schools, Quebec. Herbert C. Creed, Master of Normal School, Frederickton, N.B.; Wm. James Gage, Printer and Publisher, Toronto; Jas. L. Hughes, Inspector of City Schools, Toronto; Jacob Martin Kennedy, journalist, Toronto; John Lanyon Robertson, journalist, Toronto; Joseph D. Seaman, Charlottetown, P.E.I., School Teacher.

CHARMING.—Handsome engravings, good paper, and typographical work as nearly perfect as can be, make the Christmas number of *The Publisher's Weekly* the finest number of a trades journal imaginable. A book of 200 pages full from cover to cover with illustrations from the various holiday works, and letter press of great interest, it becomes an added volume to our library, and no mean one either.

PERSONAL.

MR. JOHN F. ELLIS, manager of the Barber & Ellis Co., left for England on the 24th ult. As he has the knack, when away from home, of picking up something new and good for the Stationery trade, we may look for some attractive novelties on his return.

MARRIAGE.—In Brandon, Man., on 13th November, Mr. F. C. Paterson, bookseller and stationer, to Miss Margaret Frances Cameron of Kemptville, Ontario.

Grade Reviews.

THE BOOK AND STATIONERY TRADE OF TORONTO has not been up to the mark, but the last few days has shown a manifest improvement in books of a holiday character. The offering of thousands of volumes of miscellaneous literature, in a great measure adapted to the season, both at auction and in stores opened for the purpose, must have an effect, and the legitimate dealer has to succumb to the dishonest actions of others. Thousands of dollars worth of books imported by James Campbell & Son, have lately been hawked about by those who in good faith, unfortunately advanced money on them, and as these must be turned into cash, whatever the loss, it is easy to imagine the effect on Christmas trade wherever chance may distribute them, but Toronto will undoubtedly suffer the most.

In cards there is less doing; none appearing of very new or chaste designs, while mediocre ones are carried by American druggists into the shops of every retailer at prices much below those paid by the wholesale importer.

In fancy goods the variety on show is not equal to that of former seasons, but still lovely articles are to be found both in jewellery and glassware, and there

is every prospect that all desirable notions will be cleared out before the year's end.

Paper of all kinds has been in fair demand and prices well sustained. Collectors are too much behind.

NEW YORK.—The paper market lately has been very quiet, and although not much has been doing, the feeling has been rather in favour of an advance than otherwise. The agreement among the writing manufacturers to shut down during the latter part of this month, and the uncertainty of the government policy, depending on the Presidential election, cause a feeling of distrust, so that mills are not anxious to accept orders to any extent. The general make is decidedly short, and this fact will sustain prices for a while, and although higher rates may be looked for, few care to speculate thereon.

In envelope and fine writing trade is certainly brisker than of late, but for other lines there is little demand.

Blank books and ledger papers are being pushed up by the official order respecting rags.

It seems as if sealing wax would again come into use, fashion apparently so orders it, and there is an enquiry for fancy seals.

Borrowers can obtain any amount of money on first class security, and at low rates, say about 5 per cent., but there is not much demand.

OUR FAIR PACIFIC PROVINCE.—British Columbia, although one of the youngest of the Provinces of the Dominion, nevertheless, is well represented in the stationery line generally.

In Victoria, the capital city of the province, containing about 10,000 inhabitants, there are four very fine Stationery and Bookselling establishments, where almost everything in the line, or in the way of fancy goods connected with the stationery business can be found.

The oldest firm in the business is that of Messrs. T. N. Hibben & Co., originally established under the name of Hibben & Carswell, in the year 1858. The present firm is conducted under the name of T. N. Hibben & Co., and consists of T. N. Hibben, C. W. Kammerer and W. H. Bone; their stock is valued at about \$35,000.

The next in order is the store of M. W. Waitt & Co., established in 1877; M. W. Waitt being at the head of the firm. They carry a well-selected stock of general stationery and fancy goods of an estimated value of at least \$20,000.

Mr. Charles Morton opened his store in the same lines as the two former, in the year 1882, and at the present time appears to be doing a fair business.

J. B. Ferguson & Co. are the late arrivals, having opened during the present year with an extensive assortment of all classes of stationery and books, valued at about \$18,000.

Manufacturing for the before mentioned establishments, is the firm of R. T. Williams,* bookbinding and blank book manufacturing in all their branches, having extensive machinery for ruling bill-heads and all classes of general work.

* Publisher of the *British Columbia Directory*, a creditable work as to style and content. What specimens of book-work we have seen from our far off Western Province, have all been excellent.

New Westminster, the principal city of the Mainland of British Columbia, is not far behind the metropolis of the Province, having very fine stationery stores, respectively, Thos. R. Pearson & Co., and Zed S. Hall, both general booksellers and stationers, behind whose counters may be found any thing required in the line.

Nanaimo, on the Island of Vancouver, is also not far behind her more wealthy neighbour, Victoria, possessing as she does the extensive and well conducted stationery and fancy goods establishment of E. Pimbery & Co., where anything in the stationery line can be found.

Raper, Raper & Co., also have a well-selected stock, and being an old firm, are said to be doing well.

One very noticeable feature about all the stationery and book stores in British Columbia is the large quantities of Canadian blank books and general stationery offered for sale, and doubtless, as eastern firms make more fully known the stocks they keep, and cheap transportation is opened up, when the Canadian Pacific Railway is completed, British Columbia will then buy far more extensively in the marts of Eastern Canada. W.

THE FOREST CITY.—The Xmas trade is on us at last, but very lightly yet, and those in the trade are very busy getting out their Xmas cards. We have been hoping that when the cold weather arrived it would bring brisk business, but from what the dry goods and grocery dealers say it has not done so. The flurry over Jas. Campbell & Son's failure has subsided, the several dealers involved here having made satisfactory arrangements with their creditors. Watson, Young & Co.'s sale is still a topic of conversation here, the disposal of the assets show the pressing want of a good insolvent act, as it now stands the preferred creditors and the banks get the lion's share. I have noticed circulars from the new News Co., organized in New York, which seem to promise well. Competition would, no doubt, do good, and tend to level some of the differences between the old company and the retail trade. LONDON.

ON THE LINE OF "THE WESTERN" AND THEREABOUTS.—Being only half through my trip, I have but little new to offer you.

Books and stationery are very quiet, and by the prospects I have a notion they will not improve much next month. A great drawback, preventing any boom in business, is the fact that the farmers are holding on to their grain for higher prices, a foolish thing to do.

Campbell & Son's failure is stopping us fellows from doing much business, inasmuch that the advertisements offering the stock for sale lead our customers to expect big bargains. One of my customers informed me last week that he made a special trip to the city to secure these "bargains" and got left. Nothing at all was offered at reduced prices, except Xmas cards. I have since had corroboration of the above statement from other customers.

Hope to be able to report improved trade in my next. C. T.

EAST AND NORTH-EAST OF TORONTO.—Dull, dull, nothing but dullness in the book, stationery and fancy goods lines.

Between Toronto and Montreal, and in both these places, everybody is grumbling, the only exception being Ottawa and Kingston. Perhaps it is that less satisfies the trade in the ancient and the modern capital.

A feature worth noticing is the great improvement made in A. C. McLean's new store in Carleton Place, just over the way from the old stand.

Beautifully fitted up, neat and tidy in its appearance, there is no place of its size in Canada can boast of such a tasty "shop."

In Brockville J. C. Overell, of old acquaintance, has moved and gone west, but only as far as Hamilton.

Of course with trade so dull we poor commercials have to return with slimly filled order books.

Trade Notices.

THE LARGELY INCREASED DEMAND for the Shannon File has compelled the removal of the Toronto office to more commodious quarters, a couple of doors east of the old stand on Adelaide street. On the ground floor in a new and handsome building the office sales will probably still further increase.

A GOOD SECOND-HAND BOOK STORE, with supplies received regularly from the parent establishment, Euston Road, London, has been some months established in Toronto, at 298 Yonge St. John Britnell is the proprietor.

THE DEMAND FOR CHRISTMAS NUMBERS of the leading English illustrated papers appears to be on the increase. A leading King St. newsman reports orders for over 1,200 copies this year—the largest number yet.

HART & COMPANY have brought out a series of finely engraved "Society Cards" much used at this season of the year. The series comprise six different kinds of Invitation Cards in blank for "At Homes," evening parties, dinners, &c. They are done up in neat boxes of 50 with envelopes to match. They seem to be what every first class stationer wants; they are carefully prepared and are just what are used by the "best society" in Toronto. For the first time they are put into a shape that stationers throughout the country can handle a line like this.

MUSKOKA.—What about Muskoka now, when it makes one shiver to think of being any further north than we are. It is not of Muskoka in winter, but in the pleasant summer days when camping out puts new life and vigour into the jaded frame. It is of our charming holiday resort, called by the artist "The Picturesque Playground of Canada."

Edward Roper gives us in a series of twelve plates, lithographed from crayon work, some of the principal points of interest in our northern hunting ground, and so faithful are they that habitues of the region are highly pleased. One who has not been there has only to see the set to make him long to spend next summer on Lakes Rosseau and Joseph, or wander by the South Fall of the Muskoka River. A good set to buy for absent friends. The trade supplied by Hart & Co., Toronto.

Book Notices.

THE NEW SCHOOL READERS.—The mountain has delivered—but so far only a mouse has come forth. The "First Reader, Part I," of the new Ontario series has been sent out for review, and it has been accorded by our Toronto daily papers a few short notices. It is well printed with a good clear type, and on excellent paper, therefore far in advance of any Reader heretofore in use. The cuts are numerous and well executed, with but the slight exception on p. 21, where an animal, we believe without a prototype, is made to do duty as a kid. Again, on p. 16, is a large cut—evidently of New York origin, for in no other State could the scene be realized, "A fat man," with flowing ringlets, is sitting in a well-padded easy chair, with his plug hat alongside, and with a palm-leaf fan in his hand! His cat watching with quiet satisfaction the progress of a doze. This is not Canadian!

The Script in imitation of Slate-writing is a good introduction and well done, but we should prefer the old form of the capital letter H. On p. 27, for instance, the difference between H and K is too microscopic to be discerned by children, and there is no occasion for the change.

In a first lesson book, in words of one syllable, is a child capable of understanding compound letters, as representing a word where that word is not once fully spelt in the book—as Mr. for Mister, p. 48-61.

Among the illustrations we have, on p. 11, "a gig," and on p. 21 "a gig." These vehicles are absolutely unlike each other, and the name is almost unknown among Ontario drivers—which cut is correct?

It is quite evident we are to have a new style of spelling introduced, so that children who have nearly finished their schooling will find themselves in arrear of newer pupils in this department, and many will be in woful plight at examinations. For instance, the old-fashioned axe is now spelt ax, contrary to usage and authority,

Again the compound word Di'gram is now robbed of its divisional accent and written Digram about thirty times in this little book. We should be glad to learn of any respectable authority for this change. Both Webster and Worcester have it divided with the accent mark. At any rate it is a word rarely used and to be found in few dictionaries, but no doubt will be perfectly understood by children using their primer.

The only excuse we can think of is its tendency to shorten words; but if the final non-sounded letter is to be dropped in axe, the Minister of Education must consent to lose a chop off his latter end and be Mr. Roa.

Of course the labouring population throughout the country will not raise an objection if the price of this primer is advanced 100 per cent., as its increased size and beauty will render parents perfectly satisfied to pay all that is asked—and more too.

PROSPECTS OF THE SEASON.—Our readers will find in the following List of Announcements, all, or nearly all, the books which may be expected to appear during the forthcoming season. If it be taken in connection with the list of works actually published during the past month, the quantity, at any rate will compare favourably with that presented to their at-

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| 33—Without a Home, by E. P. Roe.....                                                                                                                                                                                     | 25            |
| 35—Heart and Science, by Wilkie Collins.....                                                                                                                                                                             | 30            |
| 36—Peck's Bad Boy and His Pa, by Geo. W. Peck....                                                                                                                                                                        | 15            |
| 37—Gabriel Conroy, by Bret Harte.....                                                                                                                                                                                    | 20            |
| 38—Set in Diamonds, by Bertha M. Clay.....                                                                                                                                                                               | 20            |
| 39—A Woman's Renson, by W. D. Howells.....                                                                                                                                                                               | 20            |
| 40—His Sombre Rivals, by E. P. Roe.....                                                                                                                                                                                  | 25            |
| 41—The Grocery Man and Peck's Bad Boy, by G. W. Peck.....                                                                                                                                                                | 15            |
| 42—The Lansdowne Premium Number.—Containing a sketch of Lord Lansdowne's Life, by J. E. Collins; and the Haunted Hotel, by Wilkie Collins, with which a handsome Lithograph of Lord Lansdowne (24 x 30 in) is given..... | 25            |
| 43—The Vicar's Daughter, by George Macdonald....                                                                                                                                                                         | 20            |
| 44—The Spy of the Rebellion, by Allan Pinkerton....                                                                                                                                                                      | 25            |
| 45—Kate Danton, by May Agnes Fleming.....                                                                                                                                                                                | 20            |
| 46—Bessie's Fortune, by Mary J. Holmes.....                                                                                                                                                                              | 25            |
| 47—Claude Melnotte and other Detective Stories, by Allan Pinkerton.....                                                                                                                                                  | 20            |
| 48—The Two Destinies, by Wilkie Collins.....                                                                                                                                                                             | 20            |
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tention in former years. Excessive efforts in the direction of cheap production seem to have invoked a natural reaction in favour of fine and expensive editions, arrayed in all the luxury of hand-made paper and wide margins, and the danger now threatens of carrying the fashion too far, by putting commonplace books into uniforms of undeserved splendour. Turning to the list, it will be seen that no particular branch of literature has received conspicuous attention; but on the other hand, each is fairly represented by books of average promise. Discouraging stories are current of depression in various branches of trade, but the publishers at least have not been idle, and we are encouraged to hope that for some time to come the booksellers will be both busy and prosperous.—*The Bookseller.*

AMERICAN WORKS.—In the course of an interview with Miss Florence Marryatt, the popular novelist, actress and reader, a reporter of the *Mail* put the question:

“How are the American novelists appreciated in England?”

“Well, that is rather a delicate question to ask me, but to tell you the truth, with the exception of two or three names like Hawthorne, Fenimore Cooper, and Irvine, American writers of fiction are very little known. I was editor of *London Society* for four years, and during that time a large number of American magazines like the *Atlantic Monthly* were sent me, and of course I had every opportunity of examining American magazine literature. Thaxter's sonnets are, I consider, perfectly charming, and I never take up a good American story without admiring the way they are written. They seem to put into one small story what in England, where there are such jaded hacks in literature, would appear in a three volume novel. One reason perhaps why the English public do not appreciate so highly American fiction is because the books are so directly local both in scenery and characteristics. Now there is one, ‘Dr. Servier’ (picking up the volume) which I have just been reading. It is an exceedingly clever book, written by a master hand, but I am not quite sure it would interest my English friends. It interests me, though, as I particularly like local works. They bring the habits, manners, and customs of other nations before one better than any other method. However, the objection of which I have spoken will gradually disappear as American writers become better acquainted with other continents.”

HANDSOME BOOKS.—Paper suitable for the *edition de luxe* are in greater demand. These are chiefly hand-made. The prospects of Hand-made Mills are likely to continue encouraging, for the public taste for these kinds of books seems to be on the increase.

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Bookwork, highly embellished, and characteristic of old-style days, forms a feature of the present day. Illuminated title pages first attracted attention, and met with commercial success. Then publishers extended their pages, until the whole book was printed from the stone in colours. As an illustration of this class of work we might refer to a series of folio books published by the Queen's Printers. Last year it was the "Jackdaw of Rheims." This year it is the "Lay of St. Aloys."—*British and Colonial States Printer and Stationer.*

A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER BOOK. The Cambridge University Press has just issued a very handsome Ruby 32mo. prayer-book, with border lines to the pages, and rubrics, initials and head-lines in red. Everything about the book is in its favour. The type is exceedingly clear and distinct, the printing beautifully clean and regular, and, although the paper in the copy sent to us is very thin, it is wonderfully opaque. It is issued in the usual variety of bindings, and also bound up with the red line edition of Hymns Ancient and Modern. The copy before us is in the choicest levant limp, with watered silk linings, red under gilt edges, gilt on the round; a book which will satisfy the most critical, and of which the mere handling is a source of genuine pleasure.—*The Bookseller.*

THE LIGHT OF ASIA.—The illustrated edition of Mr. Edwin Arnold's poetical *chef d'œuvre* has just been issued by Messrs. Trubner & Co. It is a handsomely-printed, small quarto, but its chief interest lies in the fact that the whole of its illustrations, head and tail pieces, and other embellishments, have been drawn from Buddhist sculptures and frescoes found in Indian ruins, and of an age contemporary with the most flourishing period of Buddhist ascendancy in India.—*The Bookseller.*

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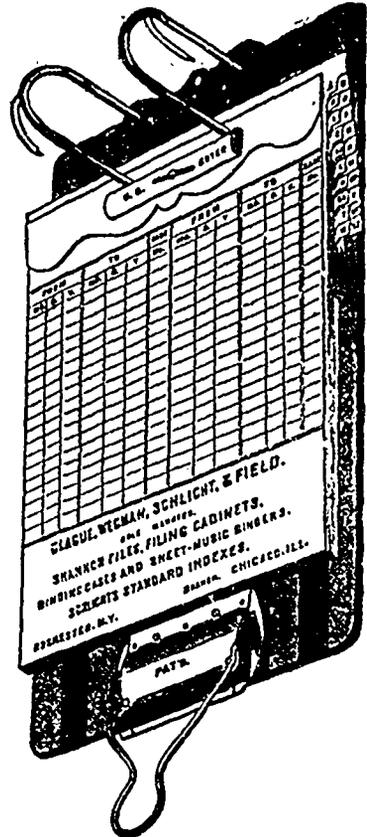
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