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The Canada Bookseller

MISCELLANY AND ADVERTISER.

No. 1—Vol. 2.]

JULY, 1872.

[NEW SERIES.

THE NEW COPYRIGHT ACT.

THE many urgent and persistent efforts of the Dominion Government to get the Imperial authorities to take cognizance of the anomalies of the Copyright law in Canada, and to sanction native reprinting as a remedy for its defects; having failed of any result, our Parliament has taken the initiative in the matter, and has passed an Act legalizing the reprinting of English Copyrights in the country. This important measure, however, does not become law until the Governor-General issues a proclamation to that end—the delay being deemed expedient in order that the assent of the British Government may be obtained, in case we have exceeded our powers of legislation.

There is little fear but that Imperial sanction will be had, as the Colonial Office is fully aware of the substantial advantages the English author secures by the Act; while of the authors themselves, many of the more prominent of them have heartily endorsed the Act, and are now earnestly advocating its acceptance, in the English public prints, as being most advantageous to the *prime* interests at stake—those of the author.

The English publishers, it is thought, will probably endeavour to prevent the Act being assented to by the British Government, with the hope of hindering its going into operation here. Their object in taking this course in regard to the Bill is their desire to retain the Canadian market in their exclusive possession—a market they have hitherto snubbed and neglected. Like British statesmen in regard to our political relations, now that the market has grown to be of such importance, they wish to keep it ever in leading strings, in utter ignorance, at the same time, of the circumstances of its position, or of the necessities of the country.

What the peculiarities of our position in regard to this matter of copyright and the supply of our intellectual wants are, our readers of course know. That the Canadian trade draws so much of its literary supplies from New York and Boston, they equally well know, is not the fault of the Book Importers of the country. The men of the trade throughout the Dominion are almost entirely of Canadian or British origin, and all the wholesale dealers have sympathies and predilections in favour of the English market, whither they go annually to purchase for their several constituents. That they all should be represented in London, generally every year, where they come in contact with leading publishers in the business relations they are per-

mitted to have with them; and that with a full knowledge, which they freely communicate to the trade, of the circumstances of the Colonial market, and an enterprise which prompts them to buy largely if met advantageously and reasonably—that they, we say, should return to buy the same publications in a foreign and alien market is surely not the fault of the native trade. That we should have the option of buying in the American market is, further, not the fault of Canadian booksellers, but the consequence of our peculiar position, as contrasted with that of other British Colonies. And it is this geographical relationship to the United States (where these reprints are produced, and whence they radiate over a continent the reading capacity of the people of which is one of the marvels of the age) that the conservative English publisher will not see, and yet it is a circumstance in our case which calls for special attention and an adaptation of trade dealings.

It was this circumstance that led to the concession of 1847, permitting us to trade in American reprints of English copyrights; and for London publishers to shut their eyes to the thousand miles of almost indistinguishable boundary line that divides Canada from the Eastern and Northern States, and to prescribe the interchange in literary commodities between these countries is as absurd as it would be to limit the intimate trade dealings of Scotland and England at the borders, or to erect the parallel line of 2° west longitude in England into a restrictive commercial boundary across which the people of either side should have no dealings.

The circumstance of our contiguous position to the United States is thus an essential element in the consideration of our case; but the English publishers have been so slow to recognize this, and so inelastic in their style of doing business as to prevent their meeting the Canadian trade with such concessions in their terms as the circumstances required and they could afford. Considering the growing extent of the market, it would have been materially worth their while to have done so, as it is, it is no wonder that so much of the native trade has found its way to the American markets. Moreover, these very markets, large and important as they are, and being sundered from the jurisdiction of the Imperial Copyright Act, might have been, to a great extent, tributary to the English sources of supply, had the publishing firms of London, shaking off their old world notions and abandoning their insular restrictiveness, adapted the style and price of their publications to the

publishing method of the new world, viz.: popular e litior, as cheap price, and a large sale.

Canada having grown up amid the cheap re-publication system of the American trade, and for thirty years having had her educational necessities and intellectual life fed, to a great degree, from this source—legally permitted, by Imperial enactment, in consideration of the circumstances of her position—it can occasion no surprise, therefore, that possessing industry, labour and enterprise, she is now desirous of manufacturing for her own demand, particularly as in doing so she has due regard to the author's interests,—nay, places him at an infinitely greater advantage with regard to both Canadian and American markets than is possible under any existing arrangement, while, at the same time, endeavouring to do justice to her own industry.

The measure just passed, it need hardly be added, is no selfish one on the part of the Canadian book-trade: neither would there have been any necessity for it had the English publishers adapted themselves to the wants and circumstances of a new people—bound to educate themselves and rise intellectually to the standard of older peoples at the most economical outlay their slender means can afford; neither does it do injustice to the author-producer, except as it may arbitrarily adopt a plan whereby an adequate remuneration shall be secured for the author, which will return him, if the Act have fair play, a royalty likely to bulk up more largely in the liberal per-centage from a large sale, than the English large per-centage from the limited sale; and that without cost of collection, or any publisher's levy for advertising charges, commission on sales, or the thousand and one items that qualify the financial result to English authors from the product of their brains.

COVERS FOR BINDING.

The publishers have issued a handsome cloth case for binding the completed volume of "THE CANADIAN MONTHLY" during the present month. The cost will be 40c., or by post free for 50c. City subscribers can have their volumes bound, including case, for 75c. The publishers will issue gratuitously with the July number an elegant tinted duplicate title-page, preserving the emblematic character of the magazine cover. Subscribers had better, therefore, wait receipt of this before binding the volume.—Let our friends help us in extending the circulation with the new volume.

THE NATIVE BOOK TRADE.

PREPARING FOR THE FALL.

THE Toronto wholesale houses are active in preparing for the autumn business, which, it is thought, will be large and important. The trade generally is healthy and active, and indicates increased prosperity, notwithstanding the advance in prices. All of the importing firms are represented in England this year. Mr. James Bain, jr., represents Messrs. Jas. Campbell & Son. Mr. H. J. Clark, of Messrs. Copp, Clark & Co., and Mr. Warwick, have been gone some weeks. Mr. Adam Miller goes about the middle of July. Mr. Adam, of

Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co., leaves this week, and is to be joined in London early in August by Mr. John Lovell of Montreal. Mr. Lovell, it is known, is not an importer but a publisher; but he goes to Britain with the purpose of conferring with English authors and publishers, in conjunction with Mr. Adam, on the subject of the new Copyright Act recently passed by the Dominion Legislature.

So much misunderstanding exists in England on this matter among the trade, and so little do authors and publishers know of the liberal concessions of the Act, that it is thought that before discussion arises there as to the merits of the Bill, accurate statements should be put forth in regard to its provisions, and a full and frank explanation made of the circumstances of our position in relation to the subject, in justification of the action taken by our Parliament. We trust these gentlemen may meet with success in their conference with the trade. Mr. Adam's purchases for his firm will be large and varied. The departments of the book trade are numerous; and each year shows a steady increase in all its branches. The retail trade of the country continues to grow very satisfactorily; and it is a matter for congratulation that the intellectual life of the young Dominion is not lagging behind in the race for material riches.

ITEMS.

NATIVE.

Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co. issue this month, with the imprimatur, also, of Mr. John Lovell, Montreal, Mr. Richard Lewis' practical text book on Elocution, with selections of the most choice readings in Oratory, Fiction, Poetry and the Drama. The work has been specially prepared for public readings, self-instruction, and for use as a manual for Schools and Colleges. Exercises and instruction for the cultivation of the speaking voice and for expressive reading and oratorical delivery are given in the work, which will be found an admirable text book on the subject of elocution.

They also issue in an elegant crown 8vo. His Excellency Earl Dufferin's graphic "Letters from High Latitudes," being an account of a yacht voyage of 6000 miles to Iceland, Jan Mayen and Spitzbergen. The sale, now that our new Governor General has taken up his residence in the country, will no doubt be immediate and large.

The first volume of *The Canadian Monthly*, in a handsome cloth case, is issued by this firm, and is undoubtedly one of the most important and attractive publications that has been issued from the native press. The contents of the volume are varied and interesting, the contributors are notable and prominent men, and the style of the contributions does credit to Canadian scholarship and culture. The publishers are indebted to Mr. James Campbell, wholesale bookseller, for the elegant emblematic design on the cover. Its chaste and appropriate character will, we are sure, be admired. Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co., the printers of the Magazine, deserve a hearty acknowledgment of their mechanical skill and taste in the dress and execution of the periodical.

Mr. John Macdonald's eminently practical and important lecture delivered before the Young Men's Christian Association, on "Business Success, what it is and how to secure it," is one of the new issues of Messrs. A., S. & Co. It merits an extensive sale in its separate book form.

Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co. have ready a neat edition, issued in paper and cloth, of Anthony Trollope's new story, "The Golden Lion of Granpere," by arrangement with the author. They will issue shortly Dr. Geo. Macdonald's "The Virgin's Daughter," a story now appearing in serial form in England. In October they have arranged to issue Mr. Chas. Reade's new story now appearing in *London Society*, entitled "A Simpleton," and a Christmas story, later, from the same pen. They will also issue a new story by Mr. Wilkie Collins, to appear in *Temple Bar*, the title of which will be afterwards announced.

ENGLISH.

Messrs. Longman & Co., who have recently issued Mr. A. Proctor's "Essay on Astronomy," now announce from the same pen, "The Orbs around us; a series of sketches of Planets and Stars, Comets, meteors and nebulae."

Mr. John Murray has just published an English translation of the concluding volume of the Marquis de Bouvois's "a Voyage round the World, embracing Pekin, Jeddo and San Francisco. It is said of the work that 5000 were sold in Paris within a week of its publication, and it has been highly praised by the *Journal des Debats*.

Messrs. Hurst & Blackett issue a new edition, largely re-written, of Mr. W. Hepworth Dixon's "History of Wm. Penn, Founder of Pennsylvania." The work is a notable one in the department of Biography, and the addition of new materials will lend a fresh interest to it.

Messrs. Tinsley Bros. have ready a new volume of sketches by Geo. A. Sala, entitled "Under the Sun." They also announce a work on the "Retention of India," by Mr. Alex. Halliday.

Messrs. George Routledge & Sons issue from their busy press a new edition, brought down to May, 1872, of "Men of the Time, a Dictionary of Contemporaries." They have ready, also, in their Standard Library series, a new selected volume by Dr. Charles Mackay, entitled, "A thousand and one Gems of Prose."

Messrs. Chapman and Hall publish in the new Illustrated Household Edition of Charles Dickens' works, "Martin Chuzzlewit." This Edition, when completed, will be a great favourite. They issue two new novels, "Satanstoe: a story of Punctestown," by G. Whyte-Melville, and "Three to One," by Dr. G. W. Dasent, author of "Annals of an Eventful Life."

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. announce a biography of Prof. Faraday, by J. H. Gladstone, F.R.S.; and an introduction, in popular form, to the Study of Physical Phenomena, from the French of A. Guillemin, edited by Mr. Norman Lockyer.

Messrs. Trübner & Co. intimate the early publication of a new work, by Mr. W. R. Greg, author of "The Creeds of Christendom," bearing the title of "Enigmas of Life."

Messrs. R. Bentley & Son's two recent lists embrace two new novels; one by Mr. J. S. Le Fanu, entitled "In a Glass Darkly;" the other, "Thrown Together," by Florence Montgomery, author of "Misunderstood."

Messrs. Rivington & Co. announce "The Argument delivered before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, by Dr. Stephens, in the case Sheppard v. Bennett," which has so excited the Ecclesiastical world at home lately. They have ready a work under the joint editorship of the Rev. J. H. Blunt and Mr. W. G. Philimore, being an exposition of the Legal Rights and Duties of the Parochial Clergy and Laity of the Church of England. Its title is "The Book of Church Law." The same firm have also ready a cheaper edition of Canon Mozely's Bampton Lectures "On Miracles."

AMERICAN.

Messrs. J. B. Ford & Co. have just issued, in book form, Rev. H. Ward Beecher's "Lectures on Preaching," delivered lately at Yale College. These expositions of the art of preaching will, no doubt, be read by many who are curious to know what so successful a preacher has to say on the subject of homiletics.

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