

**A PIONEER IN TRADE.**

**ONE OF THE CITY'S OLDEST AND HONORED CONCERNS**

**Is George Hatt & Sons, the Largest Grocery in the City—An Idea of Its Progress and a Few of Its Business Methods.**

In considering the trade of a city, the grocery business, based as it is on the demand for the prime necessities of everyday existence, claims a foremost place. Especially is this the case in a city like Fredericton, which is the distributing centre and storage depot for the supplies of the great lumbering and agricultural districts in the vicinity. When we consider that these necessities must be had, and that stinting ourselves in these means a deterioration of the system, we must at once perceive how important it is that we buy at the best house, the saving to a family which buys from a firm selling superior goods at a small advance on cost, soon amounting to a handsome sum.

Fredericton, the roads being too bad to allow of such means of transportation, and the only conveyances were the canoe in summer and the sled in winter. But very little flour was in use, corn being the chief article of food and this the farmers of the back lying districts such as Harvey used to carry on their backs, 60 pounds being the usual burden of each one, so that by the time they got home and stayed a few days it was time to come to Fredericton for more. Such was the state of trade and such were the oppressive hardships of the first settlers, and as Mr. Hatt laughingly observed, it made him feel like Rip Van Winkle to see the numerous changes which had taken place, and to hear the people grumble at disappointments and hardships which their forefathers would have considered trifles.

It is hardly necessary to add that in the advance movement which has taken place the firm of George Hatt & Sons has held a position in the first rank.

**PENNY PRESS PIONEER.**

**MR. GEORGE E. FENETY, QUEEN'S PRINTER, OF FREDERICTON.**

**A Career of Honor and Usefulness—Five Years Mayor of His City, He Beautified and Improved It—Some Events in His Life.**

[Partly taken from the Canadian Biographical Dictionary—1881.]

George E. Fenety, Queen's Printer of the Province of New Brunswick, was born in Halifax, N. S.; he is the fourth son of William Fenety, of Halifax, an Architect and Draughtsman, who was for some years engaged in the King's Works; he died in 1826; his mother, Mary Hall, went to Nova Scotia in 1783 with her father, Richard Hall, a staunch Loyalist, one of the sturdy band who settled in Shelburne, a town which at one time contained a population of 12,000, chiefly made up of Loyalists from the States of Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey. At the age of seventeen, Fenety entered the Office of the *Nova Scotian*, the champion paper of the Liberals, owned by the Honorable Joseph Howe; and during his connection with that paper, which lasted for several years, he travelled over the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, collecting accounts. He continued to enjoy the esteem and confidence of Mr. Howe until his death, which occurred during his Administration as Lieutenant-Governor of his native Province in 1875. In November, 1835, the year of the cholera, Mr. Fenety left Halifax and went to New York, where he resided for twelve months. At the end of that time he was attached to the *Planters' Advocate*, as Assistant Editor, a periodical published at Donaldville, a town situated about sixty-five miles above New Orleans, on the Mississippi; and in six months after became half proprietor. The climate, which annually fosters yellow fever, came nigh proving fatal to his northern constitution, too accustomed to frosts and snow, and compelled him in 1839 to sell out, and once more turn his face homeward; he settled in St. John, full of enterprise, hope, industry, and a courage to face difficulties which no obstacle could daunt; he soon after started the first Penny Paper in the Maritime Provinces, (perhaps British America), called the *Morning News*, the Pioneer of all the present dailies. The idea of issuing a Paper at so small a price was met at first with indifference, especial-

ly as in the case of the advocacy for Responsible Government, broadsides poured into the Citizens and the Aldermen—now coaxing, now badgering, now storming and scolding—day in and day out, and—the work was done. And so with the Reed's Point wharves and other city improvements.

In 1856 Mr. Fenety was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the City and County of St. John, (until this time to receive such an appointment a man must have strong claims upon the old aristocratic element, for a justice was deemed to be one of the heavy weights of the country, which Mr. Fenety did not aspire to be) and in 1857, by the Government, one of a Commission to investigate and report upon the Management of the Lunatic Asylum, the Provincial Penitentiary, the Marine Hospital, and Light Houses on the coast, all of which had been conducted at what was considered to great an expense. The Commissioners consisted of the Hon. David Wark, James McFarlane, G. E. Fenety, Henry Fisher, and Joel Reading. After a tedious and laborious investigation, which lasted several weeks, the Commissioners made a Report to the Government of such a practical nature, that great good resulted from it. In 1863, Mr. Fenety (without application) was appointed Queen's Printer, that position having become vacant through the death of John Simpson, Esq., and he has continued to hold the office since that time. In 1867 he published a Volume of 500 pages, entitled *Political Notes and Observations*, which furnished a history of the legislative struggles in New Brunswick for the principles now recognized as "Responsible Government." His experience and knowledge of all the public men who performed active parts in the debates, covering a period of fifteen years, which the Volume embraces, viz., from 1840 to 1855, and the materials which were exclusively at his command, enabled him to accomplish a work which has turned out to be of importance to the province. Mr. Fenety was elected Mayor of Fredericton in 1877, and on his retirement was presented by the citizens with a piece of plate (an epergne) valued at \$250, and an Address signed by upwards of 300 citizens. Mr. Fenety, besides spending largely of his money in beautifying the city, devoted his salary, which he was entitled to as Mayor, towards paying for the clock erected in the City Hall tower.

This clock has now been all paid for, but it is doubtful if the Citizens, especially in the upper end of the town, would have had a clock to tell them the time for many a day had not Mayor Fenety then led the way and showed how the thing could be done and with the least possible cost to the city. The same remark may also apply to the beautiful Fountain in front of the City Hall. The Mayor originated it, headed the list with a large sum for its erection, and was ably assisted by a Committee of spirited gentlemen, who did not only subscribe liberally, but got others to do likewise. But all the same the Fountain is due to the public spirit of the then Mayor.

At his own expense he planted trees in several of the streets and avenues of the city and has always taken a lively interest in every thing going in the shape of general improvement and enterprising movements.

In 1883, a Requisition was presented to him, signed by 300 citizens, asking him to allow himself to be put in nomination for Mayor for another term—to which he assented and was elected over his competitor by a majority of 230 votes; and for three successive years after this year he was re-elected without opposition, and might have been again elected, but he thought it his duty to retire that others might have an opportunity of filling the office. He has therefore occupied the office of Mayor altogether 5 years. In 1883, he originated in the Council an improved committee system of conducting the public business, which up to that time had been in the hands of 13 different Committees. The whole business is now managed by 2 Committees only—that is to say, the original 13 have been thus condensed—there being 10 Aldermen, 5 managed one division and the other 5 the other division, and at every meeting of a Committee the Mayor and City Clerk are supposed to be present, and thus obtain an intelligent knowledge of all that is going on in private. Mr. Fenety never missed a single Committee meeting during the years he had been Mayor, unless when absent from the City. To those who have any idea of public affairs this reform will at once commend itself, and the same might be adopted with advantage by other municipalities. But the ex-Mayor has always contended that in order to fix responsibility for injudicious expenditures, the Mayor should have a veto on all acts of the Council unless overruled by a two-thirds vote, according to the American custom, so that he alone could be brought to account before the constituency in cases of wrong doing. At present there is no individual responsibility—if there is any blame it is divided among ten gentlemen, while the Mayor is the most harmless of all, because the majority rule. Five years experience in the Mayor's chair is evidence sufficient of the correctness of the ex-Mayor's opinions.

Among the other offices which the subject of this sketch has filled during his long career, may be mentioned: Vestryman of St. James' Church, St. John; Director of the Mechanics' Institute; Director of the Joggins Coal Mining Association, St. John; President of the Auxiliary Bible Society, Fredericton; Trustee of Schools; Director of Central Fire Insurance Company; President of the Gas Company; Chairman of Forest Hill Cemetery Company; Chairman Board of Health; Vice-President of Church of England Temperance Society; Delegate from Christ's Church Cathedral to Diocesan Church Society; Delegate from Cathedral to Diocesan Synod; Director of Fredericton Leather Company; President Fredericton Historical Society; Vice-President of New Brunswick Society, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; President of Fredericton Park Association; Delegate appointed to a Citizens' Meeting held in Fredericton to proceed to Ottawa to confer with the Dominion Government respecting a subsidy to the Fredericton and Miramichi Valley Railroad. (Since built and now known as the "Northern and Western.") Gradually, from time to time and voluntarily, Mr. Fenety has retired from nearly all these offices; and although the duties incumbent upon him have been many, and occupied much time without remuneration, still he has by system and method been able to discharge them all with satisfaction to those who elected him—it is believed. Although advanced in years, he enjoys perfect health and feels as able to work now as he ever did in all his life.



GEORGE E. FENETY.

ly by the Weekly Journals, of which there were five at that time; but, in spite of all the difficulties which met him on every side, his determination carried it through, and it was when he left it, in 1863, the leading political paper in New Brunswick. The *Morning News* from the start threw itself into the struggle for Responsible Government. Without wavering the *News* stuck to its principles, and saw them fully recognized in fifteen years afterwards, in 1855, when the Liberals went into office, and the old compact system was forever destroyed. The only patronage the *News* ever received from any Government before or since Responsible Government became a settled thing, was the simple advertising which fell to the lot of other journals. It never received or asked for what is usually called "public printing." It derived all its nourishment from the patronage of the business men of St. John, in some cases fourfold the sums paid for Government advertising, and all this was due to the popularity of the paper and its great circulation both in town and country, especially in the Northern Counties. It sprang from a capital of a few hundred dollars, and in 20 years became a property worth thousands per annum. Mr. Peter Mitchell, as one of its able correspondents, awakened echoes among the Northumberland hills and Tory fastnesses in his weekly outcries for reform, while in Westmorland Mr. Albert (afterwards Sir Albert) Smith awakened kept alive all who took any interest in and politics and others capable of being reached—while in York the able and admirable letters of "Jonas," written by ex-Governor Wilnot, week after week made the *News* a terror to office holders, toadies and sponsethrifts, whose hands were in or seemed to be in the public crib. Had Mr. Fenety been an aspirant for political honors, as they were called at that day, opportunities were not wanting for his claims to a seat in the Legislature being pressed; but he always said to his friends who talked to him in this way, that the best seat for an Editor, where he could do the most good and make his influence felt, was in the editorial chair, the only place in fact where he could look after his own as well as the public interests and make money, if there was any make in him. In 1863 a vacancy occurred in the constituency of St. John, when his friends, the Liberals, were in power, Mr. Tilley being Provincial Secretary and the present Judge Watters Solicitor General, and immediately on the vacancy occurring he received a letter from Fredericton, from the latter gentleman, inviting him to become a candidate, which of course meant the whole influence of the Government. But Mr. Fenety's answer was as on former occasions. His return would have been as certain as anything could be. As a local advocate for city improvements, the *News* was always to the front. King square and Queen square forty years ago, were mere rocks and quagmires, unfit for crossing and desolate spots upon the City's disc. Day after day the *News* pealed into the Aldermen the necessity of leveling the grounds, filling with earth and planting trees. It was not a mere effervescent, intermittent paragraph that wrought the transformation we now behold, but it

**KNOWN BY ITS NAME**

**AND THE COMPLETE AND HANDSOME STOCK KEPT.**

**Fred B. Edgcombe's Dry Goods Store and How It Attained Its Present Proportions—The History of Enterprise is That of Success.**

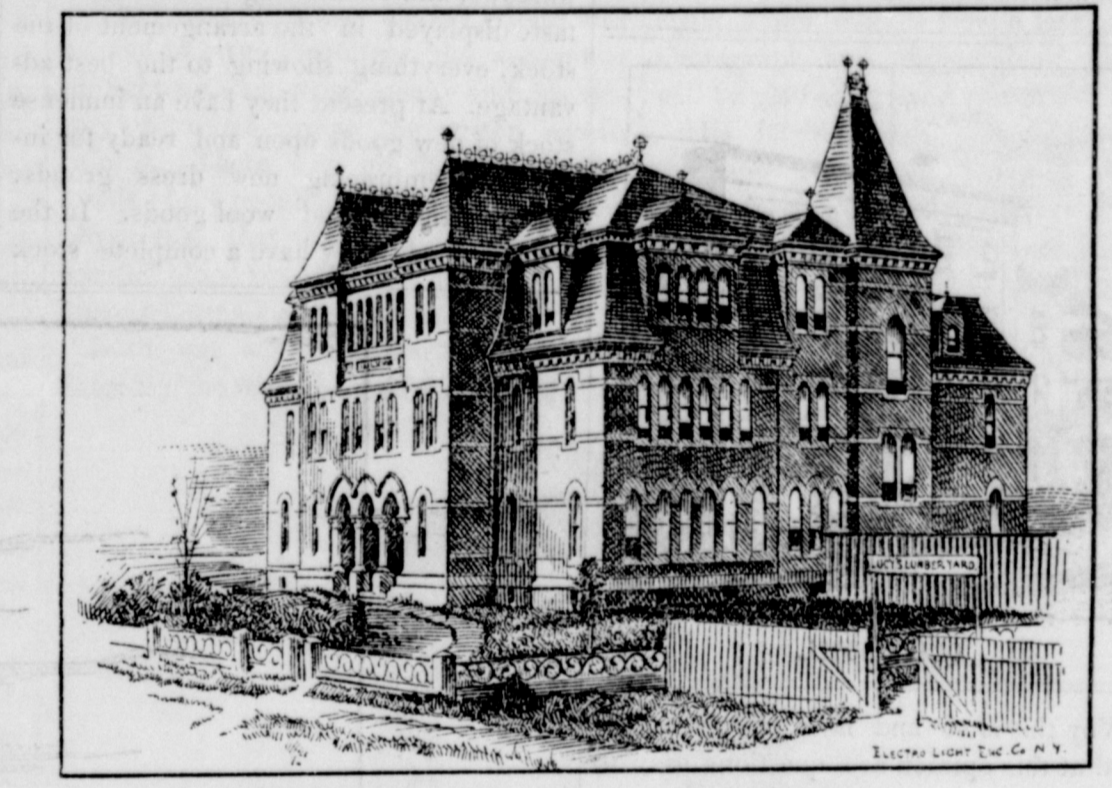
Immediately after the fire of 1850, when so large a portion of Fredericton was swept away, Mr. Fred B. Edgcombe's business was started. It is therefore one of the oldest, probably the very oldest, dry goods establishments in the city, and after nearly 40 years the firm remains stronger than ever to attest the growth of the trade of the metropolis. During these years the original proprietors have dropped off one by one, until all are gone, and for the last few years the business has been owned and conducted by Mr. Fred B. Edgcombe, whose enterprise and energy are a sufficient guarantee for its success, present and future. By personal supervision and the strictest attention to the wants of the pub-

**LOVERS OF THE WEED**

**Can Provide Themselves With Hawthorn's Best Havanas.**

To those who love the arom. of a good cigar—and their name is legion—it is of great importance to know the establishment where the best article is sold. In Fredericton, of course, the smokers know the best place to make their purchases.

There is but one opinion that the place to get pure tobacco and handsome pipes is at Jas. H. Hawthorn's, 238 Queen street, opposite the barracks. Mr. Hawthorn is always replenishing his stock, so that it is ever fresh; at the time of writing he has received a large number of Newton and Hero cigars—the favorites with Celestial smokers—as well as a large supply of fine cut smoking tobacco, embracing Old Gold, Myrtle Navy and other well known brands. Hawthorne's mixture is the best thing out in the way of fine cut, while with chowers Kentucky Smile is the favorite. In the way of cigarettes, Mr. Hawthorne keeps a good



PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL.

lic, Mr. Edgcombe has brought his business to the front rank, until it now enjoys a large share of trade, and is known far and wide through the country as the best place in Fredericton to purchase dry goods of all descriptions.

The building occupied by this firm is admirably situated, occupying a central position opposite the Normal school, near City Hall square and market, and as the different railways and other means of transportation have opened up, Mr. Edgcombe has not been slow in pushing his trade to the different outlets, making a never-failing market in the river counties, and by his fair dealing earning a reputation for business integrity surpassed by none of his brother merchants.

Although the building occupied by Mr. Edgcombe is considerably larger than those tenanted by most of the other Fredericton houses in the same business, its capacity is often strained to the utmost to accommodate the large stock of foreign and domestic goods continually arriving to replace those being sold. There are three floors, on which are the different departments. A very prominent feature on the first floor is the dress goods department, which is a special one, the variety and style of the goods shown there being equal to those shown in stores of cities of greater pretensions than Fredericton. The autumn novelties are now arriving, and the ladies, the best judges, are loud in their expressions of delight at the beautiful fabrics and trimmings displayed for their inspection. The whole of the first floor and part of the second are devoted entirely to the retail trade. On the second floor are Mr. Edgcombe's spacious carpet rooms, and it must be noted the selection of carpets displayed is fine, and must afford great pleasure to intending house keepers in their round of inspection. In another part of this flat are the shawl and mantle departments, as well as the fur goods and cloth room. Each and every one of these departments of Mr. Edgcombe's business is worthy of special notice.

In addition to his large and increasing retail trade, which has been better this year than ever, Mr. Edgcombe has developed quite a large wholesale trade, the different rooms on the second and third floors being filled with choice and desirable goods needed to stock the various stores scattered through the country, as well as with such articles as are required for lumbermen's outfits.

With enlarged premises, with unsurpassed advantages to buy in the best markets, with an obliging and experienced staff of clerks, joined to that tact and business energy which Mr. Edgcombe is known to possess, the future, like the past, of the house must be successful.

The store is lighted with electric lights, and when extensive additions are completed, which will give him in a few months double his present capacity, Mr. Edgcombe will introduce a number of modern appliances to facilitate trade and accommodate his customers.

In addition to the headquarters on Queen street, Fredericton, this firm has a branch store at St. Mary's to accommodate the people on that side of the river. It is always well stocked with staple and fancy dry goods, which are sold at city prices, and judging from the trade done there, the "Branch" must be duly appreciated. Mr. Edgcombe thinks there is every prospect for a good fall and winter's trade in Fredericton, and certainly, just at present, everything seems to be booming in the Celestial city.

supply of Old Judge, Vanity Fair and Sweet Caporal, and his line of pipes can hardly be surpassed for variety and price.

But these are not all the attractions of the establishment, for to those who disdain to use the weed, the proprietor offers inducements in the shape of fresh confectionery and fruits. It is here, as well, that the natives congregate to get the latest news from the diamond, Mr. Hawthorne having treated the base ball fever by publishing daily the results of the National league games.

**A MODEL DRY GOODS STORE.**  
**Messrs. Tennant, Davies & Co.'s Popular Establishment.**

There is, perhaps, no better patronized or handsomer dry goods store in Fredericton than the one owned by Tennant, Davies & Co., which occupies a central location on Queen street, opposite the Normal school and is admirably adapted for their large and daily increasing trade. This firm started business eight years ago as successors to A. A. Miller, so that even at the start they had an established trade and since going into business they have been compelled to make several additions to the building and to enlarge the upper flat. On the ground floor the firm do their general retail trade, the only goods which are not exhibited there being the cloths and carpets, of which they have a good assortment. Upstairs is the wholesale department, which has taken rapid strides forward, an important item in their trade being the supplying of the country dealers. This firm make a specialty of lumbermen's outfits and they handle a large amount of these goods, both wholesale and retail. Besides the large stock of foreign goods, of which they are direct importers, Tennant, Davies & Co. have a full supply of domestic dry goods, all of which they sell at the most reasonable prices. This firm has the Lamson patent cash system, the quickest system in use and everything possible is done to accommodate their customers and facilitate the handling of the goods.

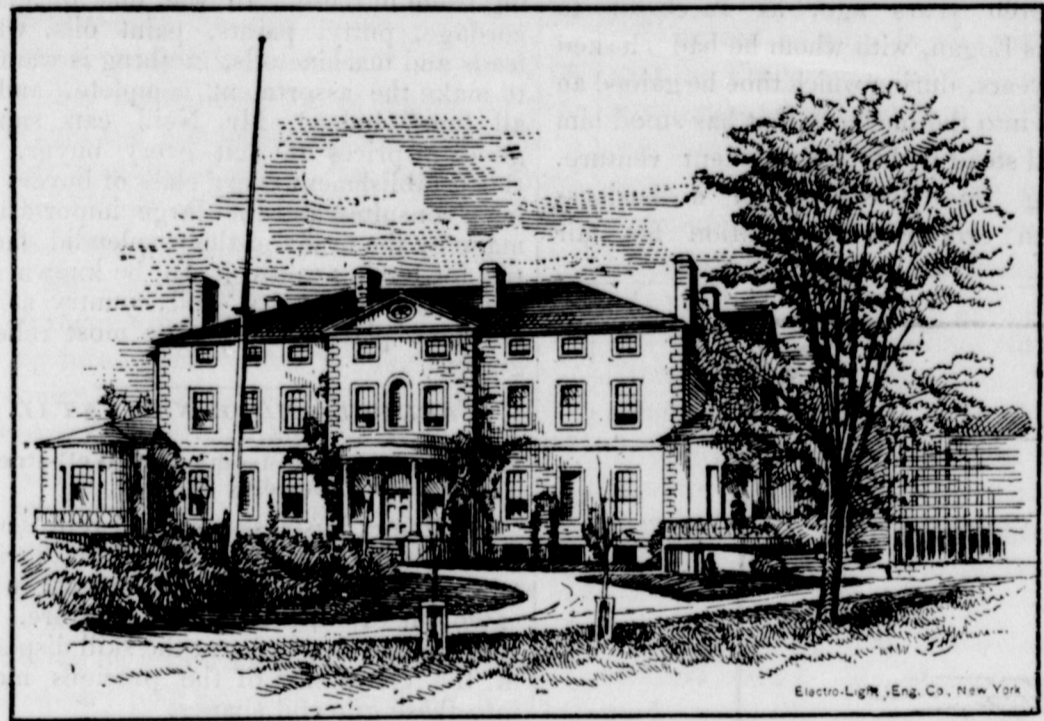
**SWEETS FOR THE SWEET.**  
**The Choicest Confectionery at White & Co.'s New Store.**

The enormous amount of confectionery manufactured, and the numerous firms trading in this commodity show plainly that candy is ceasing to be a luxury and beginning to be a necessity to the pampered stomachs of this enlightened people. Candy we must and will have, and it behooves us to get the purest and freshest in this line as in any other.

The firm of White & Co. (a branch of the St. John house) established last December in time for the Christmas trade, is the place to purchase pure confectionery of all kinds made on the premises and on that account to be obtained fresh every day. This is the only firm in Fredericton which manufactures its finer grades of candies for itself.

Everybody praises Mr. White's ice cream. His stock of nice candies—cream nougats and caramels—cannot be beaten for excellence of make. Mr. White has the handsomest soda fountain in the capital and he thinks of introducing some hot drinks this winter to take the place of the cold ones.

The store occupied by this firm is handsome and commodious, the inside fittings displaying the taste of the proprietors, while the large plate glass windows temptingly show the good things within. For the time the firm have been established their success has been remarkable, and it is certain that while the business continues under the able management of Mr. Thomas White its advancement in prosperity will be rapid and continuous.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

**THE ABODE OF BOOKS.**

**Mr. W. T. H. Fenety's Bright and Complete Bookstore.**

Books—lighthouses in the sea of time, as an American writer calls them, have come to be a necessity and their production and sale have given rise to new departments in the world's trade. In Fredericton, then as elsewhere the importation and sale of books form an important branch of business, and it is well for people to know the best place to purchase this mental food the same as it is for them to know the best grocery.

About as neat a bookstore as will be seen anywhere is that kept by Mr. W. T. H. Fenety, at No. 286 Queen street. Mr. Fenety commenced business in the present stand some four years ago, starting with a small but well selected stock, which he has steadily increased, and he now controls a first-class trade, having the patronage of the very best people in Fredericton and vicinity. His last spring's trade was the largest he has enjoyed since he commenced business and each year shows a gradual increase.

All the standard authors, as well as the new novels, are here constantly in stock, and Mr. Fenety cannot fail to suit the wants of every purchaser. His stock of papers and periodicals is also worthy of inspection, and his selections of wall-papers cannot be surpassed in the city, the variety of patterns in stock being great, making quite a display of hall, bedroom, parlor and drawing-room papers, which seems to suit the taste of his customers, if one may judge from the large sales. In the department of general stationery and office supplies, are the different kinds of paper—foolscaps, commercial letter and note, plain and fancy—a large variety of envelopes, inks, lead pencils, rubbers, blank forms and all the little nick-nacks which go to make a well-equipped office. For the sportsman, Mr. Fenety supplies fishing rods, tackle, flies and landing nets; while for the student there is a large stock of school and college text books, works of literature and science from which to make his choice. To all kinds and classes of men is Mr. Fenety's stock suited; nor are the children forgotten, as the numerous picture books and games give evidence.

This year, Mr. Fenety has purchased all his holiday goods direct from the best English and American houses and thus has saved a very large margin which will enable him to name lower prices than ever. Here then is the place to buy presentation editions of the poets or any gift books which one may wish to purchase.

Outside the book and stationery business Mr. Fenety has quite a reputation in the dramatic line, having brought to the city some of the strongest combinations that can be induced to come to the provinces. Among those which he has handled with great financial success may be mentioned, Clara Louise Kellogg, (to whom he gave the largest guarantee which was ever offered in Fredericton,) Thomas W. Keene, Miss Florence Maryatt, Robert J. Burdette, Nashville students, Geo. C. Miln, Sol. Smith Russell, Boston Stars, Fisk Jubilee Singers, Claire Scott, Chas. L. Davis, and King Hedley. The theatre-going people have naturally a good deal of confidence in the attractions which Mr. Fenety now brings to the city and he can almost always rely on a liberal patronage when the theatre season is opened. The largest motion picture houses ever in the City hall were those of *Peck's Bad Boy*, *Alvin Jostin* and *Kerry Gove*, all of which Mr. Fenety had the pleasure of bringing to the city.

The firm of George Hatt & Sons, wholesale and retail grocers, is a representative house of this class. George Hatt, sen., the founder of the business, came to Fredericton over half a century ago, and worked as a clerk for Mr. Thomas Pickard, until that gentleman's failure in 1841, when he went into partnership with Mr. Pickard. This partnership continued for six years, when Mr. Hatt started a business of his own, afterwards taking into it his two sons, Messrs. George Hatt, jr., and David Hatt, to whose diligence and attention to business much of the present success of the firm is to be ascribed.

The premises occupied by this firm are quite extensive. The main salesroom has a depth of 60x30 feet, with a cellar underneath running the whole length of the building. In the rear a two-story warehouse, with a depth of 150 feet, holds the reserve stores and heavy goods, and great as is the capacity of this large warehouse, it is all needed to contain the enormous and varied stock which the Messrs. Hatt have always on hand. The salesroom is lighted from Queen street with large plate-glass windows, which show off the artistic dressing of the fancy goods, fruit, etc. Everything about the store is disposed to the best advantage, both for convenience of handling and for adornment, and this, combined with the natural advantages of the building, makes the store a most attractive one. Besides the heavy staples, the stock includes a most complete sorting of English, French and American groceries, fruits, canned goods, fish, vegetables, pickles, sauces and all the specialty preparations, which now give such a neat appearance to first-class stores. This firm makes a specialty of teas of direct importation, and from long handling has gained an experience in that article which enables it to suit the taste and pocket of each one of their numerous customers. "Blessed be the man who invented tea," is the reported speech of an Irish woman on a certain occasion, and they are the words of every one who has once used the samples of that article sold by this firm.

The secret of the increasing trade and of the large patronage which the firm enjoys both in the city and with the farmers who come to the capital for their supplies, lies in the fact that everything bought from this house is represented by the Messrs. Hatt and their employees to be what it really is. They sell at the lowest prices their carefully chosen stock of goods, which they buy at the closest figures consistent with legitimate trade, and which cannot be improved upon by any house in the city, nor indeed in the province.

In the course of conversation with the senior partner, who, although a man of 75 years of age, remains as vigorous as ever to manage the business which he has founded, Progress gleaned much interesting information concerning the growth of the city and surrounding country. When Mr. Hatt first went there the city of Fredericton presented a somewhat wilder appearance than at present. The thriving villages on the other side of the river were non-existent and in their place the virgin woods met the eye. The trade of the town was carried on by barter, there being no British money to be had except what the soldiers possessed and that was sent back again to purchase their goods. When a farmer made a little butter he came to town and inquired of the storekeeper whether he kept the articles he wanted; if not he went to some other and made the exchange. There were no carriages above