principal, then in the directors' room. That official hastily appeared behind the counter, and in no gentlemanly manner demanded why his check had not been paid. "No funds." "That makes no difference. You know I could make it good in a few hours. You *must* pay it." "Sir, I shall pay no check unless the funds are here to back it," said the teller, firmly. "Then I will cash it myself," said the president, proceeding as if to do so, from the piles of money before him. "Sir," said the teller, "I am held responsible for that money, and if you touch a dollar of it, you do it at your peril. But when my accounts for the day are made up and accepted, you may take the whole for all I care." The president used some very strong language and retreated to the directors' room, and told how "that impudent fellow" had refused to honor his check. A brief talk with his associates showed him that the teller was right. One of the directors who had funds loaned his check to cover the emergency, as the president's note for ten times the amount would have been promptly discounted if he had asked it; and the teller, supposing his time was up, carefully prepared his accounts before the time for closing, and presented them to the president, saying he supposed he was to leave after what had passed. "No sir," said the president, "you are *not* going. You were right and I was wrong."

Moral.—If all bank cashiers and tellers could have the frankness and grit to refuse all overdrafts of their directors and other powerful customers, we should hear of but very few defalcations of those officers; and if directors always conformed strictly to their own rules, and were moderately careful in looking after the books of their officers, there would be little inducement and less opportunity for such defalcations to continue for any series of years.—*Worcester Spy.*

The rivalry between the inventors of big guns and the manufacturers of shot proof armour has, besides costing England a pretty large sum, given rise to more than one joke, notably that famous calendar of "Punch" which described, prophetically, the contest between Sir William Armstrong and the Admiralty; but it is not only between guns and armour that rivalry of this nature exists. It is to be met with in a line of a different character, and the efforts made by either side are quite as strenuous as those of the war artificers. Burglars and safe-makers are the contending parties in the struggle, and up to this time the "cracksmen" have had the best of it; patent locks have given way before them, and, however skilfully the maker might put his safe together, his enemies found means for getting into it. Of course this will not do, and banks, jewellers and others that have valuables to store away, want a secure safe, a safe that will be worthy of the name and not one which, however ingenious in its construction, only serves to exemplify the thief's greater ingenuity. It having been found that the cleverest devices were futile, safe-makers have turned their attention to a new way of checkmating depredators, and are adding weapons intended to maim, or, at the very least, badly injure any would-be forcible intruders. The most recent notion is the "Chemical Armour for Bank vaults," a very pretty system of asphyxiation. The armour is so contrived that, should the interior of the vault or safe be violently entered, a number of glass bottles must necessarily be broken, their contents —sulphuric acid—at the same time combining with powdered carbonate of lime. The result is the production of such a tremendous quantity of carbonic acid gas that the burglars, be they one or a hundred, must infallibly be choked off in a minute. Probably the "cracksmen" will be clever enough to avoid this danger, but unless they wear a diver's helmet, with air pipes and all, it is difficult to see how they are going to get the best of it.—*Nova Scotian.*

Nathan Rothschild of London.—The high priest of the Exchange was not happy even in the midst of his overflowing coffers. Naturally enough he had few friends and numberless enemies. In his late years he suffered from constant dread of assassination. He was always receiving threatening letters, declaring that his life depended on his sending certain sums of money to certain addresses. He scented murder in every breeze, suspected poison in every cup. In sleep he had nightmare visions of crouching things; in walking hours he started at every unsuspecting noise. One morning two strangers were announced as having important business with the banker, and they were shown into his private office. He bowed to them and inquired the nature of their negotiations. They bowed and said nothing, but advanced toward him, thrusting their fingers nervously into their pockets. Rothschild's alarm was excited at once. They must be searching for concealed weapons; their bearded faces made it clear to his frightened fancy that they were homicidal ruffians. He retreated in terror behind a large desk, seized a ponderous ledger, hurled it at their heads, and screamed 'murder' at the top of his voice. A small army of clerks poured into the room, and laid violent hands on the strangers, who proved to be wealthy Polish bankers bringing letters of introduction to the (physically timid) lion of lions. Embarrassed by his auriferously august presence, what is there in a breathing money bag, capable of inspiring awe? they forgot their speech and their common coolness of conduct. They were nearly as much terrified as the renowned Israelite, and as it was their initial visit to England, they imagined at first that all foreigners were deemed robbers and desperadoes until the contrary was established. The wretchedly rich Nathan never went out alone after dark, never entered an unlighted room, had servants within call of his bedchamber, slept with loaded pistols under his pillow.—*Harper's Magazine.*

Manufacturers' Opinions.—There appears to be a little disposition on the part of those newspapers which have taken upon themselves to oppose the Reciprocity Treaty, to discuss the merits of the case fairly. They object to the Treaty in spite of the most authoritative evidence in its favor. This is certainly a very foolish and unpatriotic plan of deciding upon a purely commercial question. It has been claimed that Reciprocity will affect disastrously the manufacturing interests of the country, and in answer to that assertion we published the opinions of leading manufacturers in favor of Reciprocity. The *Spectator* takes the ground that these opinions were not carefully considered, as they were not given in connection with a discussion of the draft of Treaty now before the country. It further insinuates that "Mr. Wood's Parliamentary Committee was a well laid scheme to entrap the manufacturers into thoughtless admissions for the benefit of those who were all the time in favor of Free Trade." Those who know the history of the formation of that committee must acknowledge the injustice of this assertion. The very proposal to have a committee was objected to by prominent free traders, who said that it was a one-sided scheme in favor of Protection. The opinions of the manufacturers, which we have already quoted, point very decidedly in favor of Reciprocity, and when our contemporary rejects such testimony from the very men who of all others ought to know in what direction their interests lie, it may be taken for granted that its objections to the treaty are founded on something else besides devotion to manufacturing interests. The opponents of the treaty are honest in admitting that they do not object to Reciprocity in general, but to this particular treaty. Had the same treaty been proposed in another quarter, and drafted under other auspices, their opposition would not have been forthcoming.—*Hamilton Times.*

Uninflammable Wood.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* reports the result of a trial at Devonport dock-yard, England, of a method of rendering wood uninflammable by saturating it with tungstate of soda. The prepared wood is under all circumstances much less readily inflammable than the ordinary wood, and chips and shavings of it, although they may be made to burn, will not by themselves set fire to the substantial timbers of the prepared wood. The cost of preparing the wood, and its largely increased weight, however, are against these advantages. The patentee desires a large sum from the British Admirality for the right to use his patent, but his offer will not be accepted until further tests are made. Two small vessels are to be built, alike in all particulars, except that one will be built of prepared, and the other of ordinary wood. These will be filled with combustibles, and set on fire, and from this experiment a decision will be made on the value of the invention in retarding the burning of ships. The prepared wood can be burned by great heat, but steadily resists a mere flame without great heat. In building operations (apart from its cost and increased weight) it could prove of little value except in retarding the spread of a fire in its early stages, and even then, with combustibles of other kind piled up near the woodwork, it would be exposed to the heat which it cannot resist.

A novel watch has been invented by a Swiss watchmaker of Aragan. The motive power is compressed air.

One of the best paying idustries of the South is the manufacture of artificial ice, a branch of the trade which is rapidly extending throughout all the great cities of that section of country.

Type-setters should be careful to dip their fingers into the right boxes. Out West an editor has been sued for libel, in having published that a certain Mr. Harrison was a well-known house breaker. The defence of the editor is that he wrote horse breaker, which the plaintiff is by occupation.

While New York City has 950,000 inhabitants and 470 places of worship, Berlin, with a population of 850,000, has only sixty churches and chapels, yet for the most part costly edifices. In the United States there are 72,000 houses of worship—68,000 Protestant and 4,000 Roman Catholic, or 600 people to a church.

"If," advertised a philosophical victim, "the person who took a fancy to my overcoat was influenced by the weather, then all is serene; but, if he did so from commercial considerations, I am ready to enter into financial negotiations for its return."

The man who is only honest when honesty is the best policy is not in reality an honest man. Honesty is not swerving policy, but stable principle. An honest man is honest from his inmost soul, nor deigns to stoop to aught that is mean, though great results hang on the petty fraud.

A machine for sewing boots and shoes, a patent for which was granted in England to Thomas Saint, July 17, 1790, is alleged to contain substantially the same mechanicism as that which forms the basis of existing American machines. This machine is interesting as a curiosity, but bears no more relation to modern sewing machines than the ancient revolving pistols do to the repeating fire-arms of the present day. The machine of Saint had the eye-pointed needle, the loop stitch, and the horizontal feed.

If you desire to boast, to be conspicuous, to monopolise attention, to hurt the feelings of innocent people, and sow dissension between friends, you cannot make a lady or a gentleman of yourself by any number of airs and graces. But if you are kind and good, and wish people well, and prefer to say pleasant things when you can, you will be polite without trying to be, and only silly people will criticise any form of hearty welcome, any effort to make them comfortable that may occur to you.

One's corns ache less if the person who has trodden on them returns with a sincere "Beg pardon," and what would be an affront may be turned to a civility by a simple "Permit me." But one cannot stop in the press of business to perpetrate the politeness deliberately; it must come spontaneously from habitual use. The spirit of consideration must be learned—as all other expressions—by practice. One may be polite at heart; and one may be falsely polite in manner without possessing the spirit, but neither is true courtesy without the other.

A Parliamentary return states that during 1873 there were in all 1,682 miles of railway in the United Kingdom. The total authorised capital amounting to £676,687,686, of which £588,320,308 was paid up. The number of passengers, exclusive of season ticket-holders, was 455,320,188. The total receipts from all sources amounted to £57,742,000, of which 55 per cent. was from goods traffic, and 41 per cent. from passengers traffic. Fifty-three per cent. of the gross receipts was consumed in working expenditure, leaving £16,989,151 for net receipts. This was 5.59 per cent. on the total paid up capital.

Payment by Check.—In the case of Heywood vs. Pickering, which has just been tried by the Court of Queen's Bench, a fresh decision has been given to the effect that, where the receiver of a check is guilty of no delay in presenting it for payment, and it is dishonored by the failure of the bank on which it is drawn, the acceptance of it is no discharge of the debt for which it had been given. The action arose out of the failure of the Jersey Bank on the 1st of February, 1873. The plaintiff received from the defendant a cheque on that bank on the 27th of January, after banking hours, and said it into his bankers, the London and Westminster Bank, on the following day. The check was followed in due course by the latter bank, and was, in fact, received by the Jersey Bank before failure; but the Jersey Bank did not remit. The question as to notice of dishonor was not raised at the trial, the dispute being confined merely to the question of presentment.