Messrs. A. D. Ritchie & Co., lumbermen of Three Rivers and Lake LaTortue, whose failure was recently reported, are offering their creditors twenty cents on the dollar. They owe about $20,000, with assets nominally $11,000.

The imports of foreign merchandise at the port of New York during the past week were moderate, amounting to $6,871,765, of which $5,311,938 was general merchandise, and the remainder, $1,559,827, dry goods. Since Jan. 1, the total is $384,621,380, compared with $415,490,821 for the corresponding period of 1883, a decrease of nearly eight per cent.

Fitzimmons & Byrne, of Ottawa, grocers, are reported as in trouble and assigned to Wm. Donahue of Montreal. Liabilities not yet ascertained.——V. Taillefer, a general dealer of Cornwall, Ont., has assigned to a party in Montreal. He owes about $3,000.——H. J. Shaw & Co., furniture dealers, Montreal, have made an offer which will realize seventy-five cents on the dollar to the creditors. The liabilities are about $18,000.

In Centreville, Nova Scotia, John Darcy & Son, general store keepers, have assigned, showing liabilities of $5,000 and nominal assets of an equal amount.——A. L. West, of Liverpool, N. S., dealer in the same line of goods, has given preferences of $8,000; other liabilities amount to about $6,000. Assets not known.——At Port Medway, John Hutt, trader, has assigned with liabilities of nearly $10,000. It is thought that the estate will nearly pay in full.

The oldest member of the New York Stock Exchange is said to be Mr. G. A. Rollins, who was admitted on 22nd January, 1835, almost fifty years ago. Among the twelve hundred resident members there are only thirty-nine who were members of the exchange prior to 1860, and only nine of the present members belonged to the old board of brokers prior to 1850. Their names are Charles Clark, Harrison Durkee, W. H. Leroy, John O'Brien, William O'Brien, G. A. Rollins, W. H. Hays, Denning Duer, and Charles Graham.

A rather unexpected failure is that of W. W. Beckett & Co., of Sherbrooke, Que., extensive hardware dealers, and one of the oldest and most prominent business firms of the town. The failure has been brought about through complications with and endorsations for C. G. Beckett & Co., of New Mills, N.B., large manufacturers of spools, formerly of Sherbrooke, which endorsations, to the amount of $30,000, the hardware firm has been called upon to make good. An assignment has been made to Thomas Darling of Montreal.

J. W. Low, a general dealer of Alexandria, who has also done business at Stottsville, Que., and Vankleek Hill, has assigned. His business liabilities are $13,000, but it is understood that he has considerable other indebtedness to relatives in the shape of promissory notes, &c., so that it is hard to say how the estate may turn out. His assets appear at $12,000, but it is stated that the stock is largely composed of the fag ends of several bankrupt stocks bought at different times.

There are but few changes to note in business circles of Manitoba this week. Two stationers in Winnipeg are in trouble. In consequence of the pressure of an old claim held in this city, Wilson Bros. have assigned. This claim they considered was settled before they went west. ——The other party referred to is Alex. Perry, who offered creditors 20 per cent. of their claims as in full, but this was refused, and he has assigned.——The sheriff is in possession of the effects of Mrs. E. Lambert, dealer in dry goods at St. Boniface.

A retail dry goods stock, that of Turgeon & Co., of St. Lawrence Main St., Montreal, was sold at auction on Friday last, by order of Mr. H. B. Picken, trustee of the estate. The stock ($20,000) brought 81½ cents on the dollar, including the fixtures, at same price. The book debts brought 36 cents on the dollar. The sale was largely attended and the bidding very lively. Dupuis Freres, bought the stock and Messrs. Wade & Williams the book-debts. The creditors expressed themselves pleased at the price realized.

We note the following minor business troubles in the Province of Quebec. At Berthier en haut, Jos. Levallee, grocer, has assigned with assets of $800, and liabilities of $1,000.——Joseph Pleau, trader, Montreal, has assigned, P. A. Bourget, a grocer at Lauzon, has compromised at 33 cents. ——A couple of failures are reported from the town of Joliette, Que. N. A. Guilbault, a grocer, with liabilities of $3,000, and assets $2,200, and Landry & Co., dry goods dealers, owing $3,000 with assets apparent of $2,500.——A. Harris, a Quebec cigar merchant, is reported in trouble, and capiased by a Montreal creditor. His indebtedness is stated at about $3,000.

Some people in the States have politics "on the brain" as badly as Ontario folks. We hear of a piano maker in a large way in one of the Eastern States who had a contract with a prominent dealer in New York, for 300,000 feet of cherry. A clause was inserted into the contract by the buyer, and accepted by the seller, that if the former wished to withdraw from his bargain he was at liberty to do so on paying $2,500. When he learned that Cleveland was elected president, the piano dealer paid the $2,500 and cancelled the contract, so fearful was he of the effect upon business of a change in the administration. In Oswego, where there is a strong Republican following, the feeling prevails that things are going to the bad because Blaine is defeated; and it is not too much to say that it has seriously affected trade in lumber as in other lines.

Referring to a paragraph in the issue of the Monetary Times dated 14th November, a correspondent at Georgetown, P.E.I., says: "As to the P. E. Island crops, what you say in reference to potatoes is quite correct, but the price given for oats as 16c. must be an error—(it can only be true, if at all, at a remote period) The crop has been a large one and saved in excellent order, and at this end of the island up to present date there has been an active demand for all at from 32 to 34c. The price at Charlottetown at the present time is 33 to 34c. Most of the oats handled in that county, particularly at Charlottetown, has changed hands at 34c. At Orwell, an inland port in the same county, where some vessels are loading for Europe, the price is 32c. In Prince county, Summerside is the principal shipping port. and the market price there at present is 32c. There was but one year in 20 years past that we have known oats to go below 30c.: that year it went down to 27c per bushel."

The death, last week, of Mr. Edward Gurney, of Hamilton, removes one who has long and worthily filled a prominent place among the manufacturers of Ontario. His life was one of simplicity and integrity. Industrious and frugal himself, he inculcated like habits among those with whom he worked and whose interests he seemed to make his own. The growth of the business of his firms to so large dimensions was a natural outcome of the principles upon which they were founded and carried on. The motto chosen for a floral tribute placed upon his coffin by the employes—"Labor Ended"—was of especial fitness at the close of a worthy and laborious life. His remains were carried to the grave, on Monday last, amid such demonstrations of respect and sorrow as are seldom seen even at the funerals of the most prominent citizens. A feature of the funeral was the small army of workmen employed by the deceased gentleman—including 180 from the Toronto foundry, and a large number from Dundas. The pall-bearers were the heads of the various departments of the Hamilton works—Robt. Lucas, Geo. Fielding, W. H. Belnap, Robert Aikins, W. Harris and Chas. Sellers. They were chosen from among his men at Mr. Gurney's own request.

In the early part of the present year, L. A. McDonald bought an old grocery stock at Creemore and essayed to do some shop-keeping. But not being too attentive to business he has already made a failure.——John Larman, a dealer in fancy goods in St. Thomas, is endeavoring to compromise with creditors. He owed Watson, Young & Co., London, whose failure is still a fresh event, and this may have hastened matters.——A furniture dealer in this city, W. J. McCormack, is in trouble and his effects are offered for sale.——The sheriff is in possession of the effects of Wm. Mitchell, grocer, Goderich. This announcement occasioned surprise, as he was thought to be in good shape. Last month however, his wife obtained judgment against him for $1,000, and probably the sale that is to take place to-day is intended to secure this sum to her.——J. S. Holmes, a St. Thomas grocer, has assigned. He did but a small and not very tidy business. His liabilities are $800 with assets $200.——John McArthur, another grocer in Springfield has had his goods seized for rent.——The stock of Lewis Thorne who failed some weeks ago in Seaforth, is now advertised for sale by the assignee.——S. Philips, a cigar dealer, and Jas Peebles, a book agent, have both, it is reported, left this city and left their creditors in the lurch.——About three months ago E. S. Calkins opened a fruit store in Walkerton and he has already assigned.

Not the least noteworthy of the new structures Toronto boasts is the Arcade, which connects Victoria street with Yonge, on the line of Lombard street. The last named, known for years as the odorous Stanley street, is too well-situated with respect to the post-office and business portion of the city to be long unoccupied by business premises. So it was not without foresight that the enterprising company which erected the Arcade acquired also property further east which it will doubtless build upon soon. The building, which covers a length of 267 feet and an average width of 90 feet, has cost, we understand, about $212,000, including the land capitalised in fee. The fronts on Victoria street and Yonge are four stories in height, with basement. There is 90 feet frontage on both streets, by about 56 feet in depth, used on the ground floor as shops; the remaining 155 feet running east and west 20 feet wide, roofed with crystal, constitutes the Arcade proper. Fronting on this handsome promenade are twenty-four shops, each 13 by 30, all of which have egress by back doors to a passage way, and access to lanes either *via* Adelaide or Richmond streets. Above these, reached by stairways, are some scores of chambers, which are rented, or are to be rented to professional men &c.; while the floors of the Yonge street and Victoria st. premises are occupied, amongst others, by the British American Business College, a restaurant, a billiard-room and the offices of the Ontario Industrial Loan Co., the proprietors of the building. The structure is steam-heated, has two elevators and two main stairways, and possesses both gas jets and the