

THE MONEY MARKET.

A NEW element of uneasiness in the Money Market is arising from the threatened withdrawal by the resident Southerners of the gold at their credit on deposit by the Canadian Banks. It is said that this threat is prompted by retaliation for the recent enactment of the Alien Bill: and, as is alleged by the Confederates, the action of the Canadian Government and Courts being dictated by the Washington Cabinet, they have no guarantee but that on a demand from Washington, their gold in Canadian Banks might be "deported" and confiscated at any moment. It is not necessary to point out the utter absurdity of such a fear.

All sorts of improbable and exaggerated stories are in circulation. Yesterday it was current that one Bank alone had received notice that Three millions of dollars, said to be held by it, would be required at once. The improbability of this story may be seen when it is understood that no one Bank holds Three millions of dollars in specie. Another rumor afloat was that every dollar held by our largest banking institution was Southern gold, and that in fear of an immediate withdrawal discounts had entirely ceased. The story is not only untrue, but is dictated by a vicious and devilish spirit, which should be promptly condemned and punished. Unquestionably the motive is to influence popular opinion and the judges in relation to the trial of Bennett H. Young and his fellow raiders to-day. A rumor of the kind however cannot be without its effect, and we look forward to an exceedingly cautious policy on the part of the Banks for the next few months. Bank stocks have already been somewhat affected. We trust the good sense of the people will at once express itself strongly in condemning such stories, and wait patiently for something more definite than rumor.

A reference to the extended Bank Statement which we published two weeks ago, doubtless shows a very considerable increase in the deposit column since the breaking out of the war. Thus in April, 1861, the month after Mr. Lincoln was installed, they increased one million of dollars, and in May, still another million; in two months increasing from \$16,700,000 to \$18,900,000. This increase has been gradual up to July of 1864, when the deposits reached \$25,124,000. Since then they have declined, and at last statements were \$24,000,000. It is impossible to say how much of this increase of seven and three-quarter millions of dollars, in the four years, is attributable to Southern contributions; but, as in the previous year—1860—the deposits had increased in even a greater ratio,—viz: from \$12,000,000 to \$16,000,000—it is fair to presume that without Southern gold at all, the deposits would now foot up to very nearly their present amount. This, with other information, leads to the conviction that the amount at the credit of the Confederates is much less than is generally supposed. As to its withdrawal, we question whether the parties who own it will be able to find a safer or more profitable place of deposit, and we think no great injury is to be apprehended on account of this threat.

No doubt our banks are prepared for this emergency. It may necessitate the using of their English credits to a greater extent; and thus tend to cheapen the rate of sterling exchange.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

Among the leading Wholesale Houses in this line are the following:

Wm. Benjamin & Co.
John Dougall & Co.
Gilmour, White & Co.
Lewis, Kay & Co.
Joseph May.
Munderloh & Stoencken.

Ogilvy & Co.
Ringland, Ewart & Co.
A. Robertson & Co.
Thomson, Claxton & Co.
Alexander Walker.

IT is astonishing with what persistent regularity our business periods come round. It seems but as yesterday that we had closed the toils of a hard season, and were rejoicing over the cessation of late hours and its accompanying fatigue. As it is, we find ourselves close on the heels of another,—may it be a prosperous one.

Since our last, nothing of moment has transpired; the market remains quiet. Up to the present there have been no large arrivals of British goods, and in Canadian there has been only a few, not large, transactions. The latter promises activity. Large lots of fall goods could be placed under contract for summer delivery, did the price of wool allow the manufacturer to act with safety. The late advance of Wool and uncertainties as to future prices prevent action.

From latest reports of English markets we gather that stocks are not large. Prices are fluctuating, and

buyers are holding on to their orders as long as possible, and venture only on partial execution of them. In the Liverpool Cotton market the sales of Cotton for the week ending 21st January, was 18,710 bales. The summary for the year is:

Increase of imports compared with last year,.....	53,630 bales.
Decrease of quantity taken for consumption,.....	21,420 "
Increase of stock compared with last year,.....	244,840 "
Increase of quantity taken for export,.....	70 "
Cotton at sea for the kingdom,.....	261,000 "

In reply to an article written with a view to influence the downward tendency of prices, the "Manchester Guardian" of 21st ult. remarks: "In our opinion nobody is justified in publishing such a statement. To do so in the present state of the question of supply has the appearance of an attempt to influence prices by a misuse of figures, and for a selfish purpose." These remarks coming from such a source do not promise any sudden decline in the Cotton market. One thing is certain, the market has quite recovered the momentary panic caused by a prospect of peace in the United States—a peace which now looks as far distant as ever.

Reports from Canada West are not very promising. The condition of the roads during winter has been unusually steady, and the sleighing in some sections continuous since the first fall of snow. Usually a good winter's sleighing has been a sort of guarantee for a good trade. This season, however, the rule has not held good. This is established by reports from commercial men, a number of whom are now on the road. They all find business exceedingly dull, retailers shewing no disposition to sort up, excepting in the smallest particulars.

Another evidence of the same is the fact that, during the past week, a portion of the Western trade has drawn pretty heavily on the leniency of our merchants, and there is a marked tone of anxiety afloat in consequence.

The stocks generally in the hands of retailers are understood not to be large; and there is an evident disposition on their part to increase as much as possible their cash sales, and diminish their credits. This is a step in the right direction, and will result in good to all concerned.

On the whole it is to be hoped that the spring trade will be a fair one. This market will not be heavily stocked, and the consequence will be that there will be little of the indiscriminate pushing of former seasons. Appearances indicate that first class retail buyers will act with great caution, and will be in no humor to risk an over purchase.

In some of the larger towns there is room for a large curtailment of the trade. In many of the larger stores the stocks are absurdly disproportionate to amount of trade done. One cannot but admire the enterprise which prompts business men to keep pace with the times; but keeping pace with the times in some cases means going beyond the capacity of making a business pay,—showy and commodious premises invariably entailing larger expenses, and requiring an additional amount of stock. The mania to hold large stocks is very prevalent. There are few retailers who do not make this mistake; the shrewdest of them at times fall into the error. Too much attention cannot be paid to this matter; the over purchase of one season has produced a crisis in many a man's business, and he who would be attentive in the matter of his profits, should be specially careful in the way he makes his purchases.

We think a great injury is often done to the honest and industrious trader by men, profligate of profits, who manage periodically to compromise with their creditors. This class display quite a tact in compromising their debts; and if they are good at nothing else, succeed admirably in the failing dodge. We know a number of such who, through a temporising and suicidal policy, are kept in business—men who were never fitted for any thing but to waste other people's money and destroy their neighbor's profits—who never had money of their own to lose, and never will have. Four failures in twelve years is not a bad test of a man's capacity; and yet we can point to an instance, the fourth failure occurring recently, in which a party has arranged his affairs nicely; and, returning to his business, is prepared for fresh raids on his neighbor's profits, and another compromise in due course of time. Why are not such men kept out of business? Experience teaches but one lesson, and that is—all temporising with such accounts is but to make bad

worse. Nor is this the worst view of the case. Under such circumstances, what protection or encouragement remains for the honest trader? to him is offered a premium on dishonesty—reckless trading means that. There are mitigating circumstances, to be sure, and there are exceptions to all rules. Some men, in spite of every precaution, every effort, cannot succeed, and the more deserving are soon lost sight of. It is only the man with plenty of brass in his composition who can continue, again and again, to injure the trading community; who, unable of himself, through incompetency, to make profits, deliberately sets himself to work to destroy his neighbor's,—a result disastrous to the community at large. The sooner this class of traders is out of the market the better.

THE HARDWARE TRADE.

A. A. Barber & Co.
Crathern & Caverhill.
Elliot & Co.
Ferrier & Co.
A. H. Forbes.

Frothingham & Workman.
Hall, Kay & Co.
Jos. N. Hall, & Co.
Morland, Watson & Co.
Mulholland & Baker.

SINCE our issue of 27th ult., we have but few alterations to notice, and in many articles there has been but little change; prices still favor the buyer. The principal reason for continued dullness is no doubt the limited Western demand, and also the necessity of confining operations to those parties whose credit is undoubted. Another main reason for the dullness which exists is the action of the Grand Trunk Railway this winter. Their Tariff for heavy hardware is so high that it almost prohibits the sending of all heavy goods to the West. In former seasons, the principal houses could arrange to send heavy goods by the *car load* to any of the Western stations at rates but a trifle over Summer Tariff; whereas this season, they will not make any concessions, but charge full rates even for large lots, which rates are considerably over those of former seasons. This being the case, many heavy goods, which are usually scarce at this season, appear to be plentiful; but as Spring trade opens there will be no overstock here, as the demand will then be larger than usual.

The holders of heavy goods in Toronto and Hamilton are fast getting rid of their stocks. For the reason before stated, customers are finding it cheaper to buy in those markets than to come to Montreal. This will operate to make stocks short in the West, and consequently the demand will be good in spring, and tend to make prices firmer as the season advances. We hear, as yet, but of few orders going forward for spring importations, either for Heavy or Shelf goods, and the uncertainty about rates for outward freights will make our Importers very careful in ordering. As there will be but little Grain or Flour to ship from this port early in the season, it is likely that shipowners will look for high outward rates, and this again will tend to maintain quotations of Iron and Heavy goods, although prices have slightly given way in England.

Our Cut Nail quotations are not repeated as they are not altered. Nor is there any chance of their being so, for at least some months. The stock here is gradually decreasing, the mills are all closed just now, and will not re-open till middle of March—by that time the stock (which is now much smaller than it was at this time last year) will be much reduced, and it is not likely that there will be any overstock. In this article we find that our quotations are at present above those of Toronto and Hamilton, as some parties in those cities appear anxious to get rid of their stocks. This will be taken advantage of by buyers meanwhile.

PRICES CURRENT OF HARDWARE.

IRON.		
Pig—Gartsherrie No. 1.....	\$24.00 to	\$24.50
Other Brands.....	23.00 to	23.50
Bar—Scotch, per 112 lbs.....	2.80 to	3.00
Staffordshire Refined, per 112 lbs	3.20 to	3.50
Hoops, Cooper's do.	8.50 to	8.80
Barrel do.	3.20 to	3.50
Boiler Plate do.	3.70 to	4.00
Tin—Charcoal 1 C per box.....	8.75 to	9.25
1 X ".....	10.75 to	11.25
Canada Plates, Glamorgan.....	4.20 to	4.50
Pontypool.....	4.40 to	4.50
CASTINGS, per 100 lbs.		
Potash Kettles.....	2.25 to	3.00
Sugar do.....	3.00 to	3.50
Belly Pots.....	3.50 to	4.00
ROPE.		
Manilla, per lb.....	0.11½ to	0.12
Tarred Russia.....	0.10½ to	0.12
OILS.		
Boiled Linseed.....	0.90 to	0.95
Raw do.....	0.85 to	0.90
PAINTS.		
Dry White Lead, per lb.....	0.07½ to	0.08½
Dry Red do.....	0.07 to	0.08