

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, January 16, 1858.

Business continues inactive. Snow fell yesterday, but a thaw set in last night and it has rained almost without intermission all day. The roads in the city and neighborhood are consequently almost impassable. There is now appearance of frost, which is much wanted. The winter crossing at Longueuil is now safe, and with improved roads we may look for an increase of business. The trade returns for this port for the past year have been published, but we can only find room for a brief synopsis of the various items. We shall publish these returns more at length in our next issue.

Complaints are general of short remittances from country customers, particularly from Canada West. But as the largest proportion of our goods are sold to Upper Canada customers, any falling off will of course be most felt from that quarter. Our merchants, however, are generally in a sound condition, and as we cannot doubt that the worst is past, we may safely anticipate a gradual return of easier times. The law of Upper Canada which enables country dealers and others to grant preferences by bills of sale and assignments is justly condemned, and a very general hope is expressed that next session of parliament will place the relations between debtors and creditors on a better footing.

The trade of Montreal exhibits a steady increase, as is shown by the following table of imports and exports for the last eight years.

Years.	Imports.	Duties.	Exports.
1850	£1,793,695	£258,474	£436,193
1851	2,294,710	315,211	507,017
1852	2,311,471	333,269	518,262
1853	3,503,697	449,102	745,761
1854	4,055,251	478,361	458,410
1855	3,093,145	310,062	833,609
1856	4,036,174	469,725	754,451
1857	4,212,134	461,699	425,290

The following table exhibits the principal items of which the imports consisted in 1856 and 1857:

	1856.	1857.
Hardware	£531,016	£514,053
Dry Goods	1,170,943	1,357,348
Groceries
Teas	115,392	125,927
Sugars	274,067	303,097
Molasses	82,123	81,180
Wines, Spirits, &c.	148,725	197,868
Fish	62,222	33,239
Tobacco, (Manufactured) ..	32,575	48,421
“ (Unmanufactured)	12,528	608
Oils	82,722	50,216
Coffee	14,536	8,292
Rice	6,375	18,112
Fruit	44,966	51,321
Tallow	38,227	40,731
Drugs and Medicines	26,915	27,034
Crockery	39,243	43,084
Glass	18,719	30,657