STYLE IN WRITING.—The best writer is he who can convey the clearest thoughts in the shortest space. Some writers so hide their thoughts in useless words that it becomes a task after you have read a column to comprehend its meaning. Ornament in style is good when it beautifies the thoughts advanced; it is inexcusable when it covers them from sight. A writer, before he touches a pen, should first get a clear idea of the subject he is to handle; this well understood, his next effort should be to say what he has to say in the fewest words possible. We would not have a single thought dwarfed by a stingy use of language; but even this would be better than to see it choked out of existence by superabundance of words. Write to the point, and when you have reached it, stop. It requires severe mental training to acquire that simplicity of expression which conveys to us the grandest thoughts in the fewest words, yet it is within the province of all to approach if not to equal it. It has been said that it is more difficult to abridge an article than to write one, that it requires more time to write a short article well than to present the same thoughts in double the space. When Queen Anne told Dr. South that his sermon had only one fault—that of being too short—he replied that he should have made it shorter if he had had more time. Let our writers—especially those of the press—boil down their efforts before they present them to the public. In this fast age the man who can say the best things in the shortest space is not far removed from a public benefactor.—*Exchange.*

The New York *Express* concludes an article on Reciprocity with Canada as follows:—

Canada is the nearest of our neighbours, and the products of the two countries are much alike. There is the same language spoken on both sides of the line, the same topography of country, much of the same kind of production and climate, and Canada has in addition, the best fisheries on the globe, and these are very needful to our forty millions of people. As is said in New England, the Grand Bank of Newfoundland and Massachusetts Bay, as the rendezvous of the fishing ground of the continent, cannot be moved a hair's breadth. These will forever remain to be manipulated by the New England States and those Provinces adjacent to fishing grounds, giving to both a large exchange commerce. But, as we have attempted to show elsewhere, in general commerce the subject is of great importance to us of New York and to the country at large. Compared with the United States, of course the Dominion is small; but it has over 4,000,000 of people, and embraces Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, and the Hudson Bay Territory, leaving Newfoundland—the ancient colony of Terra Nova—the sole unconfederated possession of British America. We submit that now is the time to change our commerce belligerency to the state of friendly relations.

The Ottawa *Free Press* asks how the Pacific Railway shall be built, and it answers:—"The answer is spoken loud-voiced from the bowels of the earth, teeming with mineral riches; the winds bring it from the swaying tops of pines, in vast primeval forests; the fertile acres across half a continent of luxuriant soil, yet virgin free from the hand of industry, repeat it,—from river and forest, from fertile valley and rocky mountain, from the lakes and the hillsides, there is but one response—give us men, women and children! Bring in population and industry, in order that a nation's wealth may be coined from the vast latent resources, which nature has scattered with a lavish hand from North to South, and from East to West, throughout this fair Dominion. We believe that in the promotion of immigration lies the key to the future greatness of the nation; we have every attribute that can contribute to a nation's greatness and prosperity—it only needs the hand of industry to lay these resources tribute to our progress."

RECIPROCITY.—This question continues largely to occupy the press on both sides of the forty-ninth parallel. In the United States the prevailing opinion seems to be that the terms understood to be offered by Canada are good. In Canada there appears to be very general desire for a renewal of reciprocal relations with the United States; but we observe some journals take the position that too much is conceded in throwing in the Canadian fishery balance. Be that as it may, there seems every reason for believing that a Treaty will be made.

Disræli in England, Gambetta in France, Castelar in Spain, and Laskar in Germany—here are four Jews who have made themselves the most powerful men in the four most powerful governments of Europe.

CUBA.—The financial embarrassments of Cuba seem to be of a most critical character. The notes of the Havana Bank constitute the only paper money in circulation on the island. The bank has issued $15,772,000 in its own legitimate business, but has been compelled to make an advance of some $60,000,000 to the Government for war purposes, for which it has no adequate security and is unable to obtain a return. Its nominal resources consist of $104,000,000 of discounted mortgages and about $6,000,000 of securities; but probably the real value of these assets is far less than their figures, and they are not immediately available for any purpose. The consequence is that the paper of the bank has depreciated seventy-five cents on a dollar, and business is in a deplorable state. It is propoeed to tax all the property of the island five per cent. to meet the exigency, but even this extreme measure will not afford the immediate relief that is needed. The rebels have not gained any material successes in the field of late, but they seem to have damaged their enemies far more effectually than a defeat would have done, and all classes are clamoring for peace on almost any terms.

POLITENESS AS AN INVESTMENT.—The grievous error we fall into is, in looking for direct instead of indirect compensation. When we declare that politeness costs nothing, we really underrate. Not only does it cost nothing—it is materially profitable in the long, sometimes in the short run. Every one of us goes where he is well treated, and stays away from where he is ill treated. In a great city, competition in each branch of trade is necessarily active, and the tradesman and merchant who is courteous on principle must soon discover that his principle and interest are identical. What man ever forgets the place or person where or by whom he was affably received, when there was no visible motive for such reception? The poorest memory, the least impressible nature, will retain so much as that. Smith, who lives up town, actually goes far down-town to buy his smallest garment, because years ago, a bit of information was pleasantly given to him at the shop he now regularly patronizes. Jones does not object to walking half a dozen blocks out of his way in order to purchase cigars, for the reason that the cigar-vender comprehends the art of amiability. Robinson will never have another hatter (though his friends criticise his hats), from the fact that the hatter once exchanged a defective head-covering without grumbling, or even without trying to make Robinson believe that he did not know what he wanted.

SPECULATION.—And, first of all, what is speculation? It is buying something you do not need for present use, with the expectation of selling it at some future time at a profit. The love of gain is an inherent principle of human nature, and, in one sense, the foundation of all enterprise. The desire to make money is the mainspring of speculation. The merchant who buys a larger quantity of merchandise than is necessary to supply his present demands, *speculates*, either because he considers certain goods cheap, or is anxious to secure a monopoly in them for his own exclusive benefit. The miller, anticipating a bad harvest, buys up all the grain his means and credit will permit, and waits his opportunity of selling it when there is a scarcity in the market, and he can command his own price. He may, by economy, perseverance, and years of close application to business, succeed in making a competency as the fruits of honest industry; but he prefers to adopt a quicker method, and enters the arena of speculation, which opens to him the way of making as much money in a single year as would, by the slow, plodding process, consume nearly a whole lifetime. The successful speculator will always look ahead and watch the signs of the times. Scanning the distant horizon in the commercial and financial world, he will foresee "coming events which cast their shadows before," and be first in the field to profit by them. In a general way, the result of speculation will depend upon the exercise of good judgment, but in some instances will be governed by circumstances over which we have no control. However, the fact remains, if we understand it aright, that the wealthiest men in all branches of business are speculators. The old maxim of "buying cheap and selling dear" is the *sine qua non* of speculation, and the same principle which rules trade and commerce equally applies to stocks. A wealthy speculator in Wall street being asked one day how he made his money, replied, "I bought with the rise." Another retired gentleman, in answer to the same question, replied, "I sold with the fall." Each was equally successful, though taking a different course.—*Wall St. Review.*

Winnipeg and Toronto are now only from four to four and a half days' travel apart. The traveller leaving Toronto can have palace car accommodation to Moorehead, on Red River, making the distance in two and a half days. From thence, if speed is an object, he can take the stage line, and run through to Winnipeg in 36 to 48 hours.

The number of emigrants from the United States to Europe is steadily increasing. Hard times and want of work are the causes of the movement, which has a counterpart in all the panic seasons known to American history. We could have retained these men, remarks the Chicago *Tribune*, by issuing large quantities of paper currency; and we could then have enjoyed the blessed privilege of all starving together a few years afterward.

The *Montanian*, speaking upon the subject of the fur trade, says:—"We may safely estimate the Missouri River fur and peltry trade down to the line between Montana and Dakota at $200,000; that of the interior post in North-western Montana at $25,000; that of the Yellowstone country in Montana limits at $100,000; and that of the Missoula and Flat Head Lake country, with the inconsiderable amount bought by small traders, at $40,000 more. Thus we see, at a small estimate, we have an annual fur and peltry product of nearly half a million dollars. We believe an accurate account would swell these figures to nearly or quite a million of dollars. There are many traders in a small way, an account of whose speculations we scarcely hear of. For instance, of that class like Mr. James Gemmel, who has just returned from the Yellowstone, where he has been trading with the Crows during the past winter. His trading stock consisted principally of unbroken American and half-breed horses, and he has secured in the neighborhood of two hundred buffalo robes, besides a considerable stock of less valuable peltrics. The robes sold to larger dealers here, by the bale, will bring $8 each, while if shipped to eastern markets they will bring from $10 to $20. A prime "silk" robe only is worth the latter sum. Among the Crows, who understand prices pretty well, a good American gelding, broke to ride, will trade for from twelve to twenty robes, while among the Sioux, who, although good fighters, are poor traders, robes can be traded for to much greater advantage. The principal furs and peltrics produced here are buffalo, bear, deer, elk, wolf, otter, lynx; black, silver grey, and red fox; badger, marten, and some others of less value.

The mercantile agency of Messrs. Dun, Barlow & Co., New York, have issued a circular as a contribution toward the gradual improvement in the public sentiment regarding the prospect of business in the United States. We give the following extract:—"The circumstances of the past six months have not been favorable to trade. The effects of the panic of last September have lingered longer than was anticipated by many; but, these effects have been more apparent in restricting trade than in producing disaster. Considering the suddenness and violence of the crisis of last autumn, the commercial fabric of the country has not shown serious signs of disorder, if the number or importance of mercantile failures are to be taken as an index as to its condition. It is a fact, as surprising as it is gratifying, that, within the past six months, there have absolutely been fewer failures in number, and certainly fewer in prominence, than for the same period in the average of years. On the contrary, we have had abundant opportunity for observing a very remarkable reduction of indebtedness in all classes, and in almost all sections of the country. It is safe to say that the internal mercantile indebtedness in the country to day is not more than two-thirds what it was at this time last year. Indeed, so great has the tendency been toward liquidation, that it alone has been as much a cause of a restricted business and a hampered trade, as any want of confidence in the stability of the country, or the safety of credit. The fright that the debtor class received in September has had its effect, and the very prominence of the failures that immediately followed impressed deeply a lesson that has been heeded. 'If, then, it is good to be reducing debts—if it is wise to owe two dollars where last year three were due—the six months of dull times which may have been experienced are not without some compensation.'"

A Company has been formed in Liverpool, Eng., under the title "The Canadian Meat and Produce Company," (limited) to import from Canada prime joints of animals, for utilizing the tallow, &c. Capital, £200,000, one half of which will at first be issued.