advance over previous years. But since the amalgamation, the improvement has been more decided. By a late statement issued by the company, the following exhibit is made: Capital, \$1,850,000; gross assets, \$6,739.601; cash fire assets, \$4,683,565. Net fire surplus over liabilities. ties, including capital, \$790,909. Cash assets in the United States, \$1,624,811; net surplus, \$755,629. These figures are much larger than they have been heretofore, and show well in the matter of increased strength. Consequent upon this improved financial condition, the business of the company has very largely increased, and particularly in the West.—Spectator.

#### A GALVESTON CLERK.

A Galveston grocer had been observing for several weeks past that a great many of his customers had left him and were trading at a rival store over the way. He also noted that one of his clerks who had experienced a change of heart rarely succeeded in selling any goods at all to a customer. He had formerly been a very efficient clerk in selling groceries hence the proprietor
was very much bewildered. Yesterday morning the proprietor came down before the clerk made his appearance, and hiding behind a stack of boxes of Messrs. Blue Jacket's Encouraging Bitters waited patiently for developments. Presently the clerk came in, put on his apron, dusted off the counter, whistling "From Greenlands Icy Mountains," as he did so. It was not long before a wealthy lady, whose custom ran up into the thousands annual ly, came in and asked the clerk if he had the celebrated No. 3 sugar. He replied that they had, showed her a sample, and she said she thought she would take 100 pounds.

The conscientious clerk looked at the lady

very earnestly, and said:

"Are you prepared to die, Madam?"

The land amazement.

The lady stared in blank amazement.

I want to know if your family are fully pre-Pared for a blissful hereafter; for if you are not You can't get the sugar, that's all. There is enough chloride of tin in 100 pounds of sugar to kill the chloride of tin in 100 pounds of sugar to till the last one of you, and I don't want anybody's blood on my hands. And he put the cover on the sugar barrel and strolled out to the

The lady flaunted herself out of the store, her face as red as fire; but it was not any redder than that of the proprietor, who was only waiting a lark limb ing for an opportunity to rend that clerk limb from limb. Fortunately several customers came in and it. in, and the proprietor drew in his breath, gritted his teeth, and waited as best he could for the Hour of vengeance to strike.

"Have you got any claret—genuine French asked a customer.
"What do you want it for?" said the clerk.
"I want it for a friend of mine out in the country.

country.

"Has he got a good constitution?"

No, he is in feeble health, and I want this to help to build up his system."

help to build up his system."

We make our genuine claret ourselves down himself. The proprietor attends to that himself.

Of late the infusions of logwood and himself. Of late the infusions of logwood and other dwarf. other dye-stuffs we get from the druggist have been of such poor quality that our genuine claret won't do for me to recommend. I can't conscidits a natural door. You had better let your friend die a natural death."

The man said he was much obliged for the in-The man said he was much obliged for the in-formation, but the clerk declared he was only doing his duty, and he whistled "When I Can Read My Title Clear," as the customer strolled

Other customers strolled in, but he firmly refused to sell them a dime's worth. He explained to a cod to a cadaverous looking woman that her dyspepto appearance was due to the China clay in the sour and in the four, and the glucose and sulphuric acid in the

golden syrup she wanted to purchase. Another lady wanted tea. The good clerk said: "Madame, if you were to drop dead and wake up in a wrong place, I could never sleep a night afterward. You could not buy a pound of tea at this establishment for all the wealth of the Indies. The color of the tea is produced by Prussian blue, which causes ossification of the valvular system of the heart. I can see by your leathery complexion, that it is caused by tannin in teas that you are not long for this world. How do I know you have made your peace with heaven?", "Got any good coffee?" asked a fresh custo-

"We have some beans faced with phosphate of calcium and sulphate of barium, but the man who gets any of it has to show a clean bill of health from his spiritual adviser." There was

no trade with that man either.

Finally, when there were no customers in the store, the interview between the enraged storekeeper and his clerk took place, but the clerk so impressively warned the grocer—with an axe-handle—not to approach too close unless he was prepared to go home, that their busines relations were dissolved by mutual consent. The moral of which is, that things are not always what they seem.—Galveston News.

### STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 22nd, 1880.

Stocks.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total Transac'n in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Average Price, like Date 1879.
Montreal	1661	168	875	1673	1681	132
Ontario	951	981	1656	971	974	694
People's	91	92	460	913	95	55
Molson's		1031	75	103	105	77
Toronto		1401	75	1401	1414	117
Jac. Cartier		97	40	95	98	59
Merchants		117	645	1153	116	82
Commerce xd	136	1371	1368	136	1361	1124
Eastern T'ps				112	113	
Union				851	90	
Hamilton	<b></b> .	l		· • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
Exchange	63	64	105	631	65	
Mon, Tel		134	8820	133	1331	96
Dom. Tel		86	100	86	87	
Rich.& O.Nav	603	621	355	61	621	401
City Pass	116	118	195	115	1173	l
Gas	146	150	1910	1463	147	1104
R.C. Ins. Co		55			58	
Commerce		ļ <b>.</b>				
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Having carried off the Highest Awards, Two Silver Medals and a large number of other Prizes for

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