

of bees, the sounds of ocean, the rustle of the summer winds among the trees. There is joy, a sweet, tranquil bliss when heart communes with heart, when two souls join in one, like mingling dew drops on a rose; but, to yield to the energy of the moving Spirit of God—to feel a sense of trust in Him—to be at peace with Him—to serve Him in love and earnestness—to catch His approving smile in flowering earth and starlit sky—to hear His well-done on the work of life—to be sure of His presence here, and there in the great future, is greater joy than all beside. There is no joy like it—it is unspeakable, and full of glory. The Kingdom moves in you—rouse ye—lay hold of it violently—and the impulse shall bear you where you shall be nearer to Heaven and liker to God. Christ has come, and the Kingdom is a force—religion is a power great enough to lift you from sin to a state of holiness and peace. Lay hold of it.

"A SON OF TOIL."—A RHYME IN PROSE.

THE PETITION OF THE GASFITTERS AND CANDLEMAKERS OF CANADA,
ADDRESSED TO SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

PREAMBLE.

Sir John! Sir John! on thee we call, you are popular in this section. To thee we trust our little all, dear advocate of Trade Protection. We trusty gasfitters loudly wail, we candlemakers burn for a share of prosperity's favoring gale—ah! don't our petition spurn. We are useful men and full of light, no will-o'-the-wisps are we, but steady supporters burning bright. Let us light you to victory.

PETITION.

We don't ask much, 'tis a little thing to one of your high degree, let us have what we want and together we'll sing a tune of prosperity. The very worst drawback to our Trade, is, that twelve hours out of twenty-four, the Sun will persist in shedding its light, through window, crevice, and door. 'Tis a serious loss to the gasman brave, and the candlemaker too, diminished profits oft make us grave, but now we look to you—the prophet of smooth things, the seer of protection, the friend of the poor, ruined tradesman—improve your policy nearer perfection, and Aladdin will cheerfully swop with the gasman. 'Tis a simple, modest boon we ask, but for us it protection secures. When we've put you in power let this be your task, to shut up all windows and doors. That will suit us exactly. The sun may shine, but all within will be dark. Then gas and candles, cheap and fine, will be wanted a few—what a lark!!! Is it right that a little arrangement like this, for which we light-givers pine, should be denied us and thought amiss, because the sun will shine. 'Tis true the sun shines without any cost, but what is that to us? if our noble trade and its profits be lost, the people would righteously make a fuss. Grant this request, and behold the result which would surely follow straightway! Shut up doors and windows, and it won't be our fault, if within a single day, you will not see every gasman in the land, pegging busily at his trade. The impetus given will be something grand, and just think to what it will lead!

ARGUMENT.

In this fair, vast Canada of ours, there are mines of iron and lead. We gasmen will use them, work twenty-four hours, and so foster the new branch of trade. Then we candlemakers would wax full strong, in wealth and power and use. Why, think of the tallow and grease all day long we'd boil—how can you refuse? Would that not make the heart of the farmer glad, as he ceased to toil at the plough? He no longer at frosted crops need feel sad, but return to his muttons to see them grow fat and sleek on his moist meadow-land. As he thought of the tallow, his heart would melt, and his tears drop apace on the sand, as, grateful our gold he smelt. Right royally, too, all the poor would feed, in rich mutton and beef how they'd wallow, made cheap and good to answer their need, by the high price we'd give for the tallow. And, as we grew rich, we'd spend our gold with a lavishness truly inviting, on every luxury made and sold—too many to put down in writing.

RESULTS.

Universal prosperity soon would dawn, from our wealth spread far and wide o'er our favoured land—such as never yet known—till Free Traders themselves would side with our views, so unerring, far-reaching and deep—all windows and doors be thrown down, and piled, each on each, a useless heap, while their places were filled up with brick or stone by a happy people, rejoicing in light of "home manufacture" bright and clear and better than sunlight, thus shut out tight, and, with all these advantages, not so dear.

REQUIEM.

If some insane Free-trader still did prate, and talk of subversion of national laws, we'd settle him quickly, smash in his pate, and certainly not without cause, lest if spared he'd go further and say, with a sneer, we had acted consistently, and carried out principles we held dear, till we'd proved them absurdity. If we shut out a gift that nature bestows, at less cost on some neighbouring lands, because it is cheaper in labor or gold than those made by our own hands, it is quite right and proper to shut out that, which Nature for nothing bestows, assured we can make it far cheaper than that, and therefore we nothing can lose. 'Tis the last dying groan of the Free-trading cuss who has weakened his body and mind, till he cares naught for self, won't e'en make a fuss for the general good of his kind. Though we've crushed the life out of him, let's do as he would—with candles from very best maker, light the poor dead corpse to its home in the ground—for the good of his fellows we act undertaker. We'll raise a neat headstone over his grave, selected near ocean's wild billow, and never he'll wake his country to save (?) till we've found a similar pillow, by rejecting the sunlight which floods o'er our mind, and preferring the darkness of self, are plunged in that gloom with those of our kind, whose sunlight is summed up in self.

"EUSEBIUS."

The beginning of faith is action, and he only believes who struggles; not he who merely thinks a question over.—Carlyle.

TO THE SAINT LAWRENCE.

I may not emulate their lofty aim,
Who in divine imagination, bold,
With mighty hills and streams communion hold,
As living friends; and scarce I dare to claim
Acquaintance with thee in thy scenes of fame,
Wealthiest of Rivers! though in days of old
I loved thee where thy waters mighty roll'd,
And in some sense would deem thee yet the same.
Thy mirror'd course of wood-enshrined repose
Besprent with island haunts of spirits bright;
And widening on—till, at the vision's close,
Stern Stadacona, even then a name of might
For childish thoughts to build on, proudly rose
A rock-throned city clad in heavenly light.

H. M.

THE BUSINESS SITUATION!

"Omega" labours hard to *prove* that credit-business may be extended with safety; but it does not appear that he has done it. He has certainly not "made the truth visible" to your readers. Whatever the possibilities may be of increasing such business, the proof has not been forthcoming, and that is a material point. He says it is the unrealizable character of the assets which makes debts "formidable," but furnishes no practical rule to guide the merchant how to choose *safe* assets. In fact, the merchant in the circumstances cannot be at all sure that any large debt is *not* formidable. We have abundant proof merchants are necessitated to do business on credit, if they do business to any great extent,—a business, the hazard of which is proportioned to the difficulty of estimating the assets. If, therefore, after due care, individuals are compelled to assume obligations which they cannot be sure are not formidable, or embarrassing, why should they be blamed for making losses?

"Omega" has furnished no proof, and we question if proof can be given, that merchants fail merely because of their folly, seeing they are forced by a credit-law to assume such great risks. What should be thought of jurymen that condemn without proof? Should *they* themselves not be condemned?

Would it not, therefore, be well for "Omega" to pause and look to the proof before attributing the commercial depression to the folly or incompetency of merchants? Writers on business matters, we are aware, commonly take that liberty; but if they do so without proof, their judgment deserves to be lightly esteemed.

On the contrary, we claim there is abundance of proof that general bankruptcy arises other than the mere folly of individual traders. Folly or incapacity will always be difficult to bring home to merchants in the case of bankruptcy, until they have a choice between capital and credit in exchange for the property that is parted with, which is now enjoyed to but a very limited extent; and, until a mortgage be treated as a promissory note is,—namely, discountable by a bank of issue dealing solely in mortgages and specie, such as we have suggested,—the community is necessarily deprived of the use of the greater part of its capital, and is forced to do without, or do business on credit.

All that merchants have a right to ask, says "Omega," "is liberty to trade as freely as possible, and reap the fruits, be they profit or loss." We can only assent to that *dictum* on condition that all the capital of the community be accessible to the markets. But, unfortunately, in this country for example, the greater part of the capital in real estate has no more bearing on the money market than if it were in the moon!

Notwithstanding "Omega's" assertion "that the laws of nature are so ordered that all products of labour have a bearing on all markets," and notwithstanding he avers that economists are unsound in mind who "do not think all the products of labour should have a bearing on the markets," it is untrue that either of those conditions exist, at least in this country. If "Omega" himself is really unconscious of the fact, let us enquire: How was it before banks of issue were thought of? Had business then, by virtue of the laws of nature, all the advantages which the banking era possesses? If so, these institutions are very unnecessary, and not worth the energy our critic expends in their defence. Do the laws of nature, and not human art or skill, furnish the workman with all the variety of required tools? Banking is but a tool, not to create capital, but to utilize it. Extend the banking law to the capital in the real property, in the manner we have suggested, and, if we mistake not, the said capital will have that salutary effect on industry and commerce little suspected, "though nature's laws have been ever active."

It is quite true that capital may be invested in real estate as well as other property which produces nothing, and is thereby sunk; but it is not such property we seek to utilize by a just banking law. Dealers in mortgages usually do a safe business,—safe in proportion to the skill displayed and care given. Nothing need be taken on mere trust.

Every one says "Omega" knows that gold, and *not* promissory notes, is the basis of bank issues. We shall see if that be the case or not. Take an average monthly return of the banks. Set aside the Gold and Provincial Notes from the available assets, and let the balance be deducted from the sum of deposits at interest and balances due to other banks, and you have the following in round millions dollars:—

Capital.	Gold.	Provincial Notes.	Discounts.	Debts or Circulation.
38	6	7	Notes discounted... 119	Deposits at interest... 14
..	Sundries " ... 15	Note circulation..... 22
..	Deposits on demand.. 39
Assets..... 147				Debts..... 75

The paid-up capital is, of course, absorbed or contained in the assets, seven-eighths of which consists of promissory notes!

The circulation and deposits on demand, taken together, make the facilities