

NOTICE.

Our Agent, MR. W. STREET, who collected our accounts west of Toronto last year, is again visiting all the places on the Grand Trunk, Great Western, Canada Southern, Northern and Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railways. Subscribers are requested to settle with him all accounts due.

Subscribers are once more requested to take notice that the dates to which their subscriptions are paid are printed on their wrappers with each number sent from the office, thus: 1.78 would signify that subscriptions have been paid up to January, 1878; 7.77 up to July, 1877. This is worthy of particular attention, as a check upon collectors and a protection to customers who, not seeing their dates altered after settling with the collector, should after a reasonable time communicate with the office.

NOTICE.

In the next number of the
CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

We shall publish the portraits of the three
leaders of the

REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in the United States and Canada:

RIGHT REVEREND BISHOPS CUMMINS,
FALLOWS AND CHENEY,

With memoirs of their lives and labours.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Dec. 1st, 1877.

THE FISHERIES AWARD.

In our last number we prepared our readers for the proximate close of the labours of the International Commission, which has been sitting at Halifax since last July. This conclusion was reached on Tuesday, the 23rd inst., and the award to this country for the use of its fisheries during the following twelve years is set down at five million, five hundred thousand dollars. It is asserted that Hon. Mr. FOSTER, the American Commissioner, did not agree to this decision, but as His Excellency M. DELFOSSE, Belgian Minister at Washington, and Umpire of the Commission, sided with Sir ALEXANDER GALT, the British Commissioner, the award may be regarded as final. We are informed, in addition, that Mr. FOSTER's dissent was not based on any denial of the value of Canadian fisheries, or the justice of Canadian claims, but rather on the failure of the other Commissioners to appreciate the value of the concessions made by the United States under the Treaty of Washington. The Congress have still to pronounce definitively on the award, but there is reason to believe that they will imitate the generous promptitude of Great Britain in the much heavier award of the Geneva Conference, and pay over the money without demur.

In advance of the publication of the official proceedings, it is impossible to go into particulars concerning the operations of the Commission, and we must, for the present, confine ourselves to only a few remarks, based on information derived from reliable sources. It will be remembered, as we stated at the time, that our claim for compensations for the right of trading in bait and supplies on the coast, was thrown out by an unanimous vote of the Commissioners, on the ground that this right was not included in the Treaty of Washington. Thus an important sum, which we might have expected from this source, was cut off. As an offset, however, the question of the headlands was not pressed to a decision, thus leaving our territorial sovereignty intact, at the end of the twelve years.

When everything is balanced, the award must be regarded as satisfactory. It is certainly more than we had been led to expect, considering the manner in which England has generally allowed herself to be duped in her treaty relations with the United States. The sum is a fair compensation for our claims, so that really we

have had to yield nothing. It will be a welcome acquisition to Mr. CARTWRIGHT's depleted treasury, while it will be no burden to the United States, inasmuch as they have several millions of the Geneva Award on their hands, of which they have not been able to dispose. In other words, and pleasantly enough, it will be British gold coming back to us.

We have private advices to the effect that the labours of the Commission were carried on in the most effective manner. Not only did the greatest cordiality prevail among the several members, but there was a common feeling of conciliation, and every disposition was shown, consistent with duty, to further the cause of right and justice. Among the Americans, Hon. Mr. DANA seems to have particularly distinguished himself for general ability and comprehensive grasp of the subject. Among the Canadian Counsel, Mr. THOMPSON, of New Brunswick, is said to have presented a most luminous case, and to have so conducted himself throughout the sittings of the Commission, as to lead to the hope that he may hereafter enter more prominently into our public affairs. As to Sir ALEXANDER GALT, he is said to have "run" the Commission, which means that he was the life and soul of the whole business. This is no more than we expected of the valiant Knight, and we are pleased that, even in his retreat, he has been enabled to render another signal service to his country, for which the citizens of Montreal have undertaken to thank him by the tender of a public banquet.

THE REMONETIZATION OF SILVER.

The remonetization of silver, about which so much is heard in the American papers, means the restoration of that metal to the currency, and the re-establishment of the silver dollar as a standard of value, the same as gold. It needs to be remembered that the double or bi-metallic system is general in the Latin Union, or in all the States of Europe, except Germany, Holland and England. Germany still held it till 1873, when Bismarck, as arbitrary in finance as he is in politics, abruptly discarded it, setting up the single gold standard, and thereby contributing, as is generally admitted, to that terrible commercial crisis which has made Germany the most unfortunate nation in Europe. In France the double standard is in full vigour, but silver is minted only to meet the total of minor transactions at home. There is no use denying that Italy is flourishing under the system, her volume of business being proportionately greater than that of any European nation. In the United States the silver dollar was always held in the highest estimation, there being a patriotic sentiment attached to it as the old Revolutionary medium of operations. But in 1873, it was demonetized, that is, it was withdrawn from circulation, and the English or single gold standard was adopted.

The question agitating the country is now whether silver should be restored to its former place of honour, or whether it should remain where it is. It is the object of the Bill introduced into Congress by Mr. BLAND, of Missouri, to effect the restoration, and he has so far succeeded as to have coached it safely through the Lower House. Even in the Senate the preamble of the Bill meets the approval of the majority, and it is only in details that amendments will be introduced. In other words, the remonetization of silver is as good as accomplished, and there only remains the sanction of the President to make the Bland Bill law. But whether the President will sign the instrument or not is a matter of present doubt, and in fact he must be sorely perplexed in the premises, placed between two fires—the West that clamours for the silver dollar, and the East that protests against it.

The chief objection to the Bland Bill, and that precisely with which the Senate had the most trouble to deal, is the free coinage clause, which means the unlimited

minting of the metal on the mere depositing of silver bullion. It is urged that, if silver is coined without limitation, it will drive gold out of the country, and thus practically become the single standard, and as a single silver standard would be an anomaly, owing to the fluctuations of that metal, there would be confusion worse confounded in the finances of the country. The argument is a powerful one, and we should be pleased to see a complete answer to it.

Another potent objection is that the silver dollar being worth at present only 93½ cents, and the greenback dollar 97 3-10 cents, the remonetization of silver would entail the loss to the labourer of the difference between these two values. The reply to this argument is that, if the silver dollar is coined as an unlimited legal tender, the silver and gold dollars will be equalized in law and in fact. Then the bank notes that were left would be convertible into greenbacks, and the greenbacks themselves would be convertible into gold or silver. In other words, the greenbacks would be retired and there would be no further use for them. The reply is ingenious, because there appears no reason to doubt that the remonetization of silver would give a powerful stimulant to resumption, that is, to the withdrawal of paper currency and the adoption of specie payments.

BUSINESS MORALITY.

It is a somewhat remarkable circumstance that our preachers and pastors, while their recurring Sunday text brings them yearly through the whole series of Gospel precept, so seldom insist on that particular line of ethics which concerns fully the three-fourths of the men of the world. We refer to commercial or business morality of every kind. The large majority of men are occupied in some one or other branch of trade, either as buyers or sellers, and even those who live entirely on their capital have money transactions to attend to nearly every day of their lives. Now, any one who has experience of the world knows very well that the code of laws governing business men in their pursuits is a very peculiar institution, full of problems and perplexities, deserving altogether of the attention of our teachers and spiritual masters. It were an ungracious and an ungrateful task to sketch the outlines of this strange morality, and the editorial page is hardly the proper medium of that remonstrance which is so richly deserved; but, were we called upon, we should point to the three headings of untruthfulness, dishonesty, and heartlessness.

It is astonishing how the cardinal virtue of veracity is juggled with in the whirl and hurry of business. It is next to impossible to get a straightforward answer in regard to the real value of any article, and as to its market value, that is regulated by a sliding scale which is graduated by the assurance of the vendor or the ignorance of the buyer. We imagine one could count on his ten fingers the occasions when he has sold a thing for exactly what it was worth, without haggling, or when he has bought the same thing without the consciousness that he has been the loser of more or less money.

Dishonesty is only a corollary of untruthfulness. The man who can lie to the face of a customer in any dealing, will not hesitate a moment to cheat him if he has the least chance to do so. And it is remarkable how keenly schooled he becomes in those chances. He is not always aware of the extent or disastrous consequences of his unwholesome science, and in many instances, when he is charged point blank with dishonesty, he either denies the accusation with indignation, or parries the blow by the disingenuous excuse that he is only practising a knowledge of human nature essential to him in his avocations. The fact is that the best men form to themselves false consciences in this respect, and become so rooted in the obliquity as to absolutely take credit for that which ought to be a subject of shame. In other cases,

refuge is taken behind the plea that commerce is nothing better than a game of hazard, that the business man must take his chances, and that he is the most successful who becomes the most skilful adept at this species of legerdemain. It needs not to be told that this reasoning is intrinsically fallacious. Trade, from its highest to its lowest forms, is not a game of hazard, but a necessary and legitimate medium of interchange. It rests on this elementary principle—that value should be given for value received. This and nothing more. Any and every species of trickery is inconsistent with this principle, and such trickery is only an euphemism for dishonesty.

And then there is heartlessness. It is not enough to lie to a man and cheat him, but advantage must be taken of his sorest need to extort money from him and add to one's ill-gotten hoard. How many thousands of men there are in every community who have built their fortunes on the ruin of their fellows, and how often this is done without a symptom of remorse. The old excuse is invariably proffered, that there is no sentiment in business. If sentiment means weakness, the saying may be accepted; but if it means mercy and a certain rough tenderness for misfortune, the axiom is glaringly false. As a matter of fact, the men are precious few who are injured through consideration for an unfortunate customer, and, anyhow, they merit and receive sympathy for having erred on the right side.

THE day of Thanksgiving lately celebrated formed a most encouraging evidence of the advance of united feeling in the several Provinces of the Dominion, and the reverential sentiments promoted by the occasion should harmonize well with the political arrangements that paved the way for their expression. Next to the duty of thankfulness for the abundant harvest with which we have been blessed, is that of properly economizing the gifts of a kind Providence. We believe the too frequent habit of holding back the grain crop on the part of our farmers to be a mistaken policy in every sense. In the manner in which grain is now stored, it amounts practically to leaving large portions of the food of man for the rats and the weevil. Markets can never be calculated upon with certainty, and the satisfactory prices prevailing should be taken advantage of by agriculturists. For certain periods of time grain has always to be stored in the locality where it is produced, and if every village could get itself furnished with a public granary, having the floor supported on pillars, such construction for the general benefit might be made to form the roof for the weekly market. The expense would soon be returned to the municipality, for, in addition to protection from vermin and reduction of fire risk, the accumulated yield of the district might be brought together in the centre of the village, so as to make it far better worth the while of buyers and agents to include the district in their circuits. There would be more competition, and far more assurance than now of the farmer getting the market prices. Cereals that are scattered over all the homesteads in small parcels are often not considered to be worth looking up by the men of the cities, and at length come to be taken by the local storekeepers often at very inferior quotations.

THE question is raised how to avoid colds. What we call a cold is generally the result of changes of temperature in the air that is heated and also brought in contact with the skin—and this annoying affection of the system is also a good deal connected with the condition, healthy or otherwise, of the digestive organs. Prevention is better there cure in this case. Clothing and exercise must be attended to. Careful diet, with, let us say, an occasional camomile, and the dwelling well warmed and ventilated will be leading preventives. Let the sleeping couch be placed within the triangle of the room which has no