

been unable to pay his accounts. His wife and his father issued judgments against him, the two amounting to about \$3,500, and then he offered his creditors 25 cents on the dollar, which was refused. They say if he turns over the stock to them and foregoes the claims of his wife and father they will give him a discharge.

MINOR Montreal failures for the week are reported as follows: The Montreal Dress Stay Co., in existence a few months, has passed into the hands of an assignee, with liabilities of \$1,607.—Mrs. L. P. Cote, milliner, is unable to pay liabilities of \$800, and has had to assign.—Joseph Tremblay, men's furnishings, being served with a demand of assignment, has acted in accordance. He shows an indebtedness of \$2,468.—J. A. C. Julien, jeweller, after an experience of three years, finds he has to throw up the sponge, showing assets of about \$700 against liabilities of about \$1,250.—Bush & Read, boots and shoes, find themselves obliged to assign, and owe \$6,000; assets apparent, \$5,500.—M. Lightstone & Co., manufacturers of caps in a small way, have been asked to assign, and estimate their indebtedness at \$4,026.—Hubert & Comtois, retail furriers, have labored in vain in the poor state of trade in this line, and now make a voluntary assignment. Liabilities are \$6,598; assets, \$4,400.

#### FOR BOOK SELLERS AND STATIONERS.

M. Delisle, the principal librarian at the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, warns us that our modern literature is destined to perish. Of the 2,000 and odd volumes published annually in France not one, he thinks, will remain after a certain time. Cheap paper is a splendid thing in its way, but this is the price we must pay for it. Old-fashioned paper, made from rags, has stood the test of hundreds of years, as the many fine specimens of fifteenth century printing show, to say nothing of still earlier books in manuscript. Now-a-days, however, paper is made of all sorts of material of a more or less perishable character. In particular, as M. Delisle points out, books printed on paper made from wood pulp soon begin to rot away. At first the pages are covered by yellow spots, and these are replaced in course of time by holes. Even so-called hand-made papers are often no more durable, being treated with chemicals that slowly destroy them.

Stationery varies little this season, says the *New York World*, except that a tendency seems for the envelope longer than wide, the square shape less in favor. The address at the top of letter and note sheet as before, with monogram or initials added at pleasure. On the flap of the envelope the address is frequently engraved, that without opening (if astray) they can be returned to the sender, and lavender, faint green, blue, buff, and even orange letters, make gay the postman's burden.

Wax and seals increase in popular favor, a gum-closed letter now being the exception rather than rule. A deep crimson, an electric blue and a water green, gold-flocked, are the latest colors in perfumed wax, in American "good society."

—There are three classes of aldermen who must be given their quietus, said the Reverend Doctor Thomas, the other evening, in his essay on city government: "These are, the hopelessly incompetent, the suspiciously impetuous, and the incorrigibly visionary."

#### CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday last, compared with those of the previous week:—

	Clearings.	Jan. 11th.	Jan. 4th.
Montreal .....	\$10,661,603	\$9,325,343	
Toronto .....	7,278,077	5,744,939	
Winnipeg .....	1,115,806	1,205,594	
Halifax .....	1,454,162	1,081,106	
Hamilton .....	813,786	781,944	

Total ..... \$21,322,434 \$18,138,926

Aggregate balances this week, \$3,488,236; last week, \$2,554,885.

—A correspondent of a maritime province journal, the *Sackville Post*, deplores the negligence of farmers with respect to their agricultural implements and machinery. "Not infrequently," says the *Post*, "are these to be seen left unhoused in barnyards, in fields, or by the wayside. Within the bounds of this village may be seen a valuable horse hay-rake, standing between the sidewalk and in the carriage-way—dangerously near the latter. If it should remain there much longer legal action might become likely." The same sort of wasteful folly is too common in Ontario. Of course there are many prudent and sensible men, doubtless the majority, who do take proper care to see that reaper and power, horse-rake and fanning mill, in fact all machinery that can take harm from exposure, are housed. But the amount of money wasted by the negligence of those who leave their implements to become rusted and cracked and weather-beaten would startle even their indifference if it could be brought home to their feelings.

—The Merchants' Bank of Halifax has decided to close up its branch at Ormstown, Que., in the Huntingdon district. The business will be taken over by the branch of the Eastern Townships Bank at Huntingdon.

#### AN INDIAN HISTORIAN.

An Amherstburg letter tells us of the death last month, at the age of 79, of a worthy specimen of the red man, Peter Dooyentate Clark, of the Wyandotte Indian Reserve, Anderton, on the Canadian shore of Detroit River. Thirty years ago, and more, we remember Peter, a grave, erect, striking-looking man, six feet tall, with black eyes and straight hair. In 1870 he visited Montreal and surprised the present writer by appearing in the unsuspected character of an author, his first work being a volume of 160 pages, entitled "The Origin and Traditional History of the Wyandottes, and Sketches of other Indian Tribes of North America." In this were traditions and true stories of Tecumseh and his League in the years 1811 and 1812. It was published by Hunter, Rose & Co. at Toronto. In his preface the author said, "The lapse of ages has rendered it difficult to trace the origin of the Wyandottes. Nothing now remains to tell whence they came but a tradition that lives only in the memory of a few among the remnant of this tribe. Of this I will endeavor to give a sketch as I had it from the lips of such and from some of the tribe who have since passed away. My sketch reaches back about three centuries and a half, and commences from what is now Montreal." His first chapter says: "From traditional accounts the Wyandottes once inhabited a country north-eastward from the mouth of the St. Lawrence, or somewhere along the Gulf coast, before they ever met with the French or any European adventurers. . . . During the first quarter of the sixteenth century a rupture took place between the Wyandottes and the Senecas, who were peacefully sojourning together (in separate villages) in the vicinity of what is now Montreal." Then he tells how the trouble was caused by a quarrel between a

Seneca maiden and a chief's son. The Senecas threatened to destroy the Wyandottes, who broke up their villages and wandered westward till they reached the banks of the Niagara. Next, fearing the terrible Iroquois, the "Five Nations," the Wyandottes journeyed still farther west till they reached the shores of Lake Huron. In a foot note Mr. Clark adds: "This lake was named after the Wyandotte tribe. They were called Hurons, but Wyandotte is their proper name." There were ten clans of this tribe, named after various animals. In the 17th century the Bear clan left the shores of Lake Huron, while others went to St. Joseph's Island and Machilimackinac. "A band of the Big Turtle and Deer clans journeyed southward to the northern shores of Lake Erie, erected their village and made cornfields on the banks of a stream since named River aux Chaudières. Here they sojourned in their primeval nature. Their laws were the laws of nature and nature's God." Mr. Clark, who was a full-blooded Wyandotte, had during the past year contributed a number of papers of a historical character to the *Amherstburg Leader*, in which incidents and traditions of the former doings of his tribe were narrated with a naive mixture of romance and reality. For a man self-taught he wrote well; it was a subject of wonder to those who had known him in earlier life how he learned to write as he did. He appears to have travelled much, on this continent at least.

#### STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL Jan. 11th, 1894

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average. 1893.
Montreal .....	221½	£90	15	225	219	234
Ontario .....	.....	.....	.....	129	.....	116
People's .....	.....	.....	.....	180	112½	112
Molson's .....	.....	.....	.....	175	160	171
Toronto .....	240	249	4	.....	239½	249
Jac. Cartier .....	157½	158	57	125	18	180
Merchants .....	136	136	53	137	135½	164½
Union .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
M. Teleg. ....	145	142	120	146	144	159½
Rich. & Ont. ....	8½	77½	1319	80½	80	70
Street Ry. ....	164	157	503	164	161	255
Gas. ....	140	179	565	172½	172½	232
C. Pacific Ry. ....	75	71½	760	73½	72	84½
Land gr't b'de .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	109	108
N West Land .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Montreal 4% .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bell Tele. ....	130½	135	142	137	134½	158½

#### OLD TIME TELEGRAPHY.

Under this heading, Mr. James Stephenson, the well known superintendent of the Grand Trunk Railway, writes to the *Montreal Gazette* commenting upon the recent contribution of Mr. Easson to THE MONETARY TIMES. We quote from Mr. Stephenson:

"Mr. Easson, in his article to THE MONETARY TIMES, describes the methods in vogue at Sandy Hook in 1850, of receiving from European steamships, bound to New York, the despatches, etc., which were transmitted by wire from Sandy Hook. I desire to say that the British American Telegraph Company, in the early part of the fifties, opened a telegraph line between Quebec and Halifax. The route from Lewis (connected by cable with Quebec) was down the south shore of the St. Lawrence to Rivière du Loup, thence inland via the Madawaska road to Little Falls, Grand Falls, Tobique, Fredericton, St. John, etc., to Halifax. "The British American Telegraph Company, through the wise foresight of its officials—Mr. Isaac D. Purkis, superintendent; Mr. Henry W. Welch (a prominent merchant of Quebec), treasurer—adopted at Rivière du Loup, a signal office under the Lloyd code, whereby all vessels passing inward or outward were signalled and the information at once telegraphed to the owner or agent and to the press.

"In addition to this a boat, manned with capable oarsmen, swivel gun on bow to signal the approaching steamer, more particularly at night, was used to intercept and receive from the inward steamer the despatches and latest newspapers. The method was to throw overboard a tin cylinder, in which was enclosed the despatches and newspapers, with a small