AN INGENIOUS MECHANIC.—Somewhere about the year 1780, a travelling millwright, footsore, and with the broadest northern Doric accent, stopped at Soho, a locality once indicative of field sports, but then the engine factory of Boulton and Watt, and asked for work. His aspect was little better than one of 'beggary and poor looks,' and Mr. Boulton had bidden him God speed to some other workshop, when, as he was turning away sorrowfully, Mr. Boulton suddenly called him back.

'What kind of hat's yon ye have on your head, my man?'

'It's just timmer, sir.'

'Timber, my man; let's look at it.—Where did yon get it?'

'I just made it, sir, my ainsel'.'

'How did you make it?'

'I just turned it in the lathie.'

'But it's oval, man! and a lathe turns things round!'

'Aweel! I just gar'd the lathie gang anither gate to please me. I'd a lang journey afore me, an' I thocht to have a hat to keep out water; and I hadna muckle siller to spare, and I just made me ane.'

By his inborn mechanism the man had invented an oval lathe, and made his hat, and the hat made his fortune. Mr. Boulton was not the man to lose so valuable a help, at least in those days, when good men were scarce, and so the after famous William Murdoch (the originator of locomotives, and also of lighting by gas) took suit and service under Boulton and Watt, and in 1784 made the first vehicle impelled by steam in this England of ours—made with the very hands and brain-cunning that had before produced the 'timmer hat.' Out of that seed, after 78 years sowing end reaping its produce, a goodly crop has sprung up, that, like the grain of mustard seed, replenishes the civilized earth, and will yet civilize the uncivilized.

WOMAN'S DEVOTEDNESS TO MAN.—She is happy in owing everything to man. That alone imparts a singular charm to the poor household. There nothing is foreign or indifferent; everything bears the stamp of a beloved hand, the seal of the heart. Man very often little knows the privations she endures in order that, on his return, he may find his dwelling modest, yet adorned. Great is the ambition of woman for the household clothes, and linen. This last article is new: the linen closet, the pride of the country-woman, was unknown to the wife of the town workman before the revolution in industry which I have mentioned. Cleanliness, purity, modesty, those graces of woman, then enchanted the house: the bed was surrounded with curtains; the child's cradle, dazzled with whiteness, became a paradise: the whole cut out, and sewed it a few evenings. Add moreover, a flower to the window! What a surprise! the husband, on his return, no longer knows his own home! This taste for flowers, which has spread, and this little expenditure to ornament the interior, are they not lamentable, when these people never know whether they have any work on the morrow? Call it not expenditure, say rather economy. It is a very great one, if the innocent attraction of the wife renders the house charming to the husband and can keep him there. Let us ornament, I beseech you, both the house and the wife? A few ells of printed cotton makes her another woman: see she is regenerated, and become young again.

NEWSPAPERS.—The newspaper is the chronicle of civilisation—the common reservoir into which every stream pours its living waters, and at which every man may come to drink. It is the newspaper that gives to liberty its practical life, its constant observation, its perpetual vigilance, its unrelaxing activity. The newspaper informs legislation of public opinion, and it informs the people of the acts of legislation. And this is not all. The newspaper teems with the most practical morality—in its reports of crime and punishment you find a daily warning against temptation: not a case in a police court, not a single trial of a wretched outcast, or a trembling felon, that does not preach to us the awful lesson, how imprudence leads to error, how error leads to guilt, how guilt reaps its bitter fruit of anguish and degredation. The newspaper is the familiar bond that binds us together man and man—no matter what may be the distance of clime or the difference of race. There it is that we have learned how to sympathise with the slave, how to battle for his rights, how to wrest the scourge from his taskmaster. Over land and sea the voice of outraged humanity has reached the great heart of England, and raised up a host of freemen as the liberators of the enslaved and tortured negro! The newspaper is a law-book for the indolent, a sermon for the thoughtless, a library for the poor. It may stimulate the most indifferent, it may instruct the most profound.

Commercial.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

Traffic for week ending 16th January, 1863, - - - -	$62,414 94
Corresponding week last year.	57,152 88½
Increase, - - - -	$ 5,262 05½

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Traffic for week ending January 10, 1863. - - - - - - -	$80,483 25
Corresponding week, 1862. -	85,632 31
Decrease, - - - -	$ 5,149 06

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

[Received by this week's mail, and compiled expressly for the 'Canadian Illustrated News.']

LIVERPOOL, 7th Nov. 1862.

PORK PER BRL.	s. s.
Prime mess	60 a 65
Prime	.. a ..
BACON PER CWT.	
Boneless	35 a 38
Rib in	33 a 36
Hams	31 a 37
Shoulders	.. a ..
LARD PER CWT.	
Fine	39 a 40
Middling to good	38 a 39
Inferior and grease	32 a 37
CHEESE PER CWT.	
Extra	48 a 52
Ordinary to fine	30 a 45
BUTTER PER CWT.	
Extra	88 a 90
Good to fine	70 a 85
Ordinary	54 a 65
Grease sorts	38 a 48

WHEAT P'R CENTAL 100 LBS	s. s.
Canadian white	10 3 a 10 8
" red	9 1 a 9 7
American white	10 3 a 12 3
" red	8 11 a 10 2
FLOUR PER BRL.	
Canadian, fine	24 a 26
" extra	27 a 29
Sour and partial	18 a 22
Western canal	23 a 24
Ohio & Baltimore.	24 a 26
INDIAN CORN PER 480 LBS.	
Yellow.	28 6 a 29 0
Mixed	28 3 a 28 9
White	30 0 a 32 6
PEAS PER 504 LBS.	
Canadian	37 0 a 37 6

PETROLEUM.

American Crude per ton, of 252 imperial gallons	£21 a 22
Canadian do do do	13 a 14
Refined, burning, best quality per gallon	2 3 a 2 6
Do good do do	1 9 a 2 0
Lubricating per ton, black, green and brown	£15 a 22
Do do best yellow.	25 a 30

NEW YORK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22, 1863.

Ashes are steady and in moderate reqest at $3 50 for Pots; Pearls are dull at $7 75 a 8.

Flour and Meal.—Trade brands have sold more freely, in some instances at a slight advance. The sales are 18,700 bbls at $6-30 a 6 55 for Superfine State and Western; $6 70 a 6 85 for Extra State; $6 90 a 7 10 for Fancy do.; $6 85 a 7 10 for the low grades of Western Extra; $7 25 a 7-35 for Shipping Ohio; $7 40 a 8 30 for trade brands, and $7 10 a 9 25 for St. Louis Extras. Canadian Flour is quiet, but firm; sales of 570 bbls at $6 80 a 7 10 for the low grades of Extra, and $7 20 a 8 30 for trade brands.

Grain.—The transactions reach 234,300 bush., and consist of 27,800 bush. Chicago Spring at $1 29 a 1 40; 41,200 do. Milwaukie Club at $1 40 a 1 45; 38,600 do Amber Spring at $1 46 a 1 48½; 64,700 do Red Western at $1 50 a 1 55; 48,400 do Amber do at $1 55 a 1 58; the inside rate in store; 11,600 do White Michigan at $1 68 a 1 72, and 2,000 do White Missouri at $1 80. Barley is quiet but firm; sales of 600 bush good State at the railroad depot at $1 45. Barley Malt is dull, but holders are firm at $1 60 a 1 75 for State and Canadian. Oats are quiet but steady at 72 a 74c for Western Canadian and State. Rye continues to sell in small lots at 98c a $1 02.

Provisions.—The Pork market is fairly active, and prices are again firmer; the arrivals are moderate, but the stock is large; the sales are 2.200 bbls at $14 50 a 14 75 for Mess; $16 for uninspected City Prime and new Mess, and $11 25 a 12 50 for old and new Prime. Beef is very plenty and in little demand; sales of 500 bbls at $10 75 a 12 25 for plain Mess, and $12 75 a 13.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 22.

Flour—Superior Extra, $5 20 a 5 30; Extra, $4 90 a 5 05; Fancy, $4 65 a 4-80; No. 1, $4 50 a 4 60; No. 2, $4 25 a 4 35; Fine, $3 75 a 4 00. Bags—Spring Wheat, $2 40 a 2 45.

Wheat—U C Spring, ex cars. 90 a 95c; White U C, $1 07, a 1 08.

Peas—Per 66 lbs, 65 a 70c.

Pork—Mess, $10 00 a 10 50; Prime Mess, $8 00 a 8 50; Prime, $8 a 8 25.

Butter—10 a 16c.

Lard—7½ a 8c.

Ashes—Pot, $6 45 a 6 55; Pearl, $6 50 a $6 55.

Oatmeal—Per 200 lbs, $4 55 a 4 75.

DAILY GOVERNESS.

A Lady, competent to give instruction in Music, French, Drawing, and the English Branches, wishes for an engagement in a private family. Unexceptionable references. Address A. W., box 597, P. O.

Hamilton. January 24, 1863.

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Superior plated goods, fine Cutlery, Telescopes, Canes, Fans, Dressing Cases, Papier-Mache and Military Goods, Moderator Lamps, &c. &c.

Montreal, January 24, 1863.

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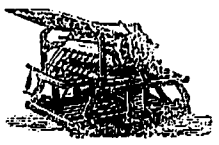

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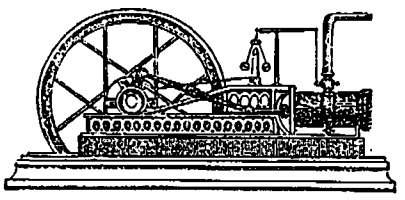

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