

tent. This was evidently a stray elephant, for they are not numerous on the western slope of equatorial Africa.

The chief of the village, in recognition of my services in filling the stomachs of his people, and in consideration of a bottle of gin, treated me royally. He invited me to his palace and extended his rude hospitalities. He admired my rifle, and especially my empty cartridge-shells. I gave him the shells, but not the rifle. He vacated his palace, a hut some ten feet square, three feet high at the sides, and nine feet high in the centre from ground to ridge-pole, for me to sleep in. It was built of reeds and grass, tightly woven and tied to a framework. The rafters were bamboo sticks. The door was four feet square, and consisted of a heavy grass mat, woven to a bamboo frame, and made to slide either to the right or left. Goat skins were spread upon a raised bamboo frame, which served as a bed. I retired very much fatigued, but my rest was broken in an hour, so I had to get out and sleep on the ground with the caravan. The Chief's palace was reeking with vermin, and I could not stand it. How he managed to remain all night would be a mystery, if he were not to the manner born. His twenty-five black wives looked healthy and free from hysterics. They wore heavy brass bands around their waists and ankles, and brass rings through their noses. A brass foundry might thrive in that section. The Chief the next morning accepted gratefully a half dozen cartridge shells and a small measure of strong gin. He never asked me how I rested in his palace. After weeks of travel we got back to the coast. I took a south-bound steamer. The parting between the Baltimore negro and myself was comical but not affectionate. He had been a faithful guide, and I rewarded him. He came on board the steamer to bid me farewell. I gave him a pea-jacket, a pair of trousers, and a very long cigar. He put on the jacket, rolled up the trousers, and held them under his arm, lit his cigar, and walked down the gang-plank apparently supremely happy."

### OUR COSY CORNER.

Mrs. Benedict's Fashion Journal, published in Philadelphia, contains many useful hints for the toilette. The series of articles on the Art of Draping are exceedingly good.

"Duchess of Connaught" green is a new and peculiar shade that is likely to become popular. It has a grayish-green tint that is said to be more becoming to the complexion than other shades in that color.

Stripes still continue in favor both for silk and wool dresses. Among the most fashionable are the brown and wood colors, and grays. Dresses of this description need no other trimming than the stripes arranged for vest panels and parements, with some of the handsome buttons now in vogue.

Lovers of the antique are carrying very odd-looking hand bags, which prove on inspection to be made of melon seeds and steel beads.

Blue is to be the prevailing color for the winter.

Plush napkin rings are very pretty and easily made. Take a piece of buckram two inches wide and six long, cover with plush, line with satin, and join together as though they buttoned over, with large beads for buttons and two rings of small beads for loops.

Pillow shams made of white hem-stitched handkerchiefs, are pretty. They are quite new. Get four handkerchiefs, the finer the prettier, sew them together to form a square, with either Torchon, Valenciennes lace or embroidered insertion. Edge the whole with a lace frill to match the insertion.

### ENCOURAGING TO APPLE-GROWERS.

We spoke recently of the projected visit to the provinces of Mr. C. R. H. Starr, who has charge of the Canadian fruit exhibit at the exhibition. Since that time, Mr. Starr has visited several of the leading commercial centres in the north and west of England, interviewing those interested in the fruit trade wherever there seemed any prospect for opening up markets for the direct shipment of Canadian apples. It was found that in Newcastle-on-Tyne alone there is a market for from 1,000 to 2,000 barrels per week. This demand has, it seems, been hitherto almost entirely supplied by speculators, who buy Canadian and United States apples in Liverpool, where, they admit, they frequently arrange to secure lots at their own price. The same will apply to Leeds, though there is hardly so extensive a market there. At Manchester it was found that a few of the largest Canadian shippers had already opened direct communication with satisfactory results, though in York, Chester, and other northern towns of lesser importance, there does not seem at present to be sufficient inducement to recommend direct shipments. Similar inquiries are now being made in Scotland, Ireland, and in the central and southern districts of England, as well as in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany, and Austria, and there is every reason to anticipate a considerable extension of this important Canadian industry, at prices fairly remunerative to the producers.

In this connection it is interesting to note that arrangements have been made by the Government of Nova Scotia to forward to the Exhibition fresh samples of fruit as the several varieties ripen. These new varieties are intended to replace those specimens which have lost color, and so ceased to be so attractive as they were at the opening of the Exhibition. The first package of this supplementary exhibit has arrived by the steamship *Utunda*, of the Furness Line.

In other parts of Canada Professor Saunders has succeeded in obtaining a large selection of fruits, among them the finest samples of fruits and vegetables from the Exhibition at Toronto, and from the Montreal Horticultural Society. These, in addition to some local collections, were to have left Montreal on Thursday last under the charge of Mr. Allan, of Goderich, Vice President of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. A second shipment is to be made from Canada this week, consisting of selections from the Provincial Exhibition at Guelph and the Dominion Exhibition at Sherbrooke, supplemented by samples from local exhibitions, and a good supply of ripe Canadian grapes. It is also hoped that some specimens of Manitoba fruits and vegetables may be secured, so that with the aid of the apples already to hand from Nova Scotia, a thoroughly representative Canadian display may be made in the Canadian Section of the Exhibition as well as at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society next month.—*Canadian Gazette*.

### COMMERCIAL.

The past week has witnessed a greater amount of activity in most lines than has been the case for some time; and there can be no doubt but that a healthy business is getting under full way; and all the indications are that this satisfactory state of affairs will continue.

Bankers and wholesale merchants are satisfied with the prompt manner in which due payments are made. There is no rush or excitability about the state of trade, but it is safe to say that the legitimate purchasing power of the community is probably as great as it ever was, and that the remainder of the season will be characterized by a steady demand to meet the requirements of the country.

The work of constructing the dry dock is progressing very satisfactorily under the able management of the experienced firm of builders who have the contract. Though, to the eye of a casual observer, progress may appear slow, it must be remembered that the undertaking is a large one, and a vast amount of what may be termed preliminary work, must be performed before it is noticeable. Large quantities of timber and lumber to be used in the dock are daily arriving by rail from various up country points, taxing the carrying capacity of the railways considerably.

DRY GOODS.—A fair amount of business has been done, and the tone of the market has been quite healthy. A number of country purchasers from various sections have been in town, and satisfactory sales have been made. Manufacturers' prices are nominally kept up, but the sharp competition and the presence of several bankrupt stocks that were bought low, *en bloc*, prevent merchants from reaping the benefit that they should from held stock. The millinery displays are exceptionally good this year, and serve as an additional attraction to buyers.

IRON AND HARDWARE.—Trade in these lines has been quite active here, though in Great Britain great dullness and depression are subjects of much complaint. This, it is claimed, is the result of over-production, and manufacturers are trying or suggesting various expedients for relieving the unpleasant state of affairs existing, but the trade gets no better. Meanwhile, purchasers get their iron and steel cheaper than before.

BREADSTUFFS.—The English markets are easier, while those on this side have fluctuated constantly during the entire week with a marked downward tendency. The Indian and American crops are very large indeed, and nothing but the comparative failure of wheat in France, and portions of Germany and Britain, prevent it from rapidly falling and staying down.

PROVISIONS.—There has been a fair demand for bacon, hams, pork, and lard, and prices have been strong, but no actual advance has been accomplished. Butter has been steady, with considerable demand, especially for the best qualities. The enquiries for export were probably less than during the previous week. The cheese boom has apparently reached its limit, and all the efforts of interested speculators, though supported by many farmers who insist on holding their product for higher prices, have failed to coax or force figures up, and a decline is a probability of the near future.

FRUIT.—Nova Scotia apples continue to be received freely and in good condition, naturally causing their own price as well as that of such imported fruits as oranges, etc., to decline. The apple crop of the Annapolis Valley alone is computed to be this year some 300,000 barrels, of which about 40,000 are gravensteins. Native grapes are also in great abundance, and are saved in excellent order.

EGGS.—The market is well supplied with both native eggs and those imported from Prince Edward Island. A large quantity has lately been shipped to the United States from this Province.

SUGAR continues steady, but inactive. There appears no good reason to expect an advance, as the production of raws is unprecedentedly large, more than keeping pace with the growing consumption.

MOLASSES rules firm with rather an upward tendency.

TEAS.—Cable advices from Yokohama show that the recent advance there has been firmly held, and holders show no anxiety to sell. In this market an improved demand from the country is noted, and the tone is steady on prices. The market for coffee has been fairly firm, and a good amount of business has been done in this article.

LIVE STOCK.—Both neat cattle and sheep are coming in as freely as the market demands, and have been, on the whole, fully up to average as regards quality. Prices are nominally unchanged, but we hear of several lots that have changed hands at figures that were satisfactory to the buyers. Many farmers would rather sell now at reasonable figures than to keep their beasts to fatten for winter butchering, or hold and feed till next spring.

LUMBER continues to be in good demand, and probably more than now comes to hand could be satisfactorily placed in this market.

COAL.—The market has been quite active, as most people are now purchasing their winter supplies, but prices are unchanged.