

NOTES—Continued.

We were sorry to hear that Mr. L. A. Atkinson, Jeweler of Newmarket, had lost his little girl a few days ago. We offer the bereaved parents our sympathy.

No man can retain his self-respect who has to Lutton up his coat to conceal his lack of a shirt. Such is the deliberate opinion of a Western exchange. If every tramp could be habited in a clean shirt and be induced to wear it, tramping would disappear from the face of the earth.

To make a gallon of silver-plating solution.—Dissolve $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz. pure nitrate of silver, and 8 oz. pure cyanide of potassium in 1 gallon of soft water. To make a gallon of nickel-plating solution.—Dissolve three-quarter lb. of the double sulphate of nickel and ammonia in a gallon of soft water.

A STRUGGLING man said to his debtor: "Brown, I want those two dollars you borrowed of me very badly." "All right," was the placid answer, "if you must have them I'll try to pay them in some shape or other." "You will oblige me," continued the first speaker, "by making it as much in the shape of two dollars as possible."

THERE have been 1,574 miles of new railroad built thus far this year, in the United States, against 1,590 miles reported at the corresponding time in 1880. So says the *Railroad Gazette*, which gives the miles of new roads at mid-June as 661 miles in 1879, 413 miles in 1878, 570 miles in 1877, 628 miles in 1876, 296 miles in 1875, 537 miles in 1873, and 1,171 miles in 1873.

At a meeting yesterday of the Ottawa Treasury Board it was decided that the valuation of the Chaudier bridge as fixed by the arbitrators was fair, and that the extra duty and the fine imposed by the Customs department for undervaluations must be paid in full by the importers, Messrs. Clark, Reeves & Co., of Philadelphia, a conclusion in which we entirely concur.

MR. W. H. MARSH, proprietor of the Belleville street railway, has not found that enterprise profitable, and consequently has become involved in difficulties. The mortgagees of the road are determined to close it. Mr. Marsh invested \$8,000, and now offers to sell for \$5,000. Some negotiations were made in reference to removing the rails and plant to Winnipeg, but these appear to have fallen through.

A GENERAL store keeper named John B. Tindal was burned out at Ethel, in the county of Huron, in April last, having \$1,000 insurance, while he owed \$1,400. He was suddenly missing about the Queen's Birthday, having in the meantime collected outstandings to the amount of \$900, and is supposed to be in the States. The inference is that he leaves the insurance money for his creditors.

MR. J. H. HANSON, of Park Hill, appears to have an indulgent mother-in-law. It is said that she assisted him largely in purchasing the fancy goods stock of one McNeil, in the summer of 1879. For this stock he paid too much, and since then his business has been heavily weighted. A short time ago he called a meeting of creditors and after explaining his unfortunate condition he offered to compromise liabilities of \$24,000 at thirty per cent. This is believed to be all he can afford to pay, and it is likely to be accepted.

In 1866 the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway company laid, as an experiment, some 2,000 hemlock ties that had been saturated with chloride of zinc, in the road bed of the main line at Englewood, near Chicago. A short time ago these ties were taken up and examined. Some of them were in a good state of preservation, while others were somewhat decayed on the surface though sound in the centre. Oak ties laid in 1873 were found to be very much decayed.

THE tower clock of the First Presbyterian Church, Newark, N. J., lately stopped. The town time-keeper found in the walls of the clock a tangled mass of hay, twine, grass, cotton, and feathers amounting to nearly half a peck. A pair of birds had entered the tower through a hole in the dial and attempted to build a nest in the machinery of the clock. The slow revolution of the wheels tore their work to pieces, and they kept on reconstructing it until they stopped the wheels.

SHEFFIELD Trade with the United States.—The total value of Sheffield exports to the United States during the quarter ending March last was 281,326*l.*, as compared with 232,498*l.* in the corresponding period of last year. This shows an increase of 48,833*l.* on the previous year. The particulars for the month just closed exhibit a falling-off of 7,588*l.* in steel and 3,104*l.* in cutlery, as against the same month last year. On the other hand, the total exports show an increase of 19,000*l.*

WHEN it is a standup fight between the C.P.R. locomotive and the tall prairie grass the iron horse generally gets the best of the contest; but when the grass lies down to it the steam engine must throw up the sponge. West of Winnipeg the ties are laid right on the sod, and in many places there is very little ballasting, and in others none at all. The grass has grown luxuriantly, and the other day the wind and rain beat it down on the rails, and the train was delayed some hours in consequence. On the next run the engine came to a dead stop, and the officials had to climb out and parley with the obstruction, which resulted in their leaving one-half the train behind.

AT the last meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences, Mr. G. F. Kunz read a short paper upon the new mineral "hiddenite," discovered not long ago in North Carolina by Mr. Wm. E. Hidden, mineralogist. The mineral constitutes a new gem, of the emerald class, and is known in the trade as lithia-emerald, owing to the presence of lithia as one of its chemical constituents. We (*Scientific American*) have seen some specimens of this gem, and they are indeed most beautiful objects to the eye. The stone has a pure, delightful green tint, with a liquid brilliancy that is quite distinctive and remarkable. It sells for about the same price as the diamond. Mr. Hidden tells us that the mineral is found in a narrow chimney in the rocks, not more than two feet long by two and a half inches wide, and having an inclination of almost seven degrees.

ON the 26th of May the Western Watch Company's works, at Grand Crossing, Ill., were closed by the sheriff, at the instance of Mr. Marcus Kronberg, of Chicago, who is a judgment creditor, having advanced money to the company. His claim amounts to something

over \$3,000. In April last the president of the company executed a mortgage for \$4,000 in favor of his wife, without having notified Mr. Kronberg, who, upon hearing of the transaction, was very naturally startled, and at once resorted to legal measures to protect himself. His attorneys inform us that they consider an early and satisfactory adjustment of the existing troubles quite probable, although the works are still closed. The assets of the company are placed at \$17,000, and the liabilities at \$12,000.

TRAVELLERS will have their jokes,—the following is the latest.

A well known American Cutlery Co.'s agent says he received the following telegram from Montreal, where a would-be opponent was operating:—

"Annius Barker informs me he is offered a three thousand dollar order in this city, on consideration that he will not open his samples again in Montreal for six months."

The following reply was sent in answer to the above:—

"Toronto sees Montreal and goes one better" for Anninus—and will give him four thousand dollars if he *will not open his mouth* for six months in Toronto."

In December, 1876, Mr. Jerry Robinson, now of Emerson, Man., failed in Mitchell, Ont., and his estate paid a dividend of 80 per cent. to creditors. Having been successful in the gateway city he has paid the remaining 20 per cent. of his old indebtedness—an act which should be imitated by many, but is as rare as it is creditable. It should be stated that Mr. Robinson held his discharge from creditors, and this action is purely voluntary on his part. One of the leading houses in the Dominion, themselves exemplars in business morality, and excellent judges of the proprietors in commerce as in other walks of life, in acknowledging dividend write as follows: "It is rarely we are asked to take payment in full of a debt that has been compromised and we appreciate the high sense of honor which dictates Mr. Robinson's action in the matter."

"BREVITY IS THE SOUL OF WIT."—The following amusing story, which was told by Franklin, ought to be read and acted upon by all correspondents communicating their thoughts to the newspaper press. A young man on commencing business, proposed to paint over his shop window, "John Thompson, hatter, makes and sells hats for ready money," to which was added the sign of a hat. One friend suggested that, as he made and sold hats, the word "hatter" was unnecessary. It was struck out and the sign remained "John Thompson makes and sells hats for ready money." Another friend advised him to omit the phrase "for ready money," as there would occur occasions for selling on credit, and so the sign read: "John Thompson makes and sells hats." It was then hinted the buyer of the hat did not care who made it, and the sign would be better if it read "John Thompson sells hats." But another amputation was in store still, for a critic pointed out the uselessness of the phrase "sells hats," "for," said he, "no one would ever suppose that the hats were to be given away for nothing." Thus at last this aspiring tradesman commenced business, like many worthy successors, under the modest sign of "John Thompson."—*Albany Press.*