

The Burrell-Johnson Iron Co., Yarmouth, N. S., are rushing things in their business. They have had the best stove trade for a long time and are looking for large shipments yet this fall. More men have had to be taken on in the stove department to meet the demand, as they are bound to fill all orders promptly.

At this season of the year, when colds are so prevalent, every household should be provided with a bottle of *Oxford Cough Syrup*, pronounced by those who have tried it to be the best remedy in the world for coughs, colds, hoarseness, loss of voice etc., etc. It is prepared by the Buckley Bros, 87 and 89 Barrington Street and 201 Brunswick Street, which is a sufficient guarantee of the excellence of the remedy. The firm also carry a large line of drugs and druggists' specialties, and are noted for their care in dispensing medicine. Their advertisement will be found elsewhere in THE CRITIC.

CITY CHIMES.

It appears to be the fashion at present to look up complexion receipts and publish them for the good of womankind. Various are the mixtures recommended for keeping the skin of the face and hands soft, smooth, and in perfect condition, but of all we have seen we prefer that which Mrs. Kendal, the famous actress, prescribes. In the first place, Mrs. Kendal, while not a young woman, is said to have a skin the texture of which is as smooth and satiny as that of the traditional milk maid, but unlike that damsel, she has not too much of the rosy hue in her cheeks. The ingredients which go to make up the prescription upon which Mrs. Kendal depends, consist of ten hours' sleep out of the twenty-four, a walk of at least four miles in the air every day, brown bread, no coffee, no sweets, vigorous rubbing in cold water and a few of the simplest and most harmless toilet articles. Now if this is not sensible, we should like to know what is. It will of course be more difficult to go through this health and beauty regimen every day than to plaster the face and hands with any fashionable cosmetic in the privacy of one's own room, but what a difference in the result! Given plenty of air, exercise and wholesome food, the girl whose complexion will not be clear under such circumstances must be a hopeless case.

The subject of dress is ever interesting to our fair readers, and mention of some of the pretty gowns worn at the banker's dance may not come amiss. To begin with the chaperones—they were all charmingly attired, but two of them looked particularly well. One wore a white satin princess dress with train, a novel feature of which was the lacing from the edge of the decolette bodice to the end of the train. The other looked very beautiful in a navy blue velvet and silk costume. Black for evening wear at large functions is going out. Very few dresses of this sombre hue were noticed, but those that were worn were—as they always are—very becoming. Green was in nearly every case the color selected for sash and ribbons with these dances, and smilax formed the appropriate garniture on the shoulder. It is a pity that black dresses should lose their hold on popular favor, for they are so useful and so becoming.

The ball at Maplewood given by the Bankers' Club on Wednesday of last week deserves more than a passing notice in our columns. There have been quite a number of dances of a public character in Halifax lately, none of which have been more successful or better carried out than this, and the young men who compose the Club, aided by their efficient Secretary, Mr. G. Drummond Henderson, are to be congratulated upon the admirable way in which it was managed. The chaperones, Mrs. S. M. Brookfield, Mrs. Stubbing, Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. E. Farrell and Mrs. Wallace, all looked very charming and made excellent hostesses—no easy task among such an assemblage. All of the guests seemed to enter into the dancing with great spirit, there being very few left in the drawing rooms after the music began. Maplewood is a perfect gem of a house for a dance, the rooms are large and airy, and the ball-room floor as smooth as glass. The decorations were very pretty, flags, bunting, flowers, &c., adding much to the pleasing effect of the scene. Many little nooks and corners were formed by the ingenious draping of flags, where the weary dancers might find a haven of rest. Refreshments of all kinds were served through the evening, and about 12.30 a. m. the doors of the supper room were thrown open, displaying a table loaded with luxuries to which ample justice was done. Carriages were ordered at 2 o'clock, and about that hour all retired, voting the dance a very jolly affair.

A bazaar was held in the school room of Christ's Church, Dartmouth, on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, by the Friendly Society in connection with the church. The object was to procure funds to put the entrance to the cemetery in better order. The King's Daughters intend holding a bazaar on the 27th and 28th instants. This will be a good chance to purchase Christmas presents. There should be a large attendance.

As to dancing, the city seems to have gone militaire crazy, and everyone, whether he or she knows how to dance it or not, joins in the rout Polkas are also in high favor, in fact a very fast—and some people consider it rowdy—style of dancing is in vogue. Many are the bruises received in a crowded ball room. Ladies' bangles and bracelets, and gold braid, epaulets, and other impedimenta of the military and naval contingent, make it perilous work for the ladies with bare arms. Where there is a crowd it would be a good plan for ladies to leave their bangles at home, and so save themselves and their friends some scratches.

Indian summer has come and gone like a beautiful dream. A walk around the park, or what is better, a ramble through the pathless woods, is delightful in these perfect autumn days.

The Church of England Institute opened its winter course on Tuesday evening by an "at home" given by the President and officers of the Institute. The reception was largely attended and much enjoyed. A musical programme was carried out, and speeches were made by the President and his Lordship Bishop Courtney.

The Lytell Company continues to draw good houses at the Academy of Music. "The Shadows of a Great City" was the play presented during the early part of the week. The original farce comedy "Floater & Co." was given last night and will be repeated this and to-morrow evenings.

The fleet has departed from our hospitable harbor. The *Forward*, *Canada* and *Buzzard* left on Monday, and the other ships sailed early on Tuesday morning. There is much lamentation among the fair ones of our city over this unavoidable departure of their sailor friends. The officers of the fleet have been extremely popular this summer, and they helped to make the season the gay one it was. It is not probable that much more gaiety will come to the surface until after Christmas. Everyone is so busy at this season of the year. Wardrobes to renew, Christmas presents to purchase or make, and general preparations for cold weather demand a good deal of attention, and it is well to take time by the fore-lock and be ready for Jack Frost when he comes.

Miss Millie Christine, "the double-headed nightingale," has been holding receptions at Masonic Hall during the afternoons and evenings of this week. This wonderful woman has two heads and shoulders, four arms and four legs, but only one body. She is not, as many people would suppose, disagreeable to look at, but on the contrary is so pleasing in her manners and movements that the most fastidious could find no fault with her. The entertainment given by the cow boy pianist and the lady cornetist, Miss Mattie Babel, is worth hearing. The cow boy is a rough diamond, and claims to have had no instruction. He plays the piano through a sheet just as well as on the open key board. Miss Millie Christine was born a slave in North Carolina, and is now thirty-nine years old. She converses freely in four languages, and can talk with both heads at the same time on different subjects. She also sings—one voice is soprano and the other contralto—and her singing is, like most negro music, sweet to listen to. Miss Millie Christine said she was very happy and contented, and enjoyed the best of health. She was attired in a costume of cardinal satin striped with black velvet. No one should miss seeing her. If enough encouragement is received the management will decide to remain a few days longer.

COMMERCIAL.

The week just passed has developed no material change in the general position of trade. This is the between seasons' period when very little is expected to be done. Some of our wholesale houses have already commenced to "take stock" in order to be in full readiness to open their 1891 books on the 1st of January, and also to receive, unpack and assort new goods that will be due about that time.

Building operations for the season are now about concluded, and it is gratifying to go about the streets and through the southern, western and eastern suburbs of Halifax carefully and observe the improvements that have been accomplished in 1890. New houses and shops have been erected in scores of localities. Many old wooden dwellings and warehouses have been demolished and replaced by new ones of more modern design, and specially adapted for the particular line of business to be transacted in them respectively. Larger panes of the heaviest plate-glass adorn the fronts of these business places, and give vastly improved facilities for the display of goods. By the way, it is well to note that the taste shown in displaying goods to the best advantage, or in the most effective way, has very perceptibly advanced, and some of our young window decorators may point with pride to their really artistic work, and not fear to suffer on comparison with similar work in older, larger and more pretentious cities.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:—

	Week Prev.		Weeks corresponding to			Failures for the year to date.			
	Nov. 7.	week.	1890	1890	1889	1890	1889	1888	1887
United States.....	151	161	248	177	203	8502	9631	8171	8125
Canada.....	37	30	45	37	25	1369	1373	1197	1100

DRY GOODS.—A decidedly improved tone is noticeable in the wholesale dry goods trade, a considerable number of orders having been received from travellers within the last few days, chiefly for woollen goods. These orders, of course, of limited dimensions being of a sorting-up character, but, now that colder weather has set in, quite a brisk country and city trade is expected. The retail city trade also shows signs of improvement, and collections have been much better during the week. Wholesale dry goods houses have been looking round for cotton goods, and they find that stocks are much lighter than they suspected. Some of the leading men in this line expect to see a sharp advance in the price of cotton goods before long.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—This week has witnessed no change in the position of the market, and business generally continues quiet. The tone is firm, and advices from Great Britain intimate a probability of several of the furnaces remaining out of blast for the entire season, owing to the strained relations between labor and capital. If such drastic measures are adopted by the furnace masters, they will certainly curtail production, and with stocks of a limited nature at the moment, stiffness should ensue as soon as any movement occurs. At present it is wanting, while there is nothing doing in Canada, except a small jobbing movement, buyers being well supplied. Consequently we have no change to note except that pig is stiff in value. Other lines are also quiet. Bar iron is steady; copper is quoted