

year than for a number of years past. The quality is good, and it would seem that an opening has been made for a permanent trade of very considerable proportions in this staple article for the Scottish market.

MORE WEATHER.

The phenomenal mildness of the temperature in November, and thus far in December, has called attention to the foretellings of the weather prophets. Rather more interest is taken of late in our own particular "Old Probabilities," who, by the way, has extended his acquaintance to the lower provinces, where his card is seen daily. We do not hear so much now of "the old Indian" who used to furnish weather for the district around Montreal. But we do hear much of Mr. Vennor, who once made so remarkable a hit in forecasting the weather for an entire season. It has been the prevailing impression that this gentleman based his predictions upon close observation of the climatic conditions of former seasons; adopting, perhaps, the idea of Byron that "the best of the prophets of the future is the Past." Mr. Vennor has been known as the prophet of the Montreal *Witness*. Not to be behind-hand other papers have gone into the weather business. The *Gazette* of that city has a champion whom it last week introduces thus:

"Mr. Vennor having under date November 16 (*Witness*, November 20) predicted an abrupt termination of the mild weather on November 25th, Mr. G. S. H. Browne, who pays more attention to these vaticinations than they deserve, wrote to the *Gazette* (November 21), fixing November 30th as the date of the snowfall. We append the two forecasts, and the reader will see which was right."

(Mr. Vennor's.)

"The present balmy weather will abruptly terminate towards or in proximity to the 25th of the present month, and probably give place to a sharp spell of weather with sleet and snow. I shall not be surprised should the waters become the pretty well ice-locked—as early part of December, 1874—in the latter part of November or the early part of December."

(Mr. Browne's.)

"My opinion differs from that of Mr. Vennor. I do not think there will be any change to speak of this month, except that it may be slightly colder, but no snow of any consequence before the 30th. Should it not come then, or at least in the early part of December, I do not think there will be any sleighing before the end of that month."

There may be others of our dailies who are pining to compete, but who are in the condition of the disconsolate Jim Smiley: they "aint got no frog." To such we would commend, as a safe name to swear by, that of Herschel, whose weather table contains a stock-in-trade of weather probabilities:

This table is "constructed upon philosophical considerations of the attraction of the sun and moon in their several positions respecting the earth, confirmed by experience of many years actual observation."

"If," says this table, "it be new or full moon, or the moon enter her first or last quarter at noon, or between 12 noon and 2 o'clock, that month, if winter, may snow and rain be looked for confidently."

"If between 2 and 4 afternoon, then will it be fair and mild weather."

"If between 4 and 6 evening, the weather is likely to be fair."

We have not room at present for the whole table, but it might be worth while to print it

hereafter; when, by the aid of an ordinary almanac showing the phases of the moon, any one who chooses may test its accuracy.

Has a judicious use of this table any connection, we wonder, with the successful prognostications of weather thus far made in Canada?

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SUBSCRIBER, GALT.—We shall reply either by letter or through the columns of the *MONETARY TIMES* to your enquiries.

ALIQUIS.—We shall probably be able to give you next week a reply respecting the concern you name. At present we are not acquainted with its pretensions or working further than is shown by the circular.

H. M., GEORGETOWN.—Your suggestion has our attention. We purposed doing something of the kind as soon as we could make room for it, especially in view of the probable enquiry about such matters that the approaching Paris Exhibition will give rise to.

A. H. & Co., BRANTFORD.—As to your query whether a note should be stamped upon the day it is dated or upon the day it is signed, we would say: The law does not appear to contemplate any difference in these dates. But it is required by the statute that stamps shall be affixed to the note and cancelled by the maker at the time of the making of the note; and a note has been held to be improperly stamped because the date on the stamp did not correspond with that upon the note itself. See our article on stamping notes in issue of Nov. 2nd, page 532.

—"The Business Men's Union" is rather an attractive title. One might imagine it to be a league against dead-beats or confidence men. It smacks of mutual interest and assistance, and has a sort of co-operative ring about it. This alluring title proves to be, however, that of a swindling institution on Broadway, which made its tens of thousands of dollars annually out of New York merchants, by furnishing them with information, professedly original, but in reality a *rechauffe* of the reference book markings of the leading mercantile agencies. Messrs. Dun & Co's agency, who have had long and unpleasant experience of this sort of piracy, laid some traps for Messrs. Fouse, Hershberger & Co., the proprietors of the Business Men's Union, by printing fictitious names and places, and imaginary transactions such as mortgages and bills of sale. These were copied by the "Union" and furnished to their clients as actual business personages and events. The result was an exposure of the whole fraudulent affair. The large reference book of Dun, Barlow & Co., and we believe, those of some other similar agencies were found and seized upon the premises by a sheriff's officer, while being actually copied from in the compilation of the "Statistical Register" (another good title) by the employees of the so-called Union. The wholesale merchants, who believed they were getting original information

about their customers from this unscrupulous firm at a much reduced cost, are naturally incensed at having been made to pay twice over for the very same reports. It will be a pity if some other punishment than the mere replevining of ill gotten property, and exposure of crooked methods cannot be meted out to these men.

—The people of Owen Sound appear resolved to have their harbor improved, and so attract the commerce of the Georgian Bay; and a public meeting was called, some days ago, by the Council, to take the view of the ratepayers upon the matter. The average depth of the river is, it appears, 10 feet, but in one place, where vessels had grounded, only 9 ft. 4 in. That of the harbor was generally 10½ to 12 ft., but at one point 9 ft. 8 in., while the opinion of the harbor-master was that 12 feet is required. The estimated expense of dredging to the required depth varied from \$10,000 to 15,000, though one gentleman thought that interest and sinking fund would absorb more nearly \$30,000. A motion to request the Council to submit a By-law to raise \$15,000 was succeeded by an amendment requesting the Dominion Government to first assist the town. The main motion carried, and a By-law to the effect stated passed a first and second reading at the Town Council meeting on the 26th ult. The effort is well worthy the liberal consideration of the people.

—The following statistics of the trade of this port, procured from the customs returns, will be of interest: Imports for November, 1877, \$799,507; entered for consumption same month, \$842,552; duty collected, \$136,890. For November, 1876, imports, \$1,076,433; entered for consumption, \$1,028,183; duty, \$154,616, which indicates that the bonded warehouse has been depleted somewhat, and shows a decided lessening of imports this year as compared with last. The exports for November last year were \$136,554, a very small month. This year they are \$498,516. It is true that excise goods appear in this year's return which were not included in 1876, but apart from this the increase is gratifying, and includes every department. The greatest increase is in agricultural products, largely barley, wheat, and peas.

—We have received several issues of 'the *Revue des Vins & Liqueurs*,' published in Paris' and devoted to the trade in wines and Mediterranean goods. As our readers will have noticed we have occasionally given extracts from it in our market reports. Its contents are written in both languages, French and English appearing in parallel columns on the same page; and its information upon the condition of the vines in France, as well as its articles upon groceries, and subjects relating to that trade are of interest to many of our houses in this line. We have one or two specimen copies at this office.

Le Journal du Commerce Maritime et des