

On the New York Canals, the increase is near 20 per cent, and on both, the excess over last year, increased as the season progressed, stimulated by the enhanced foreign export trade. The rail-roads and other public works in all sections show a similar improvement, giving unerring indications of growing business activity.

The prices of the great leading products of the country have improved as follows:—

ARTICLES	JUNE 10	JULY 14	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Ashes P. C.	3.50 a 3.50	3.50 a 3.56	3.60 a 3.56	3.75 a . . .	4.37 1/2 a 4.50
Cotton Fair	7 1/2 - 8 1/2	7 1/2 - 8 1/2	8 1/2 - 8 1/2	8 1/2 - 9	10 1/2 - 11
Flour, Ohio	3.93 - 4.00	4.00 - 4.06 1/2	4.07 - 4.09 1/2	4.76 - 4.87	6.37 1/2 - 6.50
Wheat	1.00 - 1.02	95 - 1.00	92 - 97	92 - 1.00	1.16 - 1.20
Rye	65 - 65	70 - 67	70 - 65	73 - 73 1/2	79 - 81
Corn, Southern	65 - 65	52 - 57	55 - 64	67 - 68	76 - 78
Beef, Mess.	6.00 - 6.50	6.37 - 7.00	6.50 - 7.00	6.50 - 7.00	
Pork, do.	10.50 -	9.37 - 9.50	6.62 - 9.75	9.75 - 10.00	10.37 - 10.50
Lard	5 1/2 - 7	6 1/2 - 6 1/2	6 - 7	6 - 7.07	7 1/2 - 8
Iron, Pig, No. 1	34.00 - 36.00	34.00 - 36.00	32.50 - 35.00	32.50 - 35.00	
Coal	5.00 - 6.00	5.00 - 6.00	6.00 - 6.50	5.60 - 6.00	

The advance in these prices in face of the large receipts, is sufficient evidence of the prosperity of the great interests engaged in their production, while the high freights and active employment of the shipping appears alone to check a greater animation, and a further advance in prices. The aggregate receipts of some articles of produce at tide-water on the Hudson, from the commencement of navigation in 1845 and 1846, to and including the first week in October, have been as follows:—

	Flour.	Wheat.	Barley.	Corn.
1846	1,950,527 bbls.	1,516,004 bush.	491,466 bush.*	1,238,646 bush.
1845	1,133,265 do.	552,103 do.	371,223 do.	28,936 do.
Increase	517,262	963,901	117,243	1,209,710

* Of this quantity about 160,000 bushels were received prior to the new crop coming into market. The increase in flour and wheat is equal to 719,012 barrels of flour.

THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS IN MERCANTILE LIFE.

(From Hunt's Merchants' Magazine.)

We certainly take no pleasure, as the conductor of a journal devoted to the interests of commerce, in disparaging the calling of the merchant; but, as the honest advocate of whatever is calculated to promote his moral and social well-being, it becomes our duty to lay before him the difficulties and dangers of his profession, as well as the varied information so requisite to the successful and accomplished merchant.

On the evening of the 28th of February, 1840, General Henry A. S. Dearborn delivered an address at an agricultural meeting of the members of the legislature, in the state-house in Boston, which embraced a statement touching the chances of success in mercantile pursuits, that astonished many, and attracted the attention of business men in all parts of the country. We had frequently seen the statements alluded to quoted in the public journals and in lectures before mercantile associations, and agricultural societies; but, as a report of the address had only been published in some of the eastern agricultural periodicals, we had only met with the single remark of the author, "that among one hundred merchants and traders, not more than three, in the city of Boston, have acquired independence." We therefore wrote to General Dearborn for a copy of his remarks made in connection with that statement, which he has kindly transcribed, and placed at our disposal. The reader will bear in mind that General Dearborn was speaking to an audience chiefly composed of cultivators of the earth, and wished to impress on them the advantages, in all respects, of a rural home, and only presented a well established fact, to show them how delusive was the youthful dream of fortune in the hazardous career of commercial adventure. As a branch of industry, and one of the most important, General Dearborn considers commercial enterprise, and national trade, in all its divisions, as deserving the highest commendations; but, like distinctions in the army and navy, how few obtain the querdion of wealth and honorable fame!

General Dearborn was collector of the port of Boston for nearly twenty years, and was, therefore, enabled to notice the vicissitudes in trade; and his statements are confirmed, as will be seen by the remarks of a Boston merchant, which are here appended to the extracts from his address.

EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY GEN. H. A. S. DEARBORN, IN BOSTON.

"In England the pleasures, and privileges, and blessings of the country, seem properly understood and valued. No man there considers himself a freeman unless he has a right in the soil. Merchants, bankers, citizens, and men of every description, whose condition in life allows them to aspire after anything better, are looking forward always to retirement in the country—to the possession of a garden or a farm, and to the full enjoyment of rural pleasures. The taste of the nobility of England is eminently in that direction. There are none of them who, with all the means of luxury which the most enormous wealth can afford, even think of spending the year in London, or of remaining in the confinement, noise, and confusion of the city, a day longer than they are compelled to do by their parliamentary or other public duties.

"There is, in this respect, a marked difference between England and France. Formerly the nobility of France were scattered broadcast over the territory, and had their villas, their castles, and chateaux, in all the provinces of the kingdom. But the monarchs, anxious to increase the splendour of their courts, and to concentrate around them all that was imposing and beautiful in fashion, luxury and wealth, collected the aristocracy in the capital. The natural consequence was, that the country was badly tilled, and agriculture made no advancement; while England was making rapid and extraordinary progress in the useful and the beautiful arts of agriculture and horticulture; and now, in her cultivation, presents an example of all that is interesting in embellishment, and important in production. We are the descendants of England; yet, on these subjects, we have reversed the order of taste and sentiment which there prevails.

"Happy would it be for us if our gentlemen of wealth and intelligence would copy the bright example of the affluent and exalted men of England. If, after having accumulated immense fortunes in cities, they would carry their riches and science into the country, and seek to reclaim, to improve, and render it more productive and beautiful, Massachusetts might be transformed into a garden, and rival the best cultivated regions on the globe.

"It is an inexplicable fact, that even men who have grown rich, in any manner, in the country, should rush into cities to spend their wealth; and it is equally as remarkable that those who have accumulated fortunes in the city, should shudder at the idea of going into the country, where wealth might be safely appropriated to purposes of the highest utility, pleasure and refinement.

"There prevails in this rather too much ignorance, false sentiment and unworthy prejudice. The city must, of course, be regarded as the proper seat of active business, in all the branches of commerce and navigation. But when a large portion of life has been spent in these harassing pursuits, and men have acquired the means of competence and independence in the country, why they should not seek to enjoy the refreshing exercise, the delightful recreations, and the privileged hours of retirement and reflection, which a rural residence affords, was a mystery which it was impossible to solve.

"It was not merely the ungovernable influence of a city life, upon health, comfort, and enjoyment, but its pernicious moral influence, was most deeply to be deplored. Many an uncorrupted young man from the country, impelled by a reckless passion for gain, has there early found the grave of his virtues. But too many instances might be pointed out, in which the acquisition of property has proved as great a curse as could have befallen them. The chances of success in trade are likewise much less numerous, and are more uncertain than men generally believe, or are willing to allow. After an extensive acquaintance with business men, and having long been an attentive observer of the course of events in the mercantile community, I am satisfied that, AMONG ONE HUNDRED MERCHANTS AND TRADERS, NOT MORE THAN THREE, in this city, ever acquire independence. It was with great distrust that I came to this conclusion; but, after consulting with an experienced merchant, he fully admitted its truth. Infinitely better, therefore, would it be for a vast portion of the young men who leave the country for the city, if they could be satisfied with a farmer's life. How preferable would it have been for many of those who have sought wealth and distinction in cities, if they had been satisfied with the comforts, innocent amusements, and soothing quietude of the country; and, instead of the sad tale of their disasters, which must go back to the parental fireside, the future traveller, as he passed the humble church-yard in which they had been laid at rest with their laborious ancestors, might truthfully repeat these emphatic words of England's gifted bard:—

"Some village Hampden, that, with dauntless breast,
The little tyrant of his fields withstood,
Some mute, inglorious Milton, here may rest;
Some Cromwell, guiltless of his country's blood."

The following confirmatory remarks of an intelligent gentleman from Boston, recently appeared in the *Farmer's Library*:—

"The statement made by General Dearborn appeared to me so startling, so appalling, that I was induced to examine it with much care, and I regret to say I found it true. I then called upon a friend, a great antiquarian, a gentleman always referred to in all matters relating to the city of Boston, and he told me that, in the year 1800, he took a memorandum of every person on Long Wharf, and that, in 1840, (which is as long as a merchant continues business) only five in one hundred remained. They had all, at that time, either failed, or died destitute of property. I then went to a director of the Union Bank (a very strong bank); he told me that the bank commenced business in 1798; that there was then but one other bank in Boston, the Massachusetts Bank, and that the bank was so overrun with business, that the clerks and officers were obliged to work until twelve o'clock at night, and all Sundays; that they had occasion to look back, a year or two ago, and they found, that of the *one thousand* accounts which were opened with them in starting, only *six* remained; they had, in the forty years, either failed or died destitute of property. Houses whose paper had passed without a question, had all gone down in that time. Bankruptcy, said he, is like death, and almost as certain; they fall single and alone, and are thus forgotten; but there is no escape from it; and he is a fortunate man who fails young.

"Another friend told me that he had occasion to look through the probate office, a few years since and he was surprised to find that over 90 per cent of all the estates settled there were insolvent. And, within a few days, I have gone back to the incorporation of our banks in Boston. I have a list of the directors since they started. This is, however, a very unwise way of testing the rule, for bank directors are the most substantial men in the community. In the old bank, over one-third had failed in forty years, and in the new bank, a much larger proportion.

"I am sorry to present to you so gloomy a picture, and I trust you will instil into your sons, as General Dearborn recommends, a love of agriculture, for, in mercantile pursuits they will fail, to a dead certainty."