OUR LITTLE ONES. A Timely Letter to Santa Claus.

BY KITTY CLOYER. Riessed old Sante Claus, King of delights, Whatare you doing, these long, busy nights? Filling your budget with trinkets and toys? Wonderful gifts for the girls and the boys? White you are planning for everything nice, Pray, may I give you a bit of advice? Don't take it hard if I say in your ear, Santa, I thought you were partial last year. Loading the rich folks with everything gay, Snubbing some poor ones who came in your way;

way; Now, of all time in the year, I am sure This is the time to remember the poor.

Plenty of children there are in our city Who have no father or mother to pity. Plenty of people whose toiling and heeding Scarcely can keep all their dear ones from need

Now, if I came, as you do, each December, These are the ones 1 should surely remember.

Little red hands, that are aching and cold, You should have mittens, your fingers to hold. Poor little feet, with your frost-bitten toes. You should be clothed in the warmest of hose. On the dark hearth I would kindle a light 'Till the sad faces grew happy and bright.

Don't you think, Santa, if all your life through Some one had always been earling for you, Watching to guard you by night and by day, Glyng you gitt you could never repay, Sometimes at least, you would sigh and recall flow many poor children have nothing at all?

Safe in your own quiet chamber at night, Cosy and warm in your blankets so white, Would you not think of the shivering forms dut in the cold and the wind and the storms? Would you not think of the babies who cry, Piniar in hunger and cold, till they die?

Once, on a beautiful Christmas, you know, desay, the Saviour, was born here below. Pathently stooping to pain and distress, So that the needy and poor He might bless. Now, if we love I lim, He bids us to feed All His poor brothers and sisters that need.

Messal old Santa! I thought if you knew it. You would remember, and certainly do it. This year, at least, when you empty your pack, sive to them most who the most seem to lack. But, if muchance to have anything over. Pleas bring a gift to your friend Kirry CLOVER.

Naturalist's Portfolio.

T. REINDEER.-The docility of the reindeer so carefully impressed on us in childhood is declared to be a myth. It seems that he is remarkably difficult to break, and always exeeedingly troublesome to catch, while in temperament he is apt to be a dangerous compound of vice, ferocity and hypocrisy. While apparently going pleasantly in harness, he will turn sharply round and make a savage assault on his driver. His master knows him to well to trust him. The Lap is always on the outlook to tumble out of the sledge, and turn it over on top of him as a protection against the animal's horns. When the deer is tired of butting the timber, the driver picks himself up, replaces the sledge on its runners, and the pair proceed.

TREES IN THE FENLANDS .- The recent publication of a work on Fenlands has to some extent renewed discussion concerning the origin of the buried forests in the fens. One writer declares he has known people to maintain that these forests grew and indeed are growing now underground just as geologists find them, while there are others who attribute to the deluge some influence in placing the trees in their present position. It is amazing to learn that the second of these absurd notions has actually been taught in the schools. The truth is that it is doubtful whether the buried forests of the fens greatly ante-date the Roman invasion of Britain, though the authors of the

ions there are estimated to be only 1,000,000 horses, while the Russian provinces are credited with the possession of no less than 21,570,000. Austro-Hungary has a total of about 3,500,000, and Germany 3,352,000. From 3,500,000, and Germany 3,352,000. ions there are estimated to be only 1,000,000 France, which had considerably more than 3,000,000 a few years ago, is returned now with rather less than that number, and our own country stands only fourth on the list with 2,255,090. Amongst the transatlantic powers the United States heads the list with 9,500,000 and Canada surpasses the mother country by 70,000 or thereabouts. The Argentine Repubis credited with no less than 4,000,000, and Uruguay with 1,600,000.

SALT WATER AND THE PRESERVATION OF ORGANIC SUBSTANCES.—At a recent meeting of the Geneva Society of Physics and Natural History I'rof. Alph. de Candolle, presented a glass jar containing fruits of the coffee-plant collected before maturity in Mexico, preserved in a liquid which chemical analysis proved to be salt water. It is fifty years since the jar thus filled was hermetically sealed, under the eyes of Aug. Pyr. de Candolle, and to-day, the coffee-beans which it contains are in a thoroughly satisfactory state of preservation. The water contains a solution of chloride of sodium and very small quantities of other chlorides of salts. No gas was found in solution. The water must have been boiled, and introduced while hot into the jar. This experiment may give valuable hints as to the substitution of salt water for alcohol for the preservation of organic substances.

The 2nd Company Royal Engineers ordered to the Cape will go out under the command of Captain Skinner; and the 5th Company for the same place will be commanded by Captain Jones.

An English physician recommends the juice of celery, mixed with honey of roses and barley water, to be used as a gargle by those who suffer with sores and ulcers in the throat

Over one hundred mills at Oldham are now idle, owing to the strike, the only concerns working being the Limited Company Mills. which do not come under the Employers' Association, and have not reduced wages.

A recent telegram from the Transvaal reports that a prospecting party exploring on the north side of Pretoria have made fresh finds of gold at Baladiv bank, and that a diamond prospecting party have started for

the Crocodile River. The Most Rev. Dr. Conaty, Lord Bishop of Kilmore, has, in a cordial letter to the secretary, accepted the position of one of the Vice-Presidents of the Irish Association for the Prevention of Intemperance, and forwarded a con-

tribution to its funds. The sons of the late rebel Kaffir chief Sandilli have been tried at King William's Town for sedition. Edmund Sandilli has been sentenced to hard labor for life, and Mantanzima to imprisonment and hard labor for 20

years, the others receiving lighter sentences. A work in which the Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) has taken a warm interest, and which, in its engraved form, she was able to carry with her to Canada, has been a Retail business is, however, becoming more portrait by Mr. James Whistler of Mr. Thomas

Carlyle.

At this time last year a sale of sealskins took place in London, and the sales in about Commercial Sale Rooms, Mineing lane, and Prices are unchanged, although the demand about the same quantity of furs sold for is brisker. Skunks are coming in in such £250,000—ne rly half as much again as they | quantities as will no doubt flood the markets. etched tweive months ago.

FINANCIAL.

MONTREAL, December 23, 1878. Montreal, December 23, 1878.

The following were to-day's transactions—
Morning Board:—3 shares Bank of Montreal at
1874, 8 do at 1874, 1 do at 1874; 18 do Merchants'
Bank at 78; 25 do Bank of Commerce at 101, 100
do at 1014, 50 do at 1014; 25 do Banque Jacques
Cartier at 30; 50 do Montreal Telegraph Company at 100, 180 do at 111.

Afternoon Board:—50 shares Montreal City Gas
Company at 1074; 75 do Montreal Telegraph Co.
at 111, 25 do at 111.—Thos. Wilson, member of
the Montreal Stock Exchange.

New York Stock Market. New York Stock Market.

New York, December 23, 1.30 r. M.—Stocks irregular; Delaware & Hudson, 47; Pacific Mail 14; Telegraph, 63; Quicksilver, 12; American Express, 46; Northwestern, 40; Northwestern preferred, 75; Rock Island, 119; St. Paul, 34; St. Paul preferred, 73; Erie, 193; St. Jo, 18; St. Jo preferred, 31; Illinois Central, 78; Lake Shore, 60; Wabash, 21; Union Pacific, 66; Gold, 100.

COMMERCIAL.

FLOUR.—Market remains quiet, with little business doing. Sales not of such importance to be reported.

OATMAL—Ontario, \$5.75 to ±10.
CORNMEAL—Klin-dried, yellow, \$2.25.
CORNMEAL—Klin-dried, yellow, \$2.25.
CORN-16c to 47]c.
CANADA WHEAT—Nominal.
PEAS—About 72c to 75c per 66 lbs.
OATS—About 28c to 29c.
BARLEY—About 70c to 80c.
BUTTER—Store-packed, Western to common sorts, 6c to 9c; Dairy Western, fair to good, 8c to 12c; Morrisburg, good to choice, selected, 14c to 18c; Eastern Townships, good to choice selected, 14c to 18c.

Ed to 17c; Eastern Townships, good to choose selected, 14c to 18c.

CHEESE—7c to 7c.

LARD—8c to 8;c for palls.

Pork—Mess, \$11.00 to 11.75, according to brand;

Thin Mess, nominal.

ASHES—Pois nominally about \$3.90 to 3.95.

Receipts per Grand Trunk Railway 1,721 barrels.

Landor Markets.

London Markets.

London, December 23.—Floating Cargoes—Wheat and corn rather casier. Cargoes on passage—Wheat and corn, neglected: no business doing. Arrivals off coast small. Farmers' defliceries of wheat during the week, 50,000 to 56,000 cm. Cond. 10.11 rs. Corn dull.

City Retail Markets.

The markets are showing a better appearance, abundant supplies being on hand not with standing the want of snow and uncertainty of the passage of winter. This is no doubt owing to the approaching festival, as poultry and beef of fine qualities are profusely displayed.

The quanties are pronsery displayed.

VEGETABLES—Were plentifully supplied and in good demand, at about the same prices as last market. Potatoes from 75c to \$1.50 per bag. Cabbinges, 20c per dozen. Carrols, parsnips and turnips in very large quantities at same prices.

nips in very large quantities at same prices.

FRUIT.—Apples are the only trading article at present. Green apples sell at \$1.50 a barrel; common apples at \$2.45 to 2.50 do; fameuse at from \$2.00 to 3.00. Lemons range from \$7.00 to 9.00 a case. Grapes are arriving in large quantities, from 2c to 6c per lb. Figs by the box, 13c. Figs in mats, by the lb. 3c. Walnuts, 8c to 11c per lb. Cranberries, 30c per gallon. Raisins per 10c., 5[c. Brazil nuts, 6]c to 7c per lb. wholessile, retail, 16c. Paraguay nuts from 7[c to 8c. Pistachio, 9c. Pistachlo, 9c.

Pistachlo, 9c.

POULTRY AND GAME.—A considerable quantity of poultry was on market this morning. Prices are visibly getting higher. Turkeys, the per pound; wild dacks, 55c per pair; geese, 8c per pound; chickens, 5c per pound; partridges, 7c per pair; pigeons, 15c to 22c the couple; prairie chickens, 90c per pair; quaits, \$2 a dozen; snow birds, 2ic the dozen; rabbits, 2ic the pair; wild ducks, \$1 per pair.

work we have mentioned argue strongly for a much earlier origin.

A Horse Census.—The Debats has recently given statistics respecting the number of horses possessed by different countries.
Throughout the whole of the Turkish dominions there are estimated to be only 1000 000.

FISH MARKET—A plentiful supply. Kaddock. 5e to 6e per B; salmon a fair supply, loc do; flati-but, loc do; flounders, se do; white fish and trout 10c do; pike, loc do; dore, the same; staskinonge, 15c do; perch, 15c to 20c the bunch, finnan had-dles, Se per pound; sardines, by the keg, 30c; boncless codfish, 8c the pound; surgeon, 10c do; lobsters, 8c to 10c do; smelts, 12c do; lake trout, 12c do.

BUTCHERS' MEAT.—A pentiful supply of prime meat on hand. Dressed hogs in car lois at \$1 to 4.75; pork, 5c to v per pound; beef, 4c per pound, by the quarter; mutton, the same. EGGs—Are plentiful, and sell at from 20e to 27e the dozen.

MAPLE SUGAX-Sells at Se the pound.

MESS PORK-At from \$11.00 to 12.00 the barrel LARD-At rom 8c to 10 per pound.

THE CATTLE MARKETS are doing a big business. Beef arriving in large quantities, but nostly of an inferior quality. Prices are so low that several carloads were shipped to Toronto for fattening purposes. Prices range for common cattle from 2c to 3c per pound. First-class cattle at from 4c to 5c per pound. Sheep and lambs are being brought in large numbers, yet prices were fully 25 per cent lower than last week. Live hogs are weaker at from \$3.40 to 3.75 per 100 pounds. Dressed logs at from \$3.40 to 3.50 per 100 pounds for car loads that arrive.

WEEKLY REVIEW.

Montreal, December 21. Our Money Markets continues without any material change. Good paper is dis-counted at from 7 to 8 per cent. and stock at corresponding date in 1877, being a deloans at 5 to 6 per cent. on call, 7 per cent. on time. Sterling Exchange is solid at 8 to 83 premium between banks, 83 premium, cemed. Nothing doing whatever, except now cash over the counter. Gold drafts at 1-16 and again a small sale to a city dealer and a premium.

AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE the business is very slack and weak, certain rumours of the difficulties of another Scotch bank having caused considerable excitement. This rumor is, however, reported to be unfounded. Taking the market on a whole the falling off of almost all the stock lately has been remarkable.

OUR TRADING CIRCLES.

Wholesale business continues extremely dull, and there has been no movement of any consequence in any particular department. The flour market is in particular remarkable for its dullness, and no change in this article will likely take place until the middle of next February. The want of snow is severely felt both in the city and country, and is proving a serious drawback to trade, which will suffer much unless the condition of the roads is much improved. The present duliness will, however, continue more or less until preparations for the spring are in force. A large number of houses are engaged in stocktaking, as is usual at this season of the year. active, owing to the approaching Christmas | Pots, 9,134 brls; pearls, 1,629 do. Stocks in festivities, and larger remittances are looked

RAW FURS .- Very few furs are arriving, an hour and a-half realized £170,000. During owing no doubt to the unsettled state of our last week a similar sale has been held at the weather and the condition of the roads. forward are being held over for 1879. Market DRY GOODS are at their dullest period

and the warehouses are devoid of activity. on p.t., understood to be within prices quoted Several travellers are now on the road with above. samples of Canadian spring tweeds, and others will follow in the course of a few days. American osnaburg and Philadelphia cottons are also flooding our markets, but with little sales. Remittances are slow and indefinite. The fur trade is also very dull, retailing for almost

GROCERIES.—Slow trade but quick pur-

chases. Sorting parcels are in quick demand. Sugar is, however, slightly declined. TEA .-About 300 half chests of Japan have been disposed of at from 28 cents to 30 cents between jobbers. A sale of 400 half chests is expected to arrive during the course of next week. Over 400 half chests are also reported to have been sold on New York account, but the demand of retailers is very slow and only for immediate demand. Japan, Assam and Congou are at the same price, while others are a little weaker. Correc remains dull, the common grades being quite unsaleable. Mild grades are meeting with a quiet demand at steady prices. Mocha and Java are, however, on the average. Sugar has declined, and the quotations to-day are very low. The drawback now is 42c per 100 lbs. less than it was two years ago. The present quotation is one of the very lowest ever known on our mar-

kets. There is, however, but little demand for the stock which refiners have on hand,

and the reductions made in value have fuiled

to create any. American yellow is even relatively lower than granulated, and has completely shut Scotch refined out of the market. South American sugar is the only standing article on the market. FRUIT.—Valencia raisins are in good demand for 'Xmas puddings, and have an unward tendency, ranging from 4%c to 5c. The cheapness of this article has greatly tended to check the demand for others, although a good deal has been brought here on speculation. Malaga grapes and West India fruits are generally scarce, but in good demand. Prunes have declined to almost nothing, owing to late arrivals, ranging from 47c to 5c. New Bordeaux walnuts, and those from the Spanish Main, are rapidly arriving

Other fruits remain as before. SPICES are dull and at the same quotations, Cevlon cinnamon and Java cloves being in most demand. There is a great trade being driven in this latter article by most of our saloon keepers. Salt remains firm.

and are being disposed of briskly at 73c to

3.c. Brazilian nuts and Seville oranges are

unchanged. Apples from the States and Do-

SYRUPS are dull, and though quotations have not yet been changed, prices tend in buyer's favor. Raspberry and lemon, however, rule the market at favorable demand.

MOLASSES .- Barbadoes in good quantity sells at from 34c to 37c, and small lots at 36c to 38c, but the market is quiet and will continue so until the condition of the roads improves. Jamaica, Tortugas and Barbadoes are also plentiful. Demerara is but poorly supplied.

FISH is not fairly represented, and no immediate improvement is anticipated. Labra-dor herrings are plentiful, but green cod and fresh fish are firmly held.

In LIQUORS, business is very slack, and the prices are unchanged. The usual holiday trade is, however, as brisk as ever.

The LEATHER market is very inactive,

and, although there is a good demand for low prices, our wholesale dealers do not choose to risk the less. Some is very quiet, and prices are very much in buyers' favor both for Spanish and Slaughter. Urren has had considerable enquiry, but stocks are small. Splits in medium and light are pretty scarce, although in good demand. Measuren and Harness quiet.

BOOTS-The holidays taking all the monev. the demand in this trade is very small but afterwards the call for spring trade is expected to cause an enlivenment, and a more active business is looked for.

HARDWARE.-This trade is doing but little business, and the demand is small. Merchants are, however, naturally taking advantage of the dull tunes to review their stock. Remittances are good-fairly better than formerly, so an improvement in the trade may naturally be surnised. Pro Irox. -There is no change to notice. The home market has been very variable in its movements, and freights out are also very uncer-GRAIN.—The sumily is good, and prices without fluctuation. Onts, 75c to 80c per bag; peas, 75c to 85c per bushel: buckwheal, 45c per bushel; bunshel; buckwheal, 45c per bushel. tain, so that values are not changed here at all, and not likely to be affected by the fall rise at home for some time to come. The bushel; beans, \$420 to 1.00 per bushel. tain, so that values are not changed here at rise at home for some time to come. The stock held here is small, as also in the West.

GRAIN MARKET .- Receipts for week ending 18th December, 31,446 bushels. Total THE HAYMARKET is very dull on account of free roads, and but small arrivals. Straw runs from \$1.0 to 6.00 per 100 bundles, and hay from \$5.00 to 0.00 per 100 bundles, and hay from having ceased running and the other boats finding difficulty in crossing, prevents the arrival of a more abundant supply.

receipts from 1st January to 18th December, 7.204,810 bushels, against 7,215,292 bushels at corresponding date in 1877, being an increase of 79,527 bushels. Shipments cia river St. Lawrence and other channels for the week ending 18th December, 31,446 bushels. Total shipments from 1st January to 18th December, 6,707,982 bushels, against 5,823,763 bushels at corresponding date in 1877, being an increase of 884,219 bushels. Market-Nothing transpiring; quotations nominal.

FLOUR MARKET .- Receipts for week ending 18th December, 9,954 barrels. Total receipts from 1st January to 18th December, 894,803 barrels, against 810,401 barrels at corresponding date in 1877, being an increase of 84,402 barrels. Shipments cla River St Lawrence and other channels, for week ending 18th December, 1,025 barrels. Total shipments from 1st January to 18th Decemcrease of 35,532 barrels. The past week has bean a blank as far as business in flour is concountry order or two. Quotations are unchanged, yet so far as transactions are con-

ceraed they are entirely nominal. PROVISION MARKET. - BUTTER - Receipts, 4,525 packages; shipments, 3,529 packages. Market—Values are fully 1c. better: choice and selected Morrisburg and Towiships move readily at 16c to 18c, but business is limited by scarcity of offerings of the desired quality; in common grades nearly all offerings at late low inside figures have been cleared off the market; what is remaining, as well as fair grades, are held firmer. CHEESE—Receipts, 3,540 boxes; shipments, 3,667 boxes; the quotation is almost nominal, except for light city trade at about inside figures. Pork-Receipts, 14 barrels; shipments, 46 barrels: market continues dull Lann-Market unchanged; pails selling at 8c to 8 c, according to quality. Dressun Hogs -A few city lots have been sold, chiefly to

arrive, the last sale being at \$3 95. GENERAL PRODUCE-Asues-Receipts at inspection stores from 1st January to 19th December, 1878, pots, 8,376 barrels; pearls, 1,241 do; deliveries during the same period store this morning-Pots, 1,076 brls; pearls 265 do; held over for 1879 in addition to the above, 90 brls pots and 23 brls pearls. Potsvery quiet; hardly enough business doing to make quotation : the few barrels of firsts that have been sold were at about \$3.90. Inferiors. entirely none. Pearls-A round parcel sold

COAL MARKET.—The total quantity of American coal brought to the city during the past season was 88,349 tons, while the quantity brought during the season of 1877 was 105,-961 tons, showing that the importations of American coal were 17,612 tons less during the past season than on the previous one. The following are the prices of coal per net ton of 2,000 lbs. delivered:—Pittston and Lackawanna, stove size, \$7; do do, egg size, \$6.75; do do, nut size, \$6.50; Newcastle smiths', \$6; inferior smiths', \$5; grate, \$5.50; Scotch steam, \$5.25; lower ports steam, \$5

coke per chaldron, \$3.
FIREWOOD.—The quantity of firewood delivered in the harbor during the season of 1878 was 50,308 cords; on the previous season the quantity delivered was 50,467 cords, or 159 cords more than the past senson. The quantity delivered by rail was much larger during the year 1878 than in 1877. There is no change in prices, which are as follows per cord delivered :- Maple, \$5.50 to 6.25; birch, \$4.50 to 6.00; beech, \$5.00 to 5.50; tamarack, \$3.25 to 4.00.

AGENTS.

The Evening Post is for sale at the following places:--

QUEBEC. Arnin E. Heveland M. Cosgrove, John Trean John Buckingham
South Quebec
Adamsville
Hull
Sherbrooke Dupuy A.C..... Dorion L.N..... Dupuy C. Sherbrooke
Edwards Mrs E. P. East Sherbrooke
Januard & Co, Q M O & O R Richmond Stat'n PRegan P..... PLeary, Thos..... Thurso Grenville Lachine Locks Parks James Masonville Valleyfield Perkins C.E..... Phillips Geo H Sheehan T.... Sax M Williams C.... .Quebec .Sherbrooke West Farnham ONTARIO.

minion are quiet, but command firm prices. Battle Bros......Ottawa .Kingstor Beel J B Doyle Denis. Dolan Bernard
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The True Wirness is for sale at the follow-

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THE LITTURE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE	
Caughlin J	
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Sharpley Mrs M J Brockville	
Toronto Nows Co. Toronto, Oni	
Clifton,	
Walsh John E Quebec	
Wright & CoQuebec	

BIRTH. SKELLY—At St. Gabriel Village, on the 22nd nst. the wife of John Skelly, of a daughter. DIED. •

MONAHAN—At Rawdon, P. Q., on the 18th instant, Catherine L. Rowan, beloved wife of M. Monahan, Jr., after a short illness, aged 22 years.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

'MAS GIFTS.

Buy your Christmas presents at S. Carsiey's, and the recipients of them will have the satisfaction of knowing that the presents are paid for. Don't give away goods that are not paid

CARSLEY'S PRESENTS. Strijed Silks, from 49c to 65c per yard. Black Silks, from 55c to \$2,50 per yard. Plain Colored Sws, from 75c to \$1,75 per yard.

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THOUSANDSOF Knitted Wool Breakfast Shawls onds,
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