

without causing a reaction; and any undue efforts to force that trade must result in loss and disappointment. While warning our commercial readers against the "dangers ahead" we do not fail to perceive a revival of trade in many important branches. The long night of adversity is we believe, nearly past, and to the prudent merchant the next few years will afford ample scope for the successful prosecution of his business.

POISONS AND POISONERS.

Hitherto Canada has gained but a small amount of that unenviable celebrity for her criminal cases and trials peculiar to other countries and colonies—the United States and Australia more especially. In the last few months, however, offences of the higher order have been unusually prolific in this country. The last month closed with a double execution in Toronto in one day, and the conviction and committal for life of a third offender of the same class; and the present month opened with two other convictions for murders infinitely more atrocious than either of the former three.

John Mitchell and Dr. King present us with two distinct representative portraits of the murderers of the present day. The one, the low, brutal savage, drunken, uneducated butcher of the tap-room and the hovel; the other the refined, subtle, professional, cold-blooded assassin of the studio and the drug shop. The former are at once the least to be feared and the most to be pitied. They are the branded Cains of society that carry the mark upon their forehead, and are known for what they are. But the latter are the most dangerous and loathsome of all the scourges that afflict mankind. They are nature's hypocrites—the serpents of society, that spring up where they are least expected, and from whose deadly fangs neither the good nor the bad, the friend nor the foe are safe. It is impossible to be on guard against them, because it is one of the chief characteristics of their refined villainy, that they generally appear the very antipodes of what they are.

It is remarkable that among the individuals of this particular class there is an extraordinary sameness of character. They are invariably subtle, cautious, calculating, and almost without exception wanting in every species of sensibility. Rush, the Norfolk murderer, (who, although not a dealer in poisons, was of the same class,) was never observed to betray one solitary look or symptom of concern, or remorse, or uneasiness, or fear, from the first