

THE DECAY OF CONVERSATION.—The ancient art of talking is falling into decay. It is an ascertainable fact that, in proportion to the increased population, the aggregate bulk of conversation is lessening. People now-a-days have something else to do but talk; not only do they live in such a hurry, that there is only leisure for just comparing ideas as to the weather, but they have each and all a gross quantity to do, which puts talking out of the question. If persons remain at home, they read; if they journey by the rail, they read; if they go to the sea-side, they read; we have met misguided individuals out in the open fields with books in hand; young folks have been seen stretched underneath trees, and upon the banks of rivers, poring over the open pages; on the tops of mountains, in the desert, or within forests—everywhere men now pull printed sheets from their pockets, and in the earliest, latest, highest occupation of this life they read. The fact is incontrovertibly true, that modern men and women are reading themselves into a comparatively silent race. Reading is the great delusion of the present time; it has become a sort of lay piety, according to which the perusal of volumes reckons as good works; it is, in a word, the superstition of the nineteenth century.—*Chambers' Journal.*

STONEWALL JACKSON'S ADMISSION INTO HEAVEN.—We give the following as a specimen of the profanity of American writers. It is from the correspondent of the Boston *Recorder*:—"I was much amused at the Rebel prisoners' account of Stonewall Jackson's admission into heaven. They were strong admirers of Gen. Jackson, and especially of the great success of his flank movements. 'The day after his death,' said they, 'two angels came down from heaven to carry Gen. Jackson back with them.—They searched all through the camp but could not find him. They went to the prayer meeting, to the hospital, and to every other place where they thought themselves likely to find him, but in vain. Finally they were forced to return without him. What was their surprise to find that he had just executed a splendid flank movement, and got into Heaven before them.'

The following is a receipt for the cure of diphtheria, from a physician who says that of 1,000 cases in which it has been used not a single patient has been lost. The treatment consists in thoroughly swabbing the back of the mouth and throat with a wash made thus: Table salt, two drachms; black pepper, golden seal, nitrate of potash, alum, one drachm each. Mix and pulverize, put into a teacup, which half fill with boiling water, stir well, and then fill up with good vinegar. Use every half hour, one, two and four hours, as recovery progresses. The patient may swallow a little each time. Apply one ounce each of spirits of turpentine, sweet oil, and aqua ammonia mixed, every four hours, to the whole of the throat and to the breast bone, keeping flannel to the part.

YANKEE GALLANTRY.—We are accustomed to hear a great deal of American respect for, and gallantry to ladies; but we remember on several occasions of wrecks and other disasters to American steamers and vessels, that the majority of the men saved themselves, and the women and children perished. The late burning of the Sunnyside on the Mississippi affords another instance of this. The passengers and crew numbered nearly three hundred: of the former ninety were cabin passengers, thirty of whom were ladies, and eighty children. Of the crew all were saved but two; of the ladies only six escaped, and of the children only two. Of the males nearly all escaped, of the females and children nearly all perished.—*Exchange.*

—Detroit papers represent navigation as closed at that port.

—Thanksgiving day was celebrated New Orleans by all classes.

—Within three months, thirty thousand bales of cotton have been received at New Orleans.

Secrecy is the soul of all great designs. Beauty without honesty is like poison kept in a box of gold.

Comprehend not few things in many words, but many things in few words.

Censure is a tax which those who fill eminent situations must expect to pay.

Comply with no vicious desire, however secret its performance.

Criticism, to be useful, should rectify errors or improve the judgment.

Counsel and wisdom achieve more and greater exploits than force.

Commercial.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

TRAFFIC FOR WEEK ENDING 11TH DEC., 1863.

Passengers.....	\$20,615 37
Freight and Live Stock.....	39,133 91
Mails and Sundries.....	1,680 25
.....	\$61,329 53
Corresponding Week of last year.....	61,996 48
Decrease.....	\$1,667 18

JAMES CHARLTON.
AUDIT OFFICE, HAMILTON;
Dec. 12, 1863.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

RETURN OF TRAFFIC, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 5TH, 1863.

Passengers.....	\$27,193 21
Mails and Sundries.....	5,716 40
Freight and Live Stock.....	73,290 59
.....	\$106,199 85
Corresponding week, 1862.....	10,906 47
Increase.....	\$1,293 36

JOSEPH HICKSON.
MONTREAL, Dec. 10, 1863.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

A. R. MACPHERSON & CO.'S REGISTERED PRICE CURRENT.
LIVERPOOL, Oct. 17th, 1863.

		s.	d.
Beef, duty free, U. S. extra prime mess, per tierce of 301 lbs.....	75	0	80
Prime mess.....	60	0	70
Pork, duty free, U. S. Eastern Prime Mess, per barrel of 200 lbs.....	55	0	60
Western.....	32	6	45
Bacon, per cwt., (duty free) U. S. Short Middle, boneless.....	25	0	30
" rib in.....	25	0	18
Long Middle, boneless.....	27	0	21
" rib in.....	26	0	28
Cumberland cut.....	24	0	28
Hams, in salt, long cut.....	none		
Lard, per cwt., duty free, U. S. Pine.....	40	6	41
Middling to good.....	59	6	40
Inferior and Grease.....	32	0	35
Cheese per cwt., duty free, U. S. Extra.....	60	0	56
Fine.....	44	0	48
Butter per cwt., duty free, U. S. and Canada, extra.....	95	0	100
good middling to fine.....	75	0	80
Grease sorts per cwt.....	42	0	45
Tallow, per cwt., (duty free).....	42	0	43
Wheat, (duty 1s., per quarter).....	9	0	9
Canadian, white, per cental of 100 lbs.....	8	3	8
" red.....	8	6	10
American, white.....	7	0	9
" red.....	7	0	9
French, white.....	7	0	9
" red.....	7	0	9
Flour, (duty 4d per cwt.).....	18	6	20
Western Corn, per barrel of 186 lbs.....	21	0	22
Philadelphia.....	20	0	21
Baltimore.....	20	0	21
Ohio.....	21	0	22
Canadian.....	20	0	22
Extra Canadian.....	21	0	25
Millin Corn, (duty 1s. per quarter).....	28	3	28
Yellow per 480 lbs.....	28	0	28
Mixed.....	28	0	28

PETROLEUM.

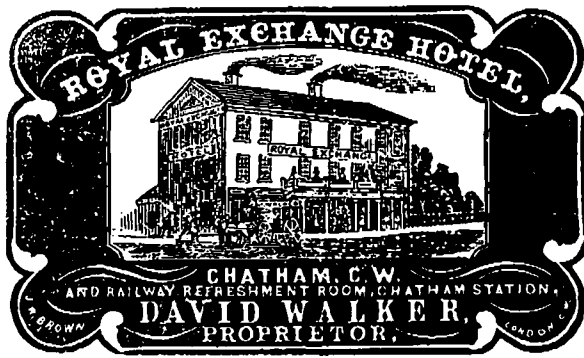
American Crude, per tun of 252 Imperial gal.....	£16	10	16
Canadian.....	£10	10	11
American Refined, best quality, per Imperial Gallon.....	1	10	2
Canadian do.....	1	5	1
Spirits of Petroleum or Benzine.....	1	3	1
Lubricating, per tun, black, green and brown.....	£9	0	10
Grease " green.....	£11	0	12

JOHN M'INTYRE, MERCHANT TAILOR, AND OUTFITTER.

GENTLEMEN'S GARMENTS MADE TO ORDER. Perfect fit and entire satisfaction warranted. The Latest Patterns of French, English and German Cloths always on hand.

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Canadian Illustrated News, Hamilton, C. W.

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INSTRUCTION IN MUSIC.

MRS. JOHN E. MURPHY would respectfully inform her friends and the public, that she is prepared to receive a limited number of pupils for Instruction on the Piano Forte, at her residence, Mulberry street, between Park and MacNab. References given if required. 6 Hamilton, June 20th, 1863.

DAVID WALKER, Royal Exchange Hotel and Railway Refreshment Rooms, CHATHAM, C. W. October, 1863. 24-6m

ESTABLISHED—1813.

GORE District Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Head Office, Galt, C. W. PRESIDENT—JOHN DAVIDSON, Esq., Galt.

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D. WRIGHT, Agent, Hamilton. Dec. 1863. 2

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SINGER SEWING MACHINES

The Best and Cheapest Machines in the world, at New York City Prices.

The undersigned having the General Agency for the sale of the Genuine Singer Sewing Machines, take great pleasure in informing the public of Canada that they have opened offices in Toronto, at No. 34, King Street East, and in the city of Hamilton, on the corner of King and Hughson streets, where they will keep on hand, at all times, a full assortment of the Genuine Singer Sewing Machines, and will sell the same, at the same prices, as at the manufactory in New York, thus bringing the machines, which have proved themselves, after a test of fifteen years, to be the best, and most reliable machines in every respect, that has ever been made within the reach of all. The Genuine Singer Machines are celebrated for being more simple to operate, less liable to get out of order, do better and more durable than any other.

The celebrity of the Genuine Singer Machines, and the reputation which they have acquired over all others, for superiority, has led certain manufacturers of Sewing Machines, in Canada, to make a bogus imitation of the Singer No. 2 Machines, and which are palmed off upon the public for Singer Machines, but in value, when compared with the Genuine Singer Imperial No. 2 Machines, stand in about the same position as bogus coin does to genuine gold. Look out for impostors, and dealers in bogus machines, who will not only tell you the bogus are quite equal to the Genuine, but superior, and that it is your duty to buy Home Manufacturers. But if you want a Machine that will prove truly reliable, and really worth what you pay for it, buy the Genuine Singer, and you will not be disappointed.

The Genuine Singer, Letter A Machine is the best Machine made for family use. The Genuine Singer, Imperial No. 2, is the best Machine made for shoemaking, &c. The Genuine Singer, No. 2, is the best Machine made for tailoring. The Genuine Singer, No. 3, is the best Machine made for harness makers and carriage trimmers.

All orders accompanied by the cash, addressed to either of our offices, Toronto or Hamilton, will be promptly attended to, and Machine carefully packed and sent with printed instructions to any part of the Province, according to the directions.

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