

servations. In addition to the allowance of \$500 received from the general meteorological vote as a chief station, the sum of \$500 is granted annually by Parliament for the maintenance of this Observatory. The sum of \$2,400 is annually voted by Parliament for the maintenance of the Observatory at Quebec, of which Commander ASHE, R.N., is Director. During the past season correct time has been given to the shipping at the Port of Quebec each day at one o'clock, thus enabling masters of vessels to rate their chronometers. The inhabitants of Quebec are also supplied with correct time during the winter season by this Observatory. During the past winter Commander ASHE, at the request of the Crown Lands Department of the Province of Quebec, visited the Lower and Upper Ottawa, and determined the latitude and longitude of Point Fortune, Buckingham, Pembroke, Des Joachims and Portage du Fort. The only other Observatory and time-ball in connection with this Department is that at the port of St. John, N.B., under the management of Mr. GEO. HUTCHINSON. The time-ball is placed on the top of the Custom House, and dropped daily at 1 p.m., Sundays excepted, thus giving correct time to shipmasters and others. The sum of \$850 was voted for this Observatory, and the same amount has been expended during the fiscal year ended 30th June last.

CONVICT LABOR.

We had occasion, once or twice before, to treat the abstract question of convict labor in its financial and economical aspects. Corroborative of our views we find some facts and figures in the last report of Mr. JAS. G. MOYLAN, Dominion Inspector of Penitentiaries. He says that the object to be attained by the employment of prisoners at labor is threefold: Firstly, to create a deterrent effect upon the convict himself, and on the criminal class; secondly, to produce a reformatory effect upon the prisoner; and thirdly, to recoup, as far as possible, the cost of his maintenance. Amongst our prison population there is a large number of convicts who are absolutely unable, or who find it extremely difficult, through mental or physical incapacity, to earn their livelihood, even under favorable circumstances. Some are weak-minded, others are subject to bodily infirmities which incapacitate them for work, and others again are fit only for lighter kinds of labor. These people, even if they were out of prison, would still be, in a greater or less degree, a charge upon the public; it is, therefore, hopeless to expect them to repay by their labor the cost of their custody and maintenance in prison. Moreover, prison labor must always be carried on under the disadvantage of being without that incentive to industry which is afforded by the prospect of immediate benefit accruing therefrom. The only stimulus that can be afforded to a prisoner is that already mentioned, that is to say, the gaining by his industry a remission of some portion of his sentence, of improving his prison class, or that of punishing him if he be idle. By steady supervision very good results are obtained by these means. There are, of course, prisoners, chiefly the habitual class, who actually prefer any punishment which involves a partial relief from labor, to the steady industry required at their hands by the rules of the institution.

Objections are freely urged against the Government entering the market as manufacturers and competing with free labor. This is, manifestly unreasonable, but that does not prevent such opposition having a certain effect. The particular trade which happens to suffer from the competition of prison labour is naturally loud in its outcries; and can always find active advocates; and, on the principle that everybody's business is nobody's business, this agitation is not counter-balanced by a corresponding agitation on behalf of the public, whose taxes are concerned, and in aid of those who act in the public inter-

est. To so great an extent is this opposition carried that the masons and stone-cutters of a certain city refuse to use the stone prepared by convict labor for building purposes. It is so obvious as hardly to require stating, that, as persons who are earning a livelihood while free are competing with somebody or other, so it is quite reasonable they should work, and therefore compete equally after being put in prison. There ought to be, nevertheless, some limit to the degree in which prisons should be converted into manufacturing establishments. It is questionable whether such employment should be carried on as requires the purchase from public funds of a large and expensive plant and machinery, the value of work done by which would bear a great proportion to the value of the prisoner's labor, because in such a case it is not merely a competition against prison labor but against Government capital. The circumstances of a prison render the profit a secondary consideration, and moreover it cannot be insured that, in a Government establishment, the profit will be always so narrowly looked after as if it were private property; so that the profit which should be earned by the public money so expended is liable to be neglected or forgotten, and this would enable the goods made to be sold at a cheaper rate, and so to cause undue disadvantage to the free workman. Many of the disadvantages which attend the system of converting prisons into manufacturing are avoided by performing in them work required by the Government; and certainly work of this kind should be preferred to any other.

It is further shown that convict labor renders our corrective institutions to some extent self-sustaining, as the value of the labor performed covers a considerable portion of the cost of their maintenance. The gross cost for maintaining the Penitentiaries, in 1875, was \$191,323.16, and in the same period the earnings of the convicts amounted to \$100,939.26, or \$127.17 per head on the average number of 795. The net cost of the Penitentiaries, after deducting the value of the convicts' labor, amounts to \$90,323.85, or \$113.61 per head.

The Boston School Board has hit upon a plan as original as sensible to save the teachers and scholars of public schools from exposure on very wet days. This is a storm signal of 22, struck by the fire-alarm bells at a quarter past eight a. m. The Boston *Traveler* says: "Many of the masters are accustomed, on account of the wet condition of the children's clothes, and the impossibility of drying them, to dismiss the few scholars who foolishly venture out at such times. The number of these unwise ones is frequently only five or six in a class of fifty. Other masters never deviate from the rule, but require the children to sit through the long session till one o'clock, thereby incurring great risk to health and life. This signal will not probably be needed more than once or twice a year, but its use upon those occasions hereafter will make the sessions uniform throughout the city, and save our children and teachers from running great danger to health, and reaping no commensurate benefit thereby."

THE EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING.

Among the elegant structures of our city, there are few if any that impress the beholder more with its handsome and striking appearance than the building lately erected on the corner of Notre Dame and St. Francois Xavier Streets, a full page illustration of which we present to our readers in this weekly issue of the NEWS. The Exchange Bank of Canada numbers amongst its Board and Stockholders some of the best known of our business men and capitalists, and takes a leading position among our monetary institutions. Its capital, is \$1,000,000. The principal officers are M. H. Gault, Esq., President; T. Caverhill, Esq., Vice-President; R. A. Campbell, Esq., Cashier. The Exchange Bank aims at doing a safe and conservative business with reasonable profits, rather than in making risks and showy speculations, and under the experienced management of its Directorate and Cashier has already secured a large share of public patronage. It was established in the summer of 1872.

The central location of this building has secured for it occupants of business position and character, without a notice of whom, our article would be incomplete. On the first floor are the elegant offices of the

UNION MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF BOSTON.

of which C. B. Cushing, Esq., is General Manager, with the following staff, A. T. Hall, Esq., Cashier; W. H. Hingston, Esq., M.D., Mayor of Montreal, and Wolford Nelson, Esq., M.D., Medical Examiners; Messrs. N. P. Harrington, and J. H. Michaud, City Agents. The Canadian Branch of this first class Company has been established in Canada for over a quarter of a century, and has from the commencement done a large and prosperous business. There are few Life Companies that can show such a handsome exhibit, as appears in their annual statement to 1st January, 1876. Divested of all mere verbiage it shows concisely net assets of over \$8,500,000, (eight millions and a half dollars.) The excess of interest alone earned over death losses was \$52,600, that is for every 100 dollars of death losses the Company earned \$109.12. The excess of interest earned over expenses is \$144,456, that is for 100 dollars expenses paid the interest earnings were \$129.77. Total number of Policies issued were 6,013, of which 1,237 were issued in Canada. These figures are worthy of the attention of all who may be thinking of insurance, as it is a source of gratification to those who hold Life policies in such a Company, insuring, as it does, to their proportionate benefit a reduction in premiums or handsome bonuses, as well as complete security under such careful management.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF LONDON. MESSRS. RINTOUL BROS., AGENTS.

The security afforded by Fire Insurance is the keystone of trade. Without it, business could be transacted within but narrow bounds. When the important issues connected with it are duly considered, complete indemnity with the lowest rate consistent with the risk is what is demanded. In none of our home or foreign companies can this be better attained than in the "Imperial," of London with its subscribed capital of £1,600,000 sterling and assets of £2,222,555 sterling. The whole of which, bear in mind, is security for fire losses alone. No life or marine liabilities. In the scathing fires of Boston and Chicago it came out with unimpaired vigor after paying heavy losses, at the time when over (60) sixty companies went down paying little or nothing to the unfortunate policy holders. Complete security, large resources, and liberal management are the essential points to which insurers who consult their most vital interests must look, and these are combined to an eminent degree in the "Imperial" of London.

L. J. FORGET, STOCK AND SHARE BROKER.

Persons desirous of buying or selling stocks can obtain every information of the relative rise and fall in prices in all the different securities dealt in on 'Change for some time past, at the office of this gentleman who will also be pleased to give the value of his experience to assist the judgment of those desirous of purchasing Canadian or United States stocks or securities for speculation or investment.

DE MANDEVILLE & CO., REAL ESTATE DEALERS AND VALUATORS.

This firm make a specialty of this business and have always on their books a large list of city, village and farm property for sale. They give their personal attention, also, to real estate auction sales in city or country. The hard times have made owners, in many instances, willing to concede in prices and terms, and good bargains may now be obtained. There has been no more favorable period for years than at present to select, from the many properties put on the market, cheap and eligible sites for business or residence purposes, while in many cases this firm offer improved property at the bare cost of the improvements, not taking into account the value of the ground.

JOSEPH AND BURROUGHS, ADVOCATES, BARRISTERS, ETC., COMMISSIONERS FOR ONTARIO.

This well-known legal firm, composed of the following gentlemen, Gershom Joseph, Esq., and Chas. S. Burroughs, Esq., may be found by their numerous friends and clients in the north east corner of the building, where, also, all business connected with the Belgian Consulate is transacted, Jesse Joseph, Esq., representing that government at this port, having his office in the same suite of rooms.

CANADA TANNING EXTRACT COMPANY.

This company has met with success where it has been the fate of many to experience disastrous failure. The brands made by this company have been thoroughly tested, and are meeting with largely increased sales in Canada, England and the United States. It is obtained solely from the first quality of white hemlock bark concentrated in the highest degree under the supervision of practical men. The capital of the Company is \$500,000, and its works at St. Leonard and Bulstrode in the Province of Quebec, give on the average employment to 150 hands each, independent of the number employed in drawing the bark which has in the past winter amounted in many instances to 500 sleighs daily at each place.

OLE BULL'S LAST TOUR.

The great master of the violin has been giving this winter a series of concerts in Berlin. He has lost some of the fire of former years, but his violin is still, as ever, a living, breathing part of his tall, swaying figure; how he caresses it

and hugged it close to him, as one would a petted child; and with the touch of his gentle, coaxing hand, draws from it such sweet melodious sounds, such far-away recollections, such tender glimpses of another and better world. There is not the fine technic of Joachim, but with Ole Bull one is glad to get rid of it. It is like the music of the Eolian harp, to which we listen transfixed, and care not to know whence comes the power that captivates and bewilders us. This is the last tour the old master ever will make, after which he will retire to his old Norwegian home.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

Dr. LISZT has just completed another oratorio, "La Légende de Sainte Cécile," the libretto being by Mme. Emile de Girardin.

Rossi will be in America in the Fall, and negotiations are in progress for bringing him out at Wallack's Theatre.

JOHN E. OWENS, the "sterling comedian," is worth \$500,000 and he acts (on the stage) as if he was determined to have more.

DR. LISZT has completed another oratorio, "La Légende de Sainte Cécile," the book by Madame Emile de Girardin; it will soon be published in Vienna.

ON the 29th of February, forty years ago, the opera of "The Huguenots" was first produced. Since that time the opera has been performed in Paris 501 times.

SALVINI's picture, by Fraschieri, is nearly finished. It is a grand work, nearly life-size, and wonderfully like. It will, probably, figure in the Centennial Exhibition—if finished in time.

MR. JOSEPH HATTON seems to be sufficiently satisfied with the success of his much-criticised "Clytie" to try his hand at another play. He has dramatized Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Scarlet Letter," and is going to produce the piece at Newcastle.

THE Franco-American Union has organized a grand operatic festival for April 24th, proceeds to be devoted to the monument to be erected in New York harbour. The musical societies of Paris, and, it is expected several provincial societies will participate in the festival. The programme contains a Cantata specially composed for the occasion by Gounod.

ANTONIO PETITO, the famous Naples Pulcinello, has died in harness. He had just made a crowded theatre ring with boisterous laughter, and slipped behind the scenes for a drink of water, when he fell dead, whereat the audience became frantic with grief and excitement. All Naples, except the priests, turned out at his funeral, and there was but one expression of sorrow heard, "Povero Pulcinello!"

At the Opera House, Detroit, after M. Levy had finished his work, a constable seized the great soloist's cornet, a costly and beautiful instrument, set with precious stone, and bearing an inscription showing it to have been presented to Levy by some European Prince. The claim is for damages incurred by a manager in consequence of Levy's failure to meet engagements last summer.

SALVINI will again play Shakespeare in London this season. Proposals have been made, which, if realised, would convert the present into the greatest Shakespearean year which has been known since Garrick's "jubilee year," in the middle of the last century. This design is the union of Ristori, Salvini, and Rossi in one representation, Salvini as Macbeth, Madame Ristori (a very Italian Siddons) as Lady Macbeth, Rossi as Macduff. Again in another notable instance—Salvini as Hamlet, Ristori as the Queen, and Rossi as the Ghost.

ARTISTIC.

AMONG the treasures recently brought to light in Pompeii is a silver altar, on which were placed two silver cups and spoons, the latter precisely like those now used.

BOMBAY is to be adorned with an equestrian statue of the Prince of Wales, as a memorial of the visit of his Royal Highness, which commenced and terminated at that city. Mr. Boehm is the sculptor selected for the work.

THE Italian Government have decided to restore the five ancient churches of Cimite, which are said to be the most ancient Christian temples in Europe. They date from the fourth century, and contain remarkable mural paintings and sculptures.

A Scotch lassie, while watching her father's sheep at Glenquich in the Perthshire Highlands found on a rocky shelta vase, almost covered by moss and ferns, containing several hundred coins of copper and silver, of the date of 1670, all in good preservation.

THE Munich Royal Academy of Fine Arts has in acknowledgment of the merit of his picture, "Marie Stuart," conferred upon the artist, David Neal, "the great silver medal." This is the grand prize of the Royal Academy, and Mr. Neal has the honor of being the first American artist to whom this prize has been awarded.

PROF. GEORGE STEPHENS, of Copenhagen, hopes to publish, in May, a pamphlet on, and chemistry of a Runic monolith lately dug up in Sweden, which was raised to the memory of men, one of whom died fighting under Earl Seward against Macbeth. This stone is thus the oldest yet known, connected with the obscure history of Shakespeare's hero.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.—This favorite home journal contains this week a capital political cartoon, entitled "After the Last Round." It represents a prize ring, surrounded by spectators, among whom many well known Parliamentary profiles are recognized. In the interior of the ring, Mr. Mackenzie appears as the champion, after the fight, having apparently sustained very little damage, although Mr. Blake on one side feels his muscle and Mr. Cartwright on the other examines his bruises with a magnifying glass—Mr. Cauchon cutting the sticking plaster to be applied to them. Sir John is represented as having sustained some damage, though still able to keep his legs, which in the case of Mr. Mackenzie Bowell, have altogether failed him. The latter gentleman is represented in a very feeble and dilapidated condition, in a sitting posture, in which he is held up by Dr. Tupper, who is attending to his wounds. The whole cartoon depicts very graphically and amusingly the results of the late Parliamentary trials of strength. —Quebec Chronicle.

We have to hand a very fine portrait of Mr. Blake drawn in excellent style by that talented artist, M. Charland, and lithographed most admirably by the Hurland-Doburns Company. The publications of this company, to wit, the "Canadian Illustrated News," &c., deserve the support of all who wish to see real art take root in the country. To our mind they are infinitely superior to the more showy and expensive emanations from the States, too largely patronized by the semi-cultured, which have always something coarse, and sensual in the curves of the lines in them.—St. John's, Q., News.