

to pay his premium for a nominal security, and the companies which paid their losses promptly and in full at the time of the Boston fire were those conservative corporations which demanded and obtained adequate rates. Those which failed to pay, or compromised claims, did not, to say the least, use the same discretion.

"HONOR AMONGST"—Our morning contemporary, the *Herald*, in its issue of last Monday, indulges in a fling at us over a severe drubbing administered to a somewhat notorious Toronto paper. It accuses us of "reproducing word for word" an article from its pages of the previous Thursday, its financial review. We make haste "to acknowledge the corn;" but we beg to assure the *Herald* that it was solely through an omission on the part of the printer that the article was not credited to the right owner. These slight errors will occur sometimes, as the *Herald* should know right well. We might here perhaps, with advantage have recourse to the *tu quoque* argument; and ask our contemporary why its commercial columns so often contain articles from New York dailies, for the copying of which they might as reasonably shout "stop thief!" Our attention was first drawn to these unacknowledged articles and items by the frequent recurrence in them of the term "John Bull," used in that bantering sense towards England's personification that the epithet "Yankees" is used when applied to Americans generally. We have not taken the trouble to look far back for instances to prove this, but we should like to ask where it got the articles of Aug 24th on "Tonnage Tax," on "Tax on ships at Malaga," and "the California Grape Crop;" that of the 30th on "Canadian Cattle in England;" and of September 8th on "The foreign Coal and Iron Trades," and "the Suez Canal." People in this city do not generally read the New York papers, and there is really no necessity for their doing so as the *Herald* gives them to us every morning second-hand, although we cannot say that they look as well in their new dress.

Plagiarism may be indulged in with impunity so long as people do not know the sources of the supply (the *Herald* cannot say as much of our quotation), of this McPherson's Ossian (in the estimation of many) may be cited as an illustration. But we do not at all wish to blame the *Trumpeter* for seeking assistance from abroad to inflate its cheeks, at the same time that we would like to remind him of the old adage, that "People who live in glass houses should not be the first to throw stones."

A curious illustration of downright stupidity is—by the way—being afforded at this moment by a few Oporto Shippers,—who, with the "shocking example" of Sherry immediately under their nose, are committing precisely the same blunder as has led to such serious consequences to their great competitor by shipping low reds as "Port" at prices which the genuine Alto Douro growth, properly prepared cannot be purchased for in the country of production. This matter is treated elsewhere by pens more competent to discuss it than our own, and we need not here refer to it at greater length, but may content ourselves with prophesying that

should such a style of business become general, we shall again witness a "decline and fall" in this branch of our trade, which has of late years been rehabilitated in public favor solely by the fact that most of the shippers, intelligently recognizing their true interests, have been supplying genuine Port at moderate prices. The public which so quickly recognized the improvement will assuredly be as ready to give its verdict on the other side, if the suicidal policy now in question should be persevered in.—*Wine and Fruit Reporter*.

The preceding remarks apply to our own market as well as to that of New York, as it is well known that a large quantity of the cheap Port Wines imported here are not exactly what they should be, and we hope shortly to see that some of our leading merchants interested in this department of trade will take steps towards insuring the importation of good wines only, to the exclusion of all adulterated articles.

MR. McCULLOCH ON "TOO MUCH INDEBTEDNESS."

Ex-Secretary McCulloch, under date of August 23rd, writes another letter from London to the New York *Tribune* on the present financial depression of the States and its prominent causes. The one great cause of all the difficulty, according to Mr. Mc., is *too much debt*, and too much debt caused by inflated and depreciated greenback and bank-note currency; by men supposing that money can be safely and conveniently made "plenty" by a liberal use of the printing press; that "promises to pay" can be taken as full discharges of obligation; in other words that unredeemable paper money can be used with safety for an indefinite period, and in ever increasing quantities, as the apparent necessities or caprice of the times may seem to indicate.

The general stagnation of business in the States is undeniable. All branches are suffering, and the remedy, according to many, is to be found in still more inflation by the issue of more legal tender notes. This, says Mr. McCulloch, is only intensifying the evil and paving the way for universal overturn and general bankruptcy. The over-emission of paper money has already stimulated to a very large amount of over-production, and to consequent fatal extravagance and destruction of capital. Consumption has not kept pace with production, but it has more than kept pace with national and individual resources; and now with abundance of money, and that money consequently cheap, there is general stagnation, and this for the very good reason the capital which that money is supposed to represent has actually disappeared. No doubt there is depression also in Britain, where there has long been a specie basis for all monetary transactions; but, says Mr. McCulloch, the depression in Great Britain is of a very different description from what prevails in the States. Manufacturers and dealers in Britain feel the pinch severely, but the general state of the country is healthy. Land was never so high or so saleable as at present; the traffic upon English railroads was never so large; and notwithstanding a reduction of taxes the revenues of the Government are steadily in-

creasing, municipal indebtedness is comparatively unknown, there is no general complaint of taxation, and the spirit of the people is strong and buoyant. Heavy failures have no doubt taken place, and fearful losses from injudicious investments have taken place, but the nation as a whole, says Mr. McCulloch, is in a satisfactory financial state. In the States, on the other hand, Mr. McCulloch affirms that it is altogether the reverse, and that through the effects of the Civil war, now coming to be felt in all their disastrous power, and through a redundant and vicious currency, which has familiarized the people with dishonoured obligations, which they have been and are compelled to treat as money, and which has, by its ever-fluctuating value, made business gambling and business men gamblers. Substituting inconvertible notes for coin is, says Mr. M., an old game of distressed monarchies, resorted to generally by bankrupt nations, and always with the same disastrous results. The United States have once and again in the past tried the plan, and with always the same result. The excess of paper money has always been the inducing cause of the terrible financial crises through which that country has passed; and yet when, as now, there is more inflation than ever there was before, a great party is making an increase of the evil a special plank in their political platform. If that party succeeds in its project, Mr. McCulloch anticipates a crash more widespread and ruinous than either that of '37 or '57.

Perhaps the ex-Secretary writes too strongly and even at the distance of London may be so far influenced by party memories and the feelings engendered by past party struggles. There can be no doubt, at the same time, that Mr. McCulloch has a right to speak on the subject with a great measure of authority, and that substantially his principal is so sound as not to be reasonably gainsaid, viz., that no commercial transaction can be finally disposed of by a mere "promise to pay"—and bank notes or greenbacks, or whatever name paper money may receive, are nothing more, when unbacked by specie and inconvertible on demand into what has an intrinsic value in the market of the world. The inflationists of Ohio and Pennsylvania have already managed to set up the price of gold, and if increased success attend the efforts of the party in its Presidential campaign, of course the evil will be only the more intensified, and the crash, when it comes, only the more overwhelming. People may fancy that they can go on renewing their notes for ever and be doing an excellent and healthy business all the time. The day of reckoning, however, comes both to individuals and nations. The bubble gets pricked and the consequent collapse is inevitable.—*Globe*.

THE PRICES OF COMMODITIES IN ENGLAND.

The London *Economist* of the 28th ult. has an article on the weekly prices of leading wholesale commodities in England since April. On the whole, prices, especially for raw materials, such as cotton, wool, the metals and chemicals, have declined, but the decline has been gradual, and never violent. This fact, it thinks, is a