

Company. In the same busy New Jersey city are the mills of John Clark Jr., known as the Mile End Thread Company, and quite recently a third British thread firm, Kerr Brothers, have established mills in New Jersey.

The American thread manufacturers—mainly Englishmen—and the apparent "bull" can't well be helped, for it is a fact—are protected in addition to the peculiar protection heretofore alluded to by the imposition of a tariff on all imported spool threads of 12c. a dozen spools of 200 yds. specific tariff, and 30 per cent. ad valorem on the value of the first 100 yards, and 35 per cent. on each additional 100 yards. The makers agree among themselves to sell only at a fixed price—55 cents per dozen spools of 200 yards each, for either white or colored—but bind the jobbers, to whom, of course, discounts are made at an agreed rate, not to sell to the trade at less than 55 cents a dozen. Let a thread manufacturer once get his goods well before the public and a demand established, and all he has to do besides supplying the demand, is to sit in his office, smoke Reina Victorias, and clip coupons in the intervals between his sips of champagne and bites from delicate macaroons. His goods sell themselves, but, like his Reina Victorias, the standard of quality must be maintained, and that he looks out for much more keenly than does the tobacconist.

#### NOBODY TO BLAME, BUT THE GROCERS.

A correspondent of an Eastern exchange thinks the grocery trade itself is responsible for many of the evils of which it now complains. It says: "Take for instance the practice of sending out a team to solicit goods and to deliver the same. A few years ago this was an unknown thing. Customers were willing to come to the stores for their goods. They never thought it necessary that the grocers should visit them and take orders. How is it now? The fierce spirit of competition engendered such a rivalry in the trade that it is now absolutely essential to solicit orders; otherwise you will lose trade. In the smallest country towns, where the houses are half a mile apart, the grocer must send his boy to take the orders. Nine times out of ten the order will consist of a half pound of cream of tartar or an ounce of cassia. The profit on all the day's work will not pay the boy's wages, to say nothing of the cost of keeping a horse, the wear and tear of harness, waggons, etc. I have known instances where the boy went two miles to deliver goods and the worthy housekeeper had forgotten to order a yeast cake, and of course the boy must drive back to the store, get the yeast cake, and then deliver it. Truly the grocers are a long suffering race. And the bitter part of all this is, that we have brought it upon ourselves. We are suffering from an evil having its origin in our own spirit of avarice; the same spirit which has caused short weights and impure goods. Is it not time to cry halt?"

#### LEATHEROID.

A new article called leatheroid is being manufactured from paper, which promises to be of great utility. It consists of a number of thicknesses of cotton paper wound upon one another over a cylinder. The remarkable qualities of strength and adhesion it possesses, says the *Paper World*, are derived from a chemical bath, through which the paper is drawn on its way to the cylinder. The effect of the chemical bath on the paper is wonderful. Leatheroid for the purposes it now serves, consists of about twenty thicknesses of paper; it is shaped upon or around moulds, while wet, into the form it is to represent, and will hold that form perpetually when dry. When dried it is difficult as raw hide to cut with a knife. A company has been formed at Kennebunk Me., for the manufacture of this article, and will at once build a large mill there for that purpose. This company is making, for introduction into the mills, roving cans, boxes, etc., to take the place of tin cans and wooden boxes.

Cans made from this material are about one-fourth the weight of tin can of equal size; while tin cans are liable to get bent, cans made from leatheroid are entirely free from this objection. They have the elasticity of thin steel and no amount of kicking or handling will break them. Orders have already been received from several large mills for their roving cans and boxes which are made seamless. This substance is also used for covering pulleys to a

large extent, making one of the smoothest and most lasting coverings which can be obtained.

#### THE CRYING EVIL.

Our beer is full of awful things:  
There's terra alba in our candy;  
False notes, too oft, the tenor sings,  
Our brandy's anything but brandy;  
Our tea would make Celestials weep,  
Our woollens bubble o'er with cotton;  
Good fruit is always on the top—  
While underneath is placed the rotten.

The oyster laughs their skill to scorn,  
They can't adulterate potatoes;  
But, though we know that "eggs are eggs,"  
They often seem half saleratus.  
The English ale is far behind  
The brew that pleased the cheery Dickens,  
And I'm convinced we buy a kind  
Of patent lignum-vitæ chickens!

On with the dance! We must not dare  
To spend a moment in reflecting,  
Since what we eat and drink and wear  
Is filled with what we're not expecting.  
My farewell words, though few and sad,  
Perchance may be anticipated—  
Our politicians are so bad  
They cannot be adulterated!

N. Y. Sun.

THE TELEPHONE AND DIVING BELL.—On the suggestion of Mr. Wake, the engineer to the River Wear Commissioners, the telephone has been applied as a means of signalling from the workmen in the Commissioners' diving bell and the workmen in charge of the crane and air pump for governing the bell in the craft employed for submarine work. The superintending engineer of the Post-Office telegraph system and Mr. Wake have made a successful trial at the entrance to the South Dock, Sunderland, and everything that proceeded within the bell could be heard above every stroke of the hammer or whisper of the men. In this application of the telephone, the workmen in the bell have no necessity to speak into the telephone. So long as the telephone is within the bell it records each sound.—*Ironmonger*.

—There is a sort of vague impression, says the *New York Shipping List*, that England's public debt is all the while increasing. This is a mistake. She is gradually reducing it, it being at present about one-tenth less than it was twenty-five years ago, notwithstanding she has been during that time engaged in several costly wars. The rate of reduction, compared with the rapidity with which our public debt is being reduced, is slow, but it is nevertheless sure. During the last twenty-five years the combined indebtedness of the other nations of Europe has increased two fold. Spain, Italy and Russia have done the worst, the increase in Russia's obligations being something like 250 per cent. The European debts, in round numbers, amount to about \$1,500,000,000,000.

The business of the North Shore Railway has steadily increased since it passed into the hands of a private company in June last, and a very considerable reduction in expenses has also been effected. The earnings in the past three months have been as follows:—July \$43,040.36; August, \$52,687.97; September, \$57,091.12, making a total of \$152,819.45 for the quarter, in addition to which the accounts outstanding amount to \$32,000, so that the gross revenue of the company in the three months foots up to about \$185,000. The reduction thus far effected in expenses is at the rate of \$71,819.45 per annum. The proprietors, we hear, have determined to concentrate all efforts towards extending the road to Tadoussac, and will realise on stock of other corporations partly owned by them to carry out the project.

—"How do you feel, with such a shocking looking coat on?" said a young clerk with some pretensions one morning to an older one. "I feel," said the old man, looking at him steadily with one eye half closed as if taking aim at his victim. "I feel as if I had a coat on which I had paid for, a luxury of feeling which I think you will never experience."

—"Do you buy your music by the roll?" inquired a young lady of the deacon's daughter. "Oh no," she replied. "I always wait until Sunday, and then I get it by the choir."

—The recent census of London, showing the population to be 4,764,312 souls, has drawn out from *Land*, the English journal some striking contrasts. "There are," it says, "in London more than double the number of people in Denmark, including Greenland; nearly three times as many as in Greece; some thousands more than Portugal, including the Azores and Madeira; three-quarters of a million more than in Holland; more than Sweden or Norway or Switzerland." "And yet," adds the same paper, "this splendid capital, the most populous and wealthy city in the world has ever seen, is practically without a Government."

The invention of the barrel, made of strips of wood and rendered tight and strong by hoops, finds in history no notice of origin or inventor. Pliny attributes it to the Gauls of the Po, in Lombardy. There is, however, good reason to believe that the barrel was in use before the Gauls reached Italy, perhaps before their existence as a people. In one of the inscriptions copied by Wilkinson from Egyptian monuments is a representation of a vessel which nearly corresponds to our modern barrel.

—Two young men recently arrived at a toll bridge in the neighborhood of New Haven in such a desperately moneyless condition that between them they could raise only just money enough to pay for the passage of one. They explained the situation, but the toll-keeper was obdurate. In an unguarded moment, however, he acknowledged that a person had a right to carry a bundle over for a single fare, whereupon one of the paupers picked up his companion and ran over the bridge with him before the keeper had time to expostulate.

—The Winnipeg Warehousing Company, (limited), has applied for incorporation. The object of the company is to carry on a general warehousing business at Winnipeg and elsewhere, in the Province of Manitoba, and its chief place of business will be at Winnipeg. The capital stock of the company will be \$80,000, divided into 800 shares of \$100 each. The first directors will be Edward Packard Rice, Robert Cartwright and Duncan McArthur.

—A distinguished physician says that the garments worn by women are preferable to those worn by men. He may speak from experience, but we don't believe he ever wore a walking costume of royal blue cloth, with facings, revers, and pelerine of velvet plush, with a velvet basque, a long clinging pelisse trimmed with lace jabots down the fronts and back, Charles II collar, and a tiny black velvet poke and a rib compressing corset out en train, and so forth. Hardly.—*Norristown Herald*.

—In the Madras (India) Presidency during 1881, £2,026 was paid as rewards for destroying 136 tigers, 750 panthers and leopards, and 543 other animals. There were 1,302 persons and 8,939 animals killed by wild animals and snakes, tigers killing 135 people and 3,328 cattle. The cattle killed by wild animals in the Presidency during the year are valued at £17,876.

GENERAL WOLSELEY, the hero of the Egyptian war is the author of a book called "The Soldier's Pocket-Book for Field Service." As the British soldier gets only twenty-five cents a day he can't have much use for a pocket-book.—*Norristown Herald*.

#### Commercial.

#### MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 24th Oct., 1882.

The wholesale markets have been dull during the week, compared with several past weeks but country dealers as a rule are not moving many goods at the present time. Farmers seem to have missed their time for marketing grain, for prices in England as well as here have fallen indeed it is almost unsalable for export except at very low figures. Ashes have been unsettled, and part of the week nothing was doing on account to base quotations. Chemicals are very firm with an improved demand. Hides have again dropped in price, as looked for last week. There has been a fair trade done in hardware holders being very firm in their views, it is expected that the estate of A. & C. J. Hope & Co. will be wound up by the trustees. Leather is in firm demand but prices are generally in buyers' favor. Provisions have been more active; Weather dull with every appearance of rain.