

This statement of his we published, altho' we did not see fit to publish the disparaging remarks of Mr. Duff upon the sources of our information. We cannot see wherein we have done injury to Mr. Duff, whose alleged fault was that up to a certain date he had not rendered a statement of his proceedings. He has since done so, however, and we have given him the benefit of its publication.

Every few years, in this growing Country, a new classification of its towns and villages is rendered necessary if any work professing to contain late information about places and routes is to be really valuable. Railways and water routes are every year being extended, villages constantly being founded. We are glad therefore to receive a new edition of John Lovell & Sons' Gazetteer of British North America containing condensed descriptions of over 7,500 places in Canada and Newfoundland; information as to 2,300 lakes and rivers; and what is a marvel of convenience, a laboriously prepared table of routes which tells the traveller how to reach any one of eight thousand places in this country by rail, water, or highway. The general accuracy of the descriptions is noteworthy; but indeed Canadians have grown accustomed to expect pains, taking and honest work in any thing Mr. Lovell undertakes. The book is worth many times its price and deserves widespread sale. It is perhaps the most useful book ever published in Canada.

ABSCONDING DEBTORS.

Why do so many people fly their country in these days and hide themselves in the States? queried a regular reader of the MONETARY TIMES a few days ago. Especially, why do so many business people go? Perhaps, we answer, for one thing, because there are too many "business people" here who cannot make a living without what they consider too much work. Many run away to Uncle Sam's country because their fancy sees there a Dorado where everything turns into money, and where the unfortunate man (such persons as abscond always consider themselves "unfortunate") has a thousand and one helping hands extended to him. Some abscond from dread of insolvency, as if the disgrace of the one was not as great—probably greater than—that of the other. Some as part of a swindling scheme which they have planned with the intention of enjoying their dishonest gains across the lakes. Then there is the gay absconder, who does business here as long as it suits his mercurial temperament, and then glides smilingly away across line 45° when he has gathered ready cash enough; not meaning any villainy in particular but just "because he took the notion." Such fellows have stifled their consciences with cigar smoke, or buried it under bear's grease. But some there are, doubtless, who leave Canada with a pang, and are sincerely anxious to pay their debts, but lack the moral fibre to confess their position, or the nerve to struggle further to retrieve themselves. Here is a group of absconders, heard of within the week:

William McCosh, who conducted a flour mill

at Beeton, Ont., and ought to have been able to make a good living out of it, went abroad the other day, leaving only a few unpaid debts behind him. A Stratford blacksmith, Donald R. McTavish, who had been many years there, and must have seemed an unlikely man to run away, has nevertheless gone, and quite a number of creditors are in the lurch. He had been doing a jobbing business, and had presumably obtained endorsements, for his liabilities exceed \$8,000. Arthur Cains, a working shoemaker, began shoe manufacturing by machinery some eight months ago in Toronto, having his factory on Nelson street. His wife at the same time had a little sale shop on King street. Matters do not appear to have gone well with Arthur, however, for he has left his creditors behind him with very inadequate assets. Yet another case of apparent absconding. A. J. Steele, bookseller and publisher at Wolfville, N. S., has disappeared, and is believed to have taken a good deal of money with him. His printing office was burned recently, and he had \$600 insurance on the plant, which sum he got. After the fire his friends, according to a St. John paper, generously advanced him \$800, with which, with the \$600 insurance, he said he would purchase new printing plant. It now appears that he ordered a large press and some type from Ontario, but did not pay for them.

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