

nail factory, but as this part of the building was not burnt no loss will ensue. Messrs. Peck, Benny & Co.'s factory is insured in the Liverpool and London and Globe for \$2,000, and in the Royal Canadian for \$2,000; the loss to the latter company will amount to about \$200. The Royal, of England, has an insurance on McDougall's stock for \$5,000, and the Lancashire for \$5,000. The London Assurance Company's risks are not yet known, but are over \$5,000.

THE FIRE ON QUEEN'S SQUARE.

When Mr. Stevenson's house was going to pieces, a flock of pigeons hovering near it were drawn in by the heat; they whirled about for an instant, turned and rushed into the vortex, and perished in a second. A cat, maddened and wild, cut off from all escape, dashed along, when the fire pursued her and she stood still. On Thursday morning she was standing still in the same place; her frame only could be seen, with head up and tail erect, a ghastly sight. It was during the conflagration on the square that a little child, five years old, sat up by the window of his grandfather's house, then in fancied security, and looked at the flames. The little fellow for a while could not speak; he became pale with terror, and with a loud cry burst out with this thought:—"O pa, pa, come and see! God is burning up the world, and he won't make another, he won't make another."—*tewart's Story of the Great Fire.* Belford Bros.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

2.45 o'clock, Aug. 22, 1877.

Stocks.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.
Montreal.....	153½	156	846	155	155½
Ontario.....	99½	99½	3	99½	101
Consolidated ..	83½	83½	2	83	84½
Peoples.....	BC	BC		BC	BC
Molson's.....	111	111	13	109	111
Toronto.....	156	156	46	151	157½
Jacques Cartier ..				53	54
Merchants.....	67	67½	227	67½	67½
Commerce.....	116	117	434	116½	117½
Metropolitan ..					21
Maritime.....					
Exchange.....	74½	74½	14		77
Hamilton.....					
Union.....					68
Montreal Telegraph ..	113½	114½	1483	114	114½
Dominion Telegraph ..					
Gas.....	148	148½	237	148	150
City Pass.....					
R. C. Insurance.....	81	81	25	81	81½
Sterling Exchange ..	108½	108½		108½	108½
Gold.....	44	5		104½	104½
Richeieu & Ont. Nav.	63½	65½	175	66	69½

BANK CHANGES.—Mr. A. L. Dewar formerly accountant in Montreal branch has been appointed manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Woodstock. Mr. Sampson having left that position to take charge in Galt. Mr. D. E. Cameron, leaves the Exchange Bank agency at Parkhill for a responsible position at the head office in Montreal, and is succeeded by Mr. T. L. Rogers, from the Eastern townships. Mr. Malloch, of the Molson's Bank agency at Smith's Falls retires, and is succeeded by Mr. Cottle from the head office of that bank.

Mr. E. W. Strathy, Manager of Molson's Bank at Exeter, has been removed to Owen Sound, to fill the vacancy there occasioned by the removal of Mr. Blakeney to the position of Manager of Molson's Bank at Windsor. Mr. Brewin of Sorel, Quebec, takes Mr. Strathy's place at Exeter.

OIL MATTERS IN PETROLIA.

PETROLIA, Aug 21, 1877.

Business flat, but development still carried on with vigor, the very small wells that are being struck do not seem to damp the ardor of the explorers. The favorite territory is still in the Northwest, or from lot 12, in the 12 conces., to lots 2 and 3 in the 14th conces. Enniskillen, but some attention has of late been given to South Eastern territory, lots 8, 9, 10, in the 9th concession, having had their fair share of holes, with one or two good Wells. The combination between the Crude men and the London Refiners is not yet completed and it is now thought will never be, the very low price of oil across the lines being the cause. Shipments for the week ending 17th Aug., Crude, 3012 brls.; Distillate, 1236 brls.

Markets Aug 20th, '77.

Petrolia, Crude \$1.25 per brl.; Refined 12½ (w. m.) per gal.

New York, Aug. 20.

Refined 13½ (w. m.) per gal.; Antwerp per kil. 29½ f.

IMPORTANT MEETING OF SCOTCH IRON-MASTERS.—At a meeting in Glasgow of the iron-masters of the West of Scotland, a resolution having an important bearing on the coal and iron trades of the district, was agreed to. It was determined to throw out of blast for a period of three months one-third of the number of furnaces at present in use, the damping-down to begin immediately, and to continue gradually till the 12th of August, by which time about thirty will be out of operation, leaving some thirty still at work. This practically means that during the time the resolution is in force the out-put of iron will be reduced by something like 6000 tons per week, and as a consequence there will be a corresponding and enormous decrease in the consumption of coal. Some time ago the coal and ironstone miners in the west agitated for an increase in pay to the extent of 6d. per day. Several of the coal-masters conceded the demand. There is a general impression amongst the iron-masters that the state of trade does not warrant the concession, and the resolution adopted as above may be taken as a proof of their determination to resist the demand.

HABITS AND HABITATIONS.—We have changed our habitations with our habits; we build as we live—for show and not for substance. If buildings are books, the books from which future generations must interpret and judge us (if haply the record shall last so long) will testify against us. Instead of the old-fashioned chimney, the mortar of which was tempered with brains and every brick of which had a conscience; about which, and in its proper relation to which, all the remainder of the house was builded, we have the frail and tortuous flue, hiding its infirmities behind friendly plaster; borrowing from adjacent walls a support for which it makes no repayment; shabby, slender, and unsafe.—*E. A. Hewitt.*

SAW MILL WASTE.—The waste of wood about the saw mills in this country is something enormous, and we think means could be adopted to work up a great deal of the refuse which is now consigned to the flames, or allowed to rot in piles. In some places "rotaries" have been fitted up to work the slabs and edgings into shingles, lathes, boxes, buckets and a variety of wood goods, all of which can be sold to a profit if properly handled. Our forests are not inexhaustible, indeed this fact is even now forcing itself on the minds of lumber operators

and ship builders, who find in the increased distance they have to go for timber, additional cost in providing for their wants at the mill and shipyard.

—It is a curious illustration of the ways of Wall street, that when a very large and somewhat unsuccessful stock operator (Selover) drops a very small and measurably successful stock operator (Gould) over a railing into a basement barber-shop, the affair is considered not in the light of assault and battery, but as a financial event. To those who chanced to observe the attack of Major A. A. Selover upon Mr. Jay Gould, but one idea seems to have suggested itself—How will this affect the market? One broker of more than average sagacity, asserts that when he observed a tendency on the part of Mr. Gould to fall head first upon the stones below, he made up his mind to sell Union Pacific heavily, but noticing that during the course of his fall Mr. Gould developed a cat-like disposition to alight on his feet, he concluded to buy Western Union instead. His determination was, however, finally modified by careful computation of the number of inches Mr. Gould rebounded into the circumambient ether after touching bottom, and he immediately sold a large block of Atlantic and Pacific "short." He stoutly denies any perception of the legal aspects of the case, or any human sentiment of sympathy with either person. On the other hand, he asserts that he viewed the rencontre with precisely the same sensations produced by watching the "stock indicator" during a panic, and alludes with pride to his own perfect self-possession during Mr. Gould's sudden descent into the areaway, and the coolness with which he was able to think clearly under these trying circumstances. The same view of the case is found out by the fact that a dear friend with whom Mr. Gould subsequently walked down the street, instead of asking how many ribs he had broken in his fall, tenderly inquired about his financial relations with Mr. Keene, and tearfully tried to extract a "point" from a possible fracture of the cemar or dislocation of the thigh. —*N. Y. Public.*

—It is related of a town not far from Brantford, Ont., that they obtained ample facilities for extinguishing fires after having suffered very severely from several conflagrations. Soon afterwards, however, a fire broke out in a grocery establishment, in the basement of which there was stored a quantity of sugar. After putting out the fire, a fete which was accomplished expeditiously and effectually, the "boys" continued playing on the unfortunate sugar in the basement, keeping the cellar full of water for three days, and, of course, totally destroying the stock. When asked why they pumped the water into the cellar instead of pumping it out, they replied, "Just to show the darn'd fires that we can beat them now."—*Canadian Insurance Advocate.*

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Montreal, 21st Aug., 1877.

The improvement in trade noticed last week has been maintained. Especially has this been the case in dry goods and boots and shoes. Groceries have been rather unsettled, and prices of most articles in that line show weakness. Hardware is in moderate request, and prices rule steady. The demand for leather is