

TRADE—FINANCE—STATISTICS.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

COMPANY.	1880.			1879.		Week's Traffic.		Aggregate.		
	Period.	Pass. Mails & Express	Freight	Total.	Total.	Incr'se	Decr'se	Period.	Incr'se	Decr'se
*Grand Trunk.....	Week Mar. 27	\$57,904	\$151,978	\$209,882	\$151,187	\$58,695	.....	13 wks	\$266,686	.....
Great Western.....	" 19	34,570	76,085	110,667	82,469	28,192	.....	11 "	91,869	.....
Northern & H. & N.W.	" 22	6,354	13,446	19,800	15,345	4,455	.....	11 "	22,646	.....
Toronto & Nipissing..	" 20	1,224	2,497	3,721	3,219	502	.....	11 "	6,773	.....
Midland.....	" 14	1,649	3,160	4,809	3,756	1,053	.....	10 "	6,566	.....
St. Lawrence & Ottawa	" 20	1,403	1,361	2,764	3,093	.....	329 fm Jan. 1	.....	1,665	.....
Whitby, Fr. Perry & I.	" 20	469	1,301	1,770	1,353	417	.....	.....	4,231	.....
Canada Central.....	" 21	2,162	2,298	5,060	5,001	59	.....	11 wks	6,277	.....
Toronto Grey & Bruce	" 14	2,427	3,442	5,869	5,635	234	.....	10 "	9,151	.....
Q. M. O. & O. West. D.	" 15	3,586	3,163	6,749	6,379	370	.....	10 "	6,223	.....
East. D.	" 7	3,173	4,218	7,391	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Intercolonial.....	Month Feb.	9,000	23,559	32,559	19,535	.....	.....	2 m'ths	46,071	.....

*NOTE TO GRAND TRUNK.—The River du Loup receipts are included in 1879, not in 1880; omitting them the week's increase is \$62,895, aggregate increase \$329,486 for 13 weeks.

BANKS.

BANK.	Shares par value.	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid up	Reserve	Price per \$100 March 31, 1880.	Price per \$100 March 31, 1879.	Two last 1/2-yearly Dividends.	Equivalent of Dividend based on price of Stock.
Montreal.....	\$200	\$12,000,000	\$11,999,200	\$5,000,000	\$139	\$139 1/2	10	7 1/2
Ontario.....	40	3,000,000	2,996,000	100,000	77 1/2	62	6	7 1/2
Molson's.....	50	2,000,000	1,999,095	100,000	78	74	6	7 1/2
Toronto.....	100	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	123	114	7	5 1/2
Jacques Cartier.....	25	500,000	500,000	55,000	69 1/2	31	5 1/2	8
Merchants.....	100	5,798,267	5,511,040	475,000	94 1/2	81 1/2	6	6 1/2
Eastern Townships.....	50	1,469,600	1,381,989	200,000	97	92 1/2	7	7
Quebec.....	100	2,500,000	2,500,000	425,000	.....	.....	6	6
Commerce.....	50	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,400,000	118 1/2	103 1/2	8	6 1/2
Exchange.....	100	1,000,000	1,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
MISCELLANEOUS								
Montreal Telegraph Co.....	40	2,000,000	2,000,000	171,432	93 1/2	144 1/2	7	7 1/2
R. & O. N. Co.....	100	1,565,000	1,565,000	.....	42 1/2	40 1/2	4 1/2	10 1/2
City Passenger Railway.....	50	.....	600,000	163,000	93	76	5	5 1/2
New City Gas Co.....	40	2,000,000	1,880,000	.....	119	109	10	8 1/2

*Contingent Fund. †Reconstruction Reserve Fund.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY OF CANADA.

MONTH OF JANUARY.

	1880.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
Receipts.....	£162,243	£153,661	£8,582	.....
Expenses.....	119,835	121,146	.....	£1,311
	£42,408	£32,515	Net Increase.....	£9,893

*THE FARMERS' DELIVERIES of home-grown Grain in the 150 towns in England and Wales for the week ended March 6th, 1880, and for the corresponding weeks of the previous nine years and the weekly average prices:—

	WHEAT		BARLEY		OATS	
	Qrs.	Price.	Qrs.	Price.	Qrs.	Price.
1880.....	29,530	44s 7d	39,343	34s 2d	5,740	22s 4d
1879.....	44,491	39s 1d	31,727	34s 4d	4,363	26s 5d
1878.....	35,748	50s 2d	36,176	43s 2d	6,659	24s 2d
1877.....	42,371	51s 4d	41,315	40s 8d	6,389	25s 11d
1876.....	36,677	42s 11d	37,429	32s 6d	3,484	24s 1d
1875.....	60,720	41s 4d	35,432	42s 5d	3,351	29s 8d
1874.....	42,565	60s 8d	33,703	48s 4d	4,536	28s 10d
1873.....	46,343	55s 5d	33,100	49s 4d	7,600	22s 2d
1872.....	49,829	55s 8d	43,649	37s 11d	7,322	23s 2d
1871.....	71,159	53s 8d	37,340	36s 0d	8,411	24s 10d
Average 10 years.....	45,943	49s 5d	36,221	38s 10d	5,781	24s 7d

*Summary of exports for week ending March 20th, 1880:—

From—	Flour, brls.	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Rye, bush.	Pease, bush.
New York.....	60,470	1,256,992	586,755	1,236	4,116	10,421
Boston.....	18,079	156,641	222,413	.....	.....	.....
Portland.....	3,321	54,491	30,000	.....	.....	8,000
Montreal.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Philadelphia.....	2,928	57,265	467,274	1,218	.....	.....
Baltimore.....	11,033	474,220	965,234	.....	.....	.....
Total per week.....	95,811	1,999,609	1,271,676	2,454	4,116	18,421
Corresponding week of '79.....	116,812	1,820,029	1,867,748	4,345	22,915	26,436

*9,235 bushels Barley. †2,500 bushels Barley.

*The receipts of Live Stock at New York for the last four weeks have been as follows:—

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Swine.
March 22.....	13,035	222	2,000	25,976	32,596
March 15.....	13,829	227	1,341	29,237	32,057
March 8.....	10,965	265	1,000	25,366	32,465
March 1.....	9,564	158	822	22,302	29,522
Total 4 weeks.....	47,393	872	5,163	102,881	126,640
Corresponding 4 weeks 1879.....	31,286	363	5,109	84,891	104,817
Corresponding week 1879.....	9,492	70	1,900	24,390	29,931
Weekly average, 1879.....	10,933	142	2,008	29,005	33,089
Corresponding week 1878.....	10,443	78	1,260	17,723	24,798

*From New York Produce Exchange.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

JOHN BUNYAN. By James Anthony Froude.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER. By Adolphus W. Ward. (Men of Letters Series.) New York: Harper Brothers.

We have received the above from Messrs. Dawson Brothers. The sterling value of this interesting series is well sustained in the present works. Two more thoroughly representative men could scarcely have been selected.

Occasionally there appears a man who cares nothing about distinction, who is conscious of no special talent for literature, but who writes because his mind is burdened with thoughts that he feels constrained to communicate. The intense earnestness of his nature develops in him an eloquence independent of rhetorical taste. His habitual concentration of his inner life upon his message gives him a thorough comprehension of it, and qualifies him to present it in the most striking and effective, if not in the most precise and elegant shape. He thus attains a remarkable eminence in letters, without any ambition in that direction. Such a man was John Bunyan, the subject of Mr. Froude's interesting little volume. The opening chapter casts some doubt upon the common idea of the extreme degradation of Bunyan's early life. He fell, as he says, into all kinds of vice and ungodliness without check. The expression is very strong; but when we look for particulars we can find only that he was fond of games which Puritan strictness condemned. Neither before nor after his marriage was he destitute of worldly thrift. From first to last he laboured skilfully and industriously at his business, and was a prudent, careful and, according to his station, a prosperous man. To his contemporaries Bunyan was known as the nonconformist martyr and the greatest living Protestant preacher. To us he is chiefly interesting through his writings, and especially through the "Pilgrim's Progress." Respecting this allegory Mr. Froude remarks:—

"To every human soul the central questions are the same—What am I? What is this world in which I appear and disappear like a bubble? Who made me, and what am I to do? Some answer the mind of man demands and insists on receiving. The "Pilgrim's Progress" is, and will remain, unique of its kind, an imperishable monument of the form in which the problem presented itself to a person of singular truthfulness, simplicity, and piety, who, after many struggles, accepted the Puritan creed as the adequate solution of it."

Mr. Froude's work gives a very clear and rational account of Bunyan's remarkable life. He has just enough of sympathy with him to do him justice. He is neither carried away by a blind and indiscriminating admiration, nor does he incline in the least to coldness and flippancy. Besides narrating the incidents of his life, and commenting fully and pointedly upon his writing, he enters into brief and summary discussions of the nature of religion and its various developments in communities and individuals, which are kindred to the subject and suited to interest all readers who are fond of such inquiries. The style is simple, concise and direct, indicating an honest desire to furnish full and pertinent information.

Mr. Ward opens his work with a chapter on "Chaucer's Times." The poet's life spans rather more than the latter half of the fourteenth century, in the last year of which occurred his death. The total number of the population of England was two and a half millions. The charm of Chaucer's poetry, notwithstanding all the artificialities with which it is overlaid, lies in its simplicity and truth to nature. One of the very pleasing characteristics of Chaucer was his modesty, which is evinced in the opinion he incidentally shows himself to entertain concerning his own rank, and claims as an author. He again and again disclaims pretensions to eminence.

In readiness of descriptive power, in brightness and variety of imagery, and in flow of diction, Chaucer remained unequalled by any poet until he was surpassed by Spenser. The vividness with which he describes scenes and events as if he had them before his own eyes, was, no doubt, the result of his own imaginative temperament; and there is a music in his verse which at times sounds as sweet as that of any English poet who has followed him.

The readers of Mr. Ward's interesting work may regret that he has not adopted a more systematic arrangement; but after divining the somewhat concealed course of his thoughts, they will be repaid by their richness and solidity. The book is written in the spirit of modern investigation, with a view of eliciting whatever facts may be attainable, and of setting forth their most rational explanations.

A PRIMER OF AMERICAN LITERATURE. By Eugene Lawrence.

This is a recent addition to Harpers' Half Hour Series. Letters flourished on American soil at an early period, for the earliest immigrants into New England had among them intelligent, accomplished men trained in the Universities of the Old World, or self-taught and fond of the pen; Harvard University planted in the wilderness, educated the children of the State. Literature flourished while the savages still threatened the isolated towns of the Puritans. The Revolution brought into notice a new order of men. They were learned, intelligent, and laborious.

In the new century, Irving was the master of an incomparable style. His delicacy, generosity, refinement, span like a rainbow the whole course of modern literature. Cooper was the prose poet of the silent woods and stormy seas. Among the numerous writers of verse, Bryant fulfilled the conception of the American poet. Longfellow's lyrics have made their way through Europe and America, and are familiar to every household—the solace of youth and age.

Of the American historians, Bancroft excels in condensation, Prescott in vivid imagination, Motley in the care and extent of his researches. Mr. Lawrence has succeeded in producing a true primer, which, by its simplicity, liveliness, and pointed freshness, will meet the needs of those who are seeking to cultivate a taste for literature, as well as to obtain such general information as will stimulate their ardour, and guide them in the earliest steps of their progress.

We are also in receipt from Messrs. Dawson Brothers of some of the latest additions to the Franklin Square Library; the novels are carefully selected, are free from the taint of the sensational novel of the day, and are readable enough, e. g. "A Sylvan Queen," "Tom Singleton," "The Return of the Princess," and "A Wayward Woman," whilst a more solid style is well sustained by "The 19th Century" by Robert Mackenzie; and "Russia before and after the War," by Edward Fairfax Taylor.

THE ONE HUNDRED PRIZE QUESTIONS IN CANADIAN HISTORY.

We have to congratulate Mr. Henry Miles on the creditable manner in which he has produced, in book-form, his replies to the 100 questions which appeared in the CANADIAN SPECTATOR. It will be remembered that Mr. Miles was announced as having answered 97