

## OUR COSY CORNER.

Put a small piece of charcoal in the pot when boiling cabbage, to prevent it filling the house with the smell.

A teaspoonful of kerosene in a quart of starch of medium thickness will keep clothes from sticking to the irons, besides giving a desirable gloss.

Vinegar is said to be better than ice for keeping fish. Many think, too, that the flavor of fish is improved by soaking it a little while in a little vinegar before either boiling or broiling it.

Now, then, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Robinson, we are going to give you a little piece of advice. We hear you asking every little while some of the following questions. "Where can I get the latest ideas about furnishing?" "Have you seen anything new in decoration?" "Where can I get studies and information for decorative painting?" "Where can I get the latest points about housekeeping, such as its economy, its etiquette, cooking, etc?" "Where can I find out what women are doing?" "Where find the best advice on all subjects interesting in the family, such as health, amusement, instruction, etc?"

Perhaps you do not know that these and every subject of interest in the family circle are all combined in one publication, furnishing a Magazine worth many times its subscription price. The May number of this wonderful Magazine (*Demorest's Monthly*) is just at hand. Be sure and see it. Published by W. Jennings Demorest. 15 East 14th Street. Yearly, \$2. Single copies 20 cents.

Draperies are irregular in effect, as a rule, both sides seldom being arranged in the same manner. Panel effects are occasionally employed, but this arrangement is seen principally on dressy costumes, where a contrasting material or trimming is applied to the foundation skirt and appears through a narrow opening at one side of the long drapery.

The greatest diversity is observable in basques. Some of them are hardly longer than a waist, with a small point back and front; others describe a round waist in front, with a half-girdle proceeding from the sides, and a short, full position at the back, and there are others with rather long backs cut in a leaf-shape or sharp points, but the rule is short fronts and sides. In the garniture of waists, one can hardly go amiss in arranging any style that may be becoming to the wearer. Vests, real and simulated, plastrons, and full effects of all kinds are equally fashionable. The bordered fabrics have even affected the style of the waist, being employed for surplice pieces, the border on the front edges; and sometimes the border is placed straight down the front, on each side of the buttons, and the material, instead of being taken in at the darts, is left separate, and gathered at the bottom. This is very becoming for slender or undeveloped figures, and is usually accompanied by a half-girdle.—From "Review of Fashions," in *Demorest's Monthly* for April.

**CREAM WALNUTS.**—Put the white of one egg into a bowl. Do not beat it but make it thick with confectioner's sugar; put in a very little tartaric acid. Form the dough-like substance into little balls and press on two sides of each half meats of English walnuts. Coconut candy can be made in the same way. Do not make it quite so stiff with sugar, add coarsely grated coconut and form into flat cakes.

## YANKEE DOODLE AND U. S.

We use *Uncle Sam* as a facetious name for the United States; Mr. S. Grant Oliphant explains its origin thus:—"Uncle Sam Wilson" was the government inspector of supplies at Troy in the war of 1813. Those edibles of which he approved were labelled 'U. S.' then a new sign for *United States*; the workmen supposed that these letters were the initials of "Uncle Sam," and the mistake became a joke and a lasting one. So "Brother Jonathan" had a simple origin: Washington thought very highly of the judgment of Jonathan Trumbull, the elder, then governor of Connecticut; and constantly remarked, "We must consult Brother Jonathan." The name soon became regarded as a national sobriquet. Mr. Southwick, in "Quizzism," gives some curious information about the term *Yankee*; of course, we all know that it is the word *English* as pronounced by the American Indians, but we do not all know that "in a curious book on the 'Round Towers of Ireland' the origin of the term *Yankee doodle* was traced to the Persian phrase *Yanki dooniak* or Inhabitants of the New World. Lyard, in his book on 'Nineveh and its Remains,' also mentions *Yanghidunia* as the Persian name of America." The song *Yankee Doodle*, Mr. Southwick tells us, is as old as Cromwell's time: it was the Protector himself who "stuck a feather in his hat" when going to Oxford: the bunch of ribbons which held the feather was a *maccaroni*. We know that *maccaroni* was a cant term for dandy, that feathers were worn in the hats of Royalists, and that Oxford was a town of the highest importance during the Civil War. I do not quite see how round towers, the Persian language, and Old Noll come to be so intimately connected, even though, as Mr. Southwick tells, the song was at first known as *Nanker Doodle*. America must not, as some of her sons have done, imagine that the dollar mark \$ stands for U. S., the S. being written upon the U. For both the dollar and the sign for it were in use long before there were any United States. Both Mr. Southwick and Mr. Oliphant give the very probable origin indicated by the design on the reverse of the Spanish dollar—the Pillars of Hercules with a scroll round each pillar, the scrolls perhaps representing the serpents which Hercules strangled while yet he was a child in his cradle. There is also another theory that the dollar-mark is a form of the figure 8, because in old times the dollar was a piece of eight reals. The expression "almighty dollar" was first used by Washington Irving in his sketch of a "Creole Village," 1837.—*Cornhill Magazine*.

## COMMERCIAL.

During the past week trade has been moderately active, and the market for staple goods have been steady, without any special change in any feature. The improvement in the prevailing weather, as contrasted with the long, continuous cold and damp spring, has sent the farmers into the field, and caused them to give their nearly undivided attention to the coming crops.

Collections are barely fair, though some complaints that they are slower than is desirable are made. The situation in the Upper Provinces and the West seems to be less satisfactory than it is with us. They are suffering there the reaction which has naturally followed the forced over-trading in which for the previous two years they indulged. Our merchants have pursued a more conservative course as a rule, and, while there is no scarcity of goods, stocks held are not over-abundant in any line, so far as can be ascertained.

The seventieth annual meeting of shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held on Monday, the 4th instant. The General Manager, Mr. W. J. Buchanan, addressed his auditors upon the result of the year's business in a style that was at once fearless, able, and clear. Before the meeting many were inclined to find fault because it had been officially understood that the Bank would only pay the regular 5 per cent. semi-annual dividend, and would not add the 2 per cent. bonus given last year; but, after hearing Mr. Buchanan's statement, they were more than convinced of the "inadvisability of paying the shareholders anything beyond the regular 10 per cent. dividend for the past year, in view of the curtailed profits of banking, arising from the sharp reduction in the rates of interest, caused by the large influx of foreign capital, consequent upon the floating of large Canadian loans, and the prospect of a continuance of the diminished earning power of money. This, along with the crop failure in Ontario, and the heavy losses the Bank has had to meet, warranted the taking in of the full sail which had been set during the prosperous breezes of 1886." He also called attention to the fact, to which we have frequently alluded in these columns, that there has been considerable over-trading, and that both home manufactures and importations need curtailment, the cotton mills and implement manufacturers especially showing a strong tendency to over-produce. He was also bold to assert that bankers themselves had contributed no little to the demoralization into which the general trade of the country had been thrown, through aiding our dry goods merchants more particularly, in carrying too heavy stocks. The shareholders and the public were warned that unless this departure from the fundamental principles of trading ceased, it would be useless to expect business to be placed on a sound and healthy basis. This is pretty plain talk, but we question if it were ever more needed than at the present time, when the country is borrowing money at a fearful rate on the strength of a C. P. R. and national "boom," which may prove terribly illusive unless we exercise the caution which Mr. Buchanan has had courage enough to declare is the duty of the hour.

## Bradstreet's report of the week's failures—

|                    | Week<br>June 8.<br>1888 | Prev.<br>1888 | Weeks corresponding to<br>June 8. |      | Failures for the year to date. |       |       |       |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                    | 1888                    | 1888          | 1887                              | 1886 | 1888                           | 1887  | 1886  | 1885  |
| United States..... | 148                     | 123           | 125                               | 143  | 162                            | 4,659 | 4,639 | 4,938 |
| Canada.....        | 16                      | 28            | 26                                | 17   | 25                             | 825   | 582   | 577   |
|                    |                         |               |                                   |      |                                |       |       | 812   |

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—F. L. Strong & Co., genl. store, Somerset, assigned in trust; J. E. Fitch, genl. store, Shubenacadie, sold out to James A. Kirkpatrick; Gladwin & Kent, crockery, Halifax, dissolved, Gladwin sold out to Brown, style now Kent & Brown.

**DRY GOODS.**—The dry goods trade has been without change. Orders for fall goods on future delivery have not been, so far, as large as was expected; still a moderate trade in this line has been accomplished. Prices remain about as before, but, as previously indicated, the cotton market has pointed lower and manufacturers are making concessions to purchasers. The combine has been fixed up a bit, but, for all practical purposes it is recognized as little more than a dead letter, for in the present glutted condition of supplies it is impossible to control values. Travellers as a rule report that country merchants are not anxious to operate except for immediate requirements, but the competition on the road is so keen that in many cases buyers are actually persuaded to take more goods than they need.

**IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.**—There has been a fair trade in iron and hardware and prices have remained steady. Warrants in Glasgow are cabled at 37s. 8d. which is a net advance of 1d. on last preceding quotations. Tin has ruled easier and in London receded £3 10s. to £82 15s. On the other hand Chili bars advanced £1 to £81 5s. Prices of pig and finished iron have ruled steady.

**BREADSTUFFS.**—The local demand for flour has been fair but the market has been quiet with values steady all around. Boerbohm's cable advices are:—cargoes off coast, wheat quiet; corn nothing offering; do. on passage and for shipment, wheat steady; corn quiet. Weather in England more like summer. Liverpool, wheat, spot, quiet but steady; corn, do., a turn dearer. Wheat and flour in Paris firmer. There has been a stronger tone to the Chicago wheat market and trading was fairly active with prices  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  c. higher at 85 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. June, 85 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. July and August. On the other hand corn was weaker and declined  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. to 1 c. being 53 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. June, 54 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. July, 54 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. August. Oats were easier in sympathy with corn and stood at 53 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. June, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. July, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. August. The Toledo, Detroit and Milwaukee grain markets were all stronger and in each wheat advanced a shade.

**PROVISIONS.**—A fair amount of business has transpired in the local provision market under a steady demand and sales of several small lots have been made at firm prices. The demand for lard has also been good and a number of small lots have changed prices at steady figures. There has been a fair