

It is due to the painter of this homely, wholesome picture to notice the skill with which he has made use of the bright advertising cards and labels distributed about the shop to relieve the prevailing low tones of its interior. In fact if the painting has a fault it is the prevalence of gray tints. "FRESH BUTTER," in blue and black; "TRY OUR COFFEE," in red and blue; "ENAMEL SOAP," in white and pink, and various labels in shades of green and bronze and copper color relieve the grayness of the barrels and the leadenness of the stove and pipes. Nor must we fail to note the enlivening effect of the Deacon's lilac trousers and the blue of his kerosene oil-can on the floor in the foreground.

Typical faces and figures, these; portraits, we should not wonder. And if a Boston lithographer could make so satisfactory a copy, what must the original be like? Abbott Graves, of Kennebunkport, THE MONETARY TIMES salutes you as an artist, who, as Artemus Ward phrased it, could even "throw some soul into a line fence."

THE HEMP MARKET STRONG.

Among the commercial effects of the Spanish-American war has been the sharp advance in the price of rope. Sisal rope is now quoted 9½ cents, and manilla is on a basis of 11 cents per pound. A month ago sisal was quoted at 7½ cents, and manilla 8½ cents per pound. Values have been forced up by several causes outside of the present belligerency. First, there is the blockade at Manilla, which threatens to shut off the supply of manilla hemp from the Philippine Islands; second, the unusually heavy crops in agricultural countries, creating an active demand for binder twine, and third, the short crop of sisal in Mexico. These factors combined have caused a rapidly advancing market. The strength of hemp has been marked during the past year, and within that period prices have in the case of Manilla advanced 100 per cent., and in sisal 150 per cent. in primary markets.

WITH THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

The Willimantic Linen Company is to become part of the American Spool Combination.

Toronto men's, furnishing stores have within the past two years made wonderful strides. A number of them now occupy the best sites in the retail centre of the city, and have most handsome display windows.

At Liverpool, on June 1st, spot cotton was in limited demand, prices lower; American middling, fair, quoted 4 1-32d.: good middling, 3¾d. In New York on that day, spot cotton in the local market closed very dull, with quotations unchanged, on the basis of 6 9-16c. for middling upland, and 6 13-16c. for middling Gulf.

The tendency of Paris to adopt lighter shades of a color than are preferred in the United States accounts for the omission from the Fleurs et Plumes card of the more sombre shades of blue, gray and brown. The difference in taste must be considered in making a selection of colors, the Paris lines being followed, but in darker tints of the various hues.

Ribbon trade is active in Boston, and fairly so in New York. Velvet ribbons continue in excellent demand, both in black and colors, with nearly all shades scarce. Double-faced satins and satin and gros grain still lead in the demand, with some inquiries for taffetas and moires. Fancy ribbons continue slow and are hard to move except in the low-priced grades.

Our Montreal correspondent writes that there is a satisfactory feeling in wholesale dry goods circles of that city, proceeding from the fact that their customers paid unusually well in May and on 1st of June, and also from the circumstance that recent fine weather has made demand good, both in warehouse and on the road for light dress fabrics and other summer wear. Retailers in Quebec, as well as in Ontario, seem to feel hopeful and cheery over the good prospects for the crops.

On Monday and Tuesday last, in New York, the market for foreign merchandise of a textile character was as a rule dull. The value of foreign dry goods imported last week showed a decrease compared with a year ago. The imports so far this year are \$42,708,288, against \$61,723,048 a year ago—a decrease of \$19,014,760; and value thrown on the market \$40,527,909, against \$66,811,894 a decrease of \$26,283,985. A New York importing house told the Bulletin on Monday that their orders for foreign woolen goods in both dress goods and men's wear fabrics had (for fall) been disappointing up to date, being much below the average of recent years, and they believed that their experience was not at all a singular one.

Chabrieres, Morel & Cie, of Lyons, in their circular bearing date of May 6th, 1898, report the state of the market in that district as

follows: "The outbreak of war between the United States and Spain has, of course, spread an uneasy feeling on the silk and the silk goods markets. The prudence of European and American buyers, the rise of the Italian exchange from 106 to 108.50 lire, and the approach of the crop, have influenced prices unfavorably; nevertheless, quotations have not given way beyond .50f. to 1f. on Cantons and 1f. to 2f. on the other descriptions. It seems as if political events were not likely to exercise any deep influence on consumption, so that the future of prices will probably depend upon the outturn of European and Asiatic crops. In France the cold weather of April has on some points checked the vegetation, but in Italy and in Syria prospects are very favorable both as regards the growth of leaves and the abundance of seeds. It is, however, too early to make forecasts, the more so as the crop in Europe will be late this season."

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

St. John, N.B., is still discussing the possibility of a pork factory for that city.

We hear of the shipment from Japan for Montreal houses of new picking teas. They are expected to arrive about mid June, and will probably cost 23 to 25c. Prices of other sorts are steady.

Greater volume of cheese export is shown by the returns from Montreal. The total shipments for last week were 31,380 boxes, against 26,300 boxes during the same week of 1897. Butter also shows a gratifying and still larger increase in foreign export. The shipments last week were 3,105 packages, which compares very favorably with the 355 of last year, like period.

A letter from Sicily regarding shelled almonds states: "We have had lately a revival of the demand for prompt, as well as for full shipment, and the advance has made further progress. Buyers have already paid 68s. for prompt and 65s. 3d. for October, and even at these figures sellers are wanting, but there are still buyers at these prices. Sicily filberts on the spot are practically exhausted, with the exception of small remnants in strong hands. For new 41s. is demanded for October shipment."

A letter from Smyrna, dated May 10th, says of the fruit crop prospects: "Owing to abundant rains the prospects of the vines have much improved, and the fears temporarily entertained of drouth have been dispelled. With a continuance of favorable weather during the next month or two a good yield would be assured. With regard to figs, the damage has been due to the winter frosts, and the present rains may improve quality, but cannot contribute in any great measure to an increased production."

Hamilton is without grain elevator accommodation. The Spectator says: "A number of citizens are interesting themselves in the matter, and purpose to do something toward securing the erection of a grain elevator here. It is to be hoped that they will succeed. No city can do business in competition with its neighbors unless it has the conveniences, and the sooner the citizens of Hamilton provide themselves with grain elevators, stock yards and similar necessities for the carrying on of trade, the better it will be for Hamilton."

It is stated, and apparently upon good authority, that the Ogilvie Milling Company had purchased the oatmeal mill of Stephen Nairn, at Winnipeg, and would considerably enlarge the mill. The mill just purchased in Winnipeg is quite a large one, but Mr. Ogilvie, it is said, will double its capacity, and bring it up to date by the introduction of a number of improvements in machinery. At present the largest and the best equipped oatmeal mills in the world are in Iowa, and a representative of the Ogilvie interests will visit that state for the purpose of adopting any suggestions that may present themselves through an inspection of the mills there. The enlarged mill will give employment to a large force of operatives, and add considerably to the industrial life of Winnipeg. The output in oatmeal will enter into competition with that of American mills in foreign as well as the domestic market.

LIFE INSURANCE ITEMS.

Speaking of the appointment of Mr. R. H. Scott as superintendent of two departments for the western district of the Excelsior Life's business, the Stratford Herald notes that this company is opening a branch office in that city over Mr. Marshall's new store, south side of the market square, which the company is having nicely fitted up.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company was held on May 26th. We have not seen their report for 1897 yet, but are told that it was considered by the meeting a very satisfactory one. Representatives, directors, and policy-holders of the company were present from Toronto, Ottawa and other parts of Ontario.

At the Hammond trial the other day, for the murder of his wife, Mr. Osler put the case briefly and strongly. He said: Prisoner