

MESSRS. TATE & Covernton, druggists on St. James Street, Montreal, have assigned, with liabilities of \$6,500. This firm was doing a snug business, in a small way, but heavy rent, taxes, and other expenses were more than the profits of the business could stand in these dull times. It is probable they will get a settlement and move to more economical premises.

Mr. J. E. CLEMENT, a merchant of many years standing in St. John, Que., and mayor of that town, has become temporarily embarrassed, and last week met his creditors in Montreal. He submitted a statement of his position, showing liabilities of \$26,000, and assets of \$54,000. He made an offer to pay in full in 3, 6, 9, and 12 months, which his creditors willingly agreed to. Mr. Clement was a heavy sufferer by the fire of last year, at which time he effected an arrangement. His present suspension is accounted for by his taking stock to the extent of \$27,000 in the St. Johns' Bank, and also speculating in unrealizable real estate.

SOME surprise is expressed in Montreal at the failure of Messrs. Donovan & Moran, tanners there, who have been in business ten or eleven years, and were believed to be in a fairly prosperous way. Shipments to Europe, which they have been making for the past two years, have not, it appears, resulted favorably; but their losses from this and other sources have been kept very quiet. It now transpires that they have been losing heavily for sometime, and that the estate will in all probability yield poorly. Their liabilities are roughly estimated at \$80,000. Several Montreal houses being let in for amounts varying between \$4,000 and \$9,000, and the Montreal Bank a large creditor.

A LIGHTNING rod case came before the Hamilton County Court on Tuesday last. A lightning rod concern brought suit to recover for rods placed upon the house and barn of one John Burke. The latter admitted his liability for those upon the house, but refused payment for those upon his barn, which he had never ordered. Accordingly a verdict was given for \$27.75, the sum due for work done upon the house, plaintiffs being compelled to pay the costs of the suit. This case appears to be one of a number in which concerns of this kind take advantage of farmers and others to exceed their orders; or sometimes to erect their wares upon premises without an order at all, or even in the face of a refusal or a warning, and then boldly demand the price of their work. Suits for trespass would be in order against such gentry; but perhaps violent ejectment (which peace principles will not permit us to advocate) is the only effectual means of expelling the average lightning rod peddler.

A NUMBER of labourers employed upon the enlargement of the Lachine Canal in Montreal, struck on Tuesday last for a dollar a day; and with violent demonstrations compelled the remaining workmen at several sections to stop working, after wounding some of them. The governments at Ottawa and Quebec were advised of the condition of affairs, and the latter authority ordered out the volunteers. These

to the number of 100, who were armed with ammunition, and the city police numbering eighty, half of them with rifles and ball cartridge, were despatched on Wednesday morning to the scene of the riot. Matters had quieted down, however, and the men on sections 8, 9, and 10, resumed work. Certainly, the volunteers of Montreal, have reason to remember 1877 as a year in which they were more than holiday soldiers.

"It is a duty to save the immense loss we all sustain by the ruinous system of giving credit," say Messrs. D. O. Bricker & Co., of Port Elgin. Farmers can now get cash for all they have to sell, then why not pay cash for all they buy, and save themselves thousands of dollars annually? In 1875 we adopted the cash system in our business, still, by giving a little credit now and again to certain parties, we have been drifting slowly back into the old foggy plan again; this must be stopped; we now know the difference between the two ways, and have come to the conclusion that it is impossible to sell on credit and at the same time do justice to the hardworking cash buyer, the credit buyers eating up our profits."

THE statement of traffic receipts of the Midland Railway for the week ending 7th, inst., shows: Passengers, \$1258.44; Freight, \$1735.72; Mails and express, \$228.32. Total \$3222.48. Same week last year, \$3626.05. Decrease \$403.57; Total traffic to date, \$252874.83; Do year previous, \$263025.75. Decrease, \$10150.92.

THE Grand Trunk Railway's return of traffic for the week ending 8th December, is as follows: Passengers, mails, and express freight, \$49,157; freight and live stock, \$151,262; total, \$200,419. Corresponding week, 1876: Passengers, mails and express freight, \$51,517; freight and live stock, \$112,460; total, \$163,977; increase, \$36,442.

WHITBY, Port Perry & Lindsay Railway's return of traffic for week ending Dec. 15, 1877: Passengers, \$527.94; freight, \$445.26; mails and sundries, \$27.96; total, \$1001.16. Same week, 1876: Passengers, \$123.85; freight, \$168.76; mails and sundries, \$26.96; total, \$319.57; increase, \$681.59. Total traffic, 1877, to date, \$54,974.65; total traffic, 1876, to date, \$50,472.11; increase, \$4,502.54.

THE ball is rolling; the cash system is growing in favor. Messrs. Long & Brother, of Collingwood, have decided to conduct their business "on a strictly cash basis, and to sell goods to those who may have accounts with us at the same prices as if they were paying cash at the time of purchase, and to charge interest on amount of each purchase from it is made till paid. The advancement of this country is such now that long credits are not required, except by a few, and the desire of the majority is to buy goods for cash or on a cash basis at the smallest possible price.

It is related by eastern papers, that Mr. Edward Kimball, after eight hours' continuous work cleared the Shepard Memorial Congregational Church of Old Cambridge of \$85,000 debt. This was done in Boston. Previous to

this he managed, by means of eloquent and ingenious persuasion after the manner of Dr. Ives, (who is not unknown in Canada as a church debt extinguisher), and by means of well-timed example, to wipe off a debt of \$100,000 which for years had weighed down a prominent New York Church. But as Mr. Kimball made no pretensions to wealth, being, as he himself stated, a Chicago travelling agent not rich in this world's goods, the conundrum is—where did he get the thousands he contributed so freely for the sake of example? Still, it needs not to enquire too closely into this. He did a good work when he roused these churches to rid themselves of an incumbrance of debt, and some such rhetorician would be a welcome visitor, some such plan a grateful one to many an institution of business firm whose debts impair their efficiency or their financial health. The Mr. Kimball referred to will be remembered by many here, as in years gone by a carpet merchant on King Street, and a mercantile agency manager in the Exchange buildings.

THE ship building trade of Quebec is at present pretty active. The telegrams state that Mr. Baldwin is constructing a vessel of 1,400 tons; Messrs. Russell & Samson are laying the keel of a vessel of about the same size; Messrs. Marquis are building two large vessels; Mr. McNamara is building a large screw steamer. The steamer Progress is also undergoing considerable repairs. All this work will be a great boon to the laboring classes in that city.

ENTERPRISING Detroit confectioners send around advertisements in the shape of boxes filled with choice candies, which are left by messengers from door to door.

STEPS are being taken in Quebec to establish a College of Science and Technology, the subjects to embrace engineering, mining, agriculture, navigation, and practical mechanics.

THE great English detective case closed recently at the Old Bailey, Inspectors Palmer, Meiklejohn, and Druscovitch, with the Solicitor Froggatt, found guilty and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. The convicts Benson and Kurr and their associates are, it is said, to receive a free pardon for the service they have rendered the Treasury in breaking up the nest of corruption in Scotland Yard. Colonel Henderson, Chief of the London Police, has been expressing his opinion of the force, and says: "There must be policemen in plain clothes—otherwise 'detectives'—of course; for the thieves and associates of thieves who give information concerning one another would not dare to be seen speaking to a constable in uniform; but the 'detective' has been unfairly magnified at the expense of his workaday brother. There are hundreds of men in uniform perfectly qualified for detective work, and who do, in fact, acquire valuable information and make important arrests. But the public have been taught to believe that the detective has some extraordinary method of working. If you reflect for a moment the duty of a policeman, his first and highest duty is, not the detection, but the pre-