

The calendar and letter pocket issued by J. & T. Bell, the well-known Montreal shoe manufacturers, is one of the neatest and most convenient devices to hang over the desk in one's library. We acknowledge also the picture of "Puss in Boots" presented by Seguin & Lalime, of St. Hyacinthe.

The Vancouver *News Advertiser* understands that the large saw mill owners on Puget Sound are about to form a combination to close down the small mills. Some time ago the small mills proved that they could out lumber cheaper than their larger rivals during dull seasons, and this is the reason for this latest scheme.

The creditors of J. C. Carruthers, boot and shoe merchant, Belmont, will wind up the estate. The assignee was changed from J. H. Porter, of Yarmouth, to Philip Pocock, of London. The assignees appointed were P. Mulkern, of London, and A. Ellison, of Port Stanley. The liabilities amount to \$1,830, and the assets are \$1,473.

A. A. Boomhower, furniture dealer at Bedford, Que., has assigned, owing about \$1,800. He came from Lowell, Mass., about eighteen months ago. A small storekeeper at Hudson, Que., named D. Reay, is offering his creditors ninety cents in the dollar. He puts his liabilities at \$1,300, and assets \$1,200. Camille Bertrand, a tailor at Longueuil, Que., has assigned. Liabilities, \$4,800.

Some years ago James Moffatt abandoned the shoe trade at Parry Sound, and began selling sewing-machines. But evidently he believed in the old adage, that the shoemaker should stick to his last, for he resumed the old business, apparently, however, without success. He has assigned to C. Langley.—Thomas Orr, dealer in harness goods, after twenty-five years of labor at St. Catharines, finds the sheriff in possession of his premises.—Helen B. Boyle, milliner, after being eighteen months in business at Picton, has assigned.

There are several small failures in this city. Among them are Samuel Rook, who has been doing a small dry goods business for a number of years. After operating as a grocer in different parts of the city for a long time, Samuel Ruthven finds that he has not made any money and assigns. A. W. Albro has not been more fortunate than many other speculative builders, for he too has also assigned.—David Watt, general storekeeper at Watford at one time, did a good business and was believed to have made money. But he has been a long time in trade and it is quite

possible that he has not kept pace with modern ideas, for he has assigned.

According to the *News*, of Denver, Colorado, Captain Brandon Kirby, one of the cattle kings of New Mexico, is preparing to seek new fields, and is negotiating with railroads to transport 40,000 head of cattle from New Mexico to British Columbia. This is the biggest shipment of cattle ever undertaken from one ranch in the territory. It means 2,000 carloads, and 200 trains of 10 cars each to be transported 2,000 miles. The reason that Captain Kirby assigns for burying himself in British Columbia is that he has sunk \$300,000 in New Mexico, and must get out or collapse at an early day. The captain represents an English syndicate who have been putting up the cash for six years, but at last call a halt. He has bought 400,000 acres of choice grazing land about 200 miles north-east of Victoria, sheltered on all sides by mountains, well watered, and with grass knee high all the year round. It is pronounced a most promising cattle country, rivaling the noted pampas of South America.

INK is a word derived from the Latin word *enc'austum*, which the Romans applied to the purple red ink used by the later of their emperors. And the French word for ink is *encre*, the derivation of which from the foregoing is plain. The common writing ink of the ancients was essentially different from that now used. Its basis was powdered charcoal. Its color was less liable to fade than many modern writing inks, and, judging from the writing on many specimens of papyri, the ink of the ancient Egyptians was of very superior quality. Mr. Lane, the celebrated Orientalist, says that the ink of the modern Egyptians is thick and gummy, like the common ink of the ancients, mentioned by many classical authors. According to the *American Stationer*, writing ink now differs entirely from that of the ancients, as it is not, like theirs, a mere mechanical mixture, but a chemical compound. Its essential ingredients are three: First, tannin yielding substances, of which Aleppo or Chinese nutgalls—the latter requiring the addition of yeast—are almost the only eligible materials; second, a salt of iron, the ferro-sulphate (green copperas) being alone employed; third, a gummy or mucilaginous agent, such as gum senegal or gum arabic, to keep in suspension the insoluble tinctorial matter of the ink and for other purposes.

In his recent inaugural address before the University of Glasgow, Professor Archibald

Barr, after speaking of Watt's steam engine discoveries, says: Watt's other inventions are too numerous to mention, and most of them—such as the parallel motion, the governor, and the steam engine indicator—are well known to have come from him. Had he made no other invention, or had he been of a more self-assertive disposition, his name would probably have become known wherever business is conducted, in connection with his invention of the method of copying letters by means of the copying press. Watt's copying process, though brought out practically in its present state of perfection, found little favor at first with business men; but it is curious now, after the invention has for one hundred years been almost indispensable, to read of the bitterness of the opposition which it met with. The fear that "it would lead to the increase of forgery" ran so high that on one occasion when Smeaton and Boulton (Watt's partner) were sitting in a London coffee house, they heard a gentleman exclaiming against the copying machine, and "wishing the inventor was hanged and the machines all burnt." No one could attempt to estimate the value to the world of this single invention.

W. C. MURRAY, a tailor on Yonge street, in this city, had a splendid opportunity of showing what a poor, if honest boy could accomplish in a crowded place like this. He began well, working in the interest of his employers. In 1884 he went into partnership with one Byrne, under the style of Byrne & Murray. In 1887 they had secured a good trade and were making money, when Byrne retired. Then Murray removed to larger quarters and continued to prosper. Apparently not satisfied with the extent of his operations, he opened a branch store on Queen street about two years ago, and with his good credit he had no trouble in getting all the goods he required to fill it. This he evidently took advantage of, for we find that he now owes about \$30,000. It is reported that he has left the city, taking with him probably some \$20,000. Before taking his departure he sold both stores for, it is said, \$10,500; his furniture was also sold to an auctioneer. Montreal creditors, with his local ones, are now taking proceedings to recover the goods, but the purchasers claim that they were bought in good faith. Had Murray used the same degree of energy in his business as he did of late in trying to get the better of his creditors, possibly he might be a happier man to-day.

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