

Belfast.—There is no improvement in any section of this linen market, the demand being dull and prices weak. The present level of values cannot continue much longer, as in many instances it is substantially below the cost of production. Flax is a shade firmer. The spinning branch is very slow, line wets being pressed for sale, and prices all around are in favor of buyers. The manufacturing branch remains quiet, but unchanged. A fair turnover is maintained in damask and housekeeping goods, as well as in low-class fabrics. Unions are meeting with fair support, and the demand rather increases. Finished goods for home markets are selling in small parcels. Trade with the United States is still good, but that with other markets is unchanged.

Leicester.—The hosiery industry is rather quiet, but stocks are under average, and repeat orders are coming in. The yarn market is steady, but the deliveries show some falling-off, and new business is being held back until after stock-taking. Lambs' wool and fancy yarns are in fair request, but prices are exceptionally low.

Leeds.—The changeable weather has had a bad effect on the winter trade. Retail business is quiet, and the wholesale and piece houses are in want of orders. Nor is the prospect for the opening of spring trade any better, owing to the unsold stocks of heavy goods. The delivery of spring goods is proceeding, but merchants do not display much confidence in relation to repeats, especially for medium and lower-class fabrics, but for superior worsted and woolen goods there is more certainty. For some descriptions, designed for women's wear, such as tweeds, there is a good demand, but cheaper fabrics are quiet. Black and white effects in woollens for men's wear sell well, and are being imitated in lighter weights for women's wear.

South of Scotland.—The movement in the wholesale houses is very slow, except in goods suitable for Christmas and New Year's trade, these branches doing a good business. The distribution of goods from wholesale houses is always quiet at this time, their season being really over. Reports from the woolen manufacturers state that business is good. The orders for the spring trade have come in very well, certainly much better than was expected earlier in the season. All the mills are on full time, and many carding and spinning mills are running overtime. In Edinburgh, weather conditions are more favorable, and there has been some excellent buying. Evening dress goods are in most demand.

LITERARY NOTES.

Among the interesting articles in the Christmas number of the Canadian Magazine is an illustrated review of the Pan-American Exhibition, citing some of the causes of its failure, and drawing some morals from the experience of its promoters; a sketch of Christmas games amongst the French-Canadians, by J. Macdonald Oxley; and some notes of odd things in nature, under the title of "Oddities and Curiosities."

The Christmas Century is rich in story and illustration. A noteworthy article is the first of a series on "Thackeray in the United States," by James Grant Wilson, richly illustrated, in tints and black-and-white, with rare and unpublished pictures, including a reproduction of the original crayon sketch for Lawrence's famous portrait, and a water-color drawing and pen-and-ink sketches, etc., by Thackeray himself. Not least is the month's contributions to the Century's leading feature, the "Year of American Humor." These are "Blackgum Ag'in Thunder," by Frank R. Stockton; "The Testimonial," by Gelett Burgess, with pictures by Florence Scovel Shinn; "The Deception of Martha Tucker," an automobile extravaganza,

by Charles Battell Loomis, with pictures by Miss Cory; more of "Policeman Flynn's Adventures," etc.

R. W. McLachlan, honorary curator of the Chateau de Ramezay Museum, Montreal, is the most painstaking and voluminous writer on numismatics in Canada. His latest essay is on "Two Canadian Golden Wedding Medals." There appears to have been only two such medals struck in Canada, one being that struck in 1825, to commemorate the marriage of Chief Justice Powell, of Toronto, and the other that of Daniel Sutherland, struck in 1831, a Montreal merchant, who was one of the promoters of the first water-works company in that city, and who had been Postmaster of Montreal during the war of 1812.

The publishers of the *Delineator* are justified in a certain amount of self-gratulation and pride over the Christmas number of this home magazine. Every particle of the work, with the exception of the lithographs, was done on their own premises, and the edition is 690,000, with the likelihood of a shortage of supply at that. Each copy of the Christmas number weighs over a pound.

There is no lack of interest in the December number of *The Ladies' Home Journal*. Among the stories that go to fill the largest number of the magazine ever issued are: "The Baby Behind the Curtain," by Elizabeth McCracken; "How the First Letter was Written," by Rudyard Kipling, and the first part of an amusing story of Western ways called "The Russells in Chicago." There is a charming Christmas play for children. The regular departments are most ably presented by their respective editors.

THE WOOL MARKET.

The sixth series of the 1901 wool auction sales opened in London, Nov. 26th, with a very large attendance. Competition was slow, as the offerings, which numbered 10,755 bales were rather inferior. They consisted principally of crossbreds and faulty merinos. A few fine qualities were offered and caused active bidding, finally selling at unchanged rates. All lower grades were 5 to 7½ per cent. lower. Cape of Good Hope and Natal were in good demand at a 6 per cent. decline. The home trade and the continent took the bulk. There has been very little enquiry for wool since the October series closed, but the consumption has been progressing steadily in the manufacturing districts, and the quantity now offered will not be too large for requirements. Following are the sales of the opening day in detail: New South Wales, 1,600 bales, scoured, 3d. to 1s. 5d.; greasy, 4d. to 9d. Queensland, 900 bales, scoured, 9½d. to 1s. 5½d.; greasy, 3¼d. to 8½d. Victoria, 600 bales, scoured, 9d. to 1s.; greasy, 2¾d. to 1s. West Australia, 300 bales, greasy, 4¼d. to 7¾d. Tasmania, 100 bales, scoured, 6d.; greasy, 3¼d. to 9¾d. New Zealand, 6,200 bales, scoured, 3½d. to 1s. 5d.; greasy, 2¼d. to 9½d. Cape of Good Hope and Natal, 1,000 bales, scoured, 7¼d. to 1s. 5½d.; greasy, 4¾d. to 7¼d.

For purposes of comparison we also give the sales of Dec. 10, the last before going to press: New South Wales, 3,500 bales, scoured, 6½d. to 1s. 4½d.; greasy, 2d. to 11½d. Queensland, 8,000 bales, scoured, 6½d. to 1s. 6d.; greasy, 3½d. to 8½d. Victoria, 1,500 bales, scoured, 3½d. to 17d.; greasy, 4d. to 10½d. South Australia, 100 bales, scoured, 6½d. to 8½d.; greasy, 4d. to 8d. New Zealand, 3,600 bales, scoured, 3¼d. to 1s. 4½d.; greasy, 2½d. to 9½d. Cape of Good Hope and Natal, 200 bales, scoured 3d. to 1s. ½d.; greasy, 4¾d. to 5½d.

There has been good competition at the sales. Fine scoureds went principally to French and German buyers; fine