

general distrust. It is only a certain percentage, so to speak, of the whole body that is tainted with corruption.

There is no more reason for suspecting every bank because of these things, than there would have been for suspecting every bank in London when the frauds of Sir John Paul and his associates were brought to light. The failure of the City of Glasgow bank with its horrible revelations, threw a cloud of suspicion for a time over the whole banking of Scotland; but events proved that this affair was completely by itself, and altogether exceptional. So in New York, the probability is that the great majority of the banks are being soundly and wisely administered, and that the capable men at the head of them are pursuing the even tenor of their way in a wise and judicious manner. There are always certain persons who are carried away in times of prosperity, people that affect a high style of living, are fond of show and expenditure, and have an eager appetite for the costly things that make some people's lives pleasant; these are the class, who, when they get command of money of their own or of other people, can never learn to use it with discretion. The misfortune is that they treat the money of other people as if it was their own. If persons only lose their own money comparatively little harm is done. No matter how great the loss is, the circle of trouble ends with themselves. But in modern financial business a large part of the operations carried on are with the means and resources of other people. Hence the wide area of disturbance, when folly and extravagance have run their course and brought forth their natural fruit. All this is not without its interest to ourselves. We are as a whole, a business community in Canada.

The lesson of the hour undoubtedly is, that every man should mind his business and hold closely to it. These rapid fortunes made by speculation, in nine cases out of ten, are dissipated more rapidly than they were made; and not only so, but in many instances the fruits of years of mercantile industry are swept into the vortex of ruin. As to the causes which have brought about the depreciation in New York, they are not far to seek. Many stocks have been "watered" and have come back to their natural and real position; other stocks are little more than blown up bubbles, and always have been. No dividend has ever been paid on them or is any ever likely to be. They never had any value except as "counters" for speculation. These have come down to the figures of years ago. Then, in addition, the rage for railway construction has caused huge tracts of country to be *gridironed* with competing lines. These destroy one another's value. All these things are well known in Europe. In the leading stock exchanges American stocks are bought and sold freely; but there has been a great breaking down of confidence of late, and an indisposition to hold, or purchase. All this has had its natural effect and stocks have come down from the inflated prices of two or three years ago to something like a solid investing value. Probably the lowest point in most cases has been reached. If people in England and Germany think so, they will buy, but they

have lately made a mistake in this direction by buying some weeks ago. Since then prices have heavily declined.

It is generally hoped that the worst of the disturbance is over for the present; but this a matter respecting which there can be no certainty.

We append our comparison of the figures of groups of banks which did not appear with our usual condensation of the bank returns last week. Compared with April, 1883, it will be seen, there is a decrease in circulation, in deposits, in loans and discounts, but an increase of over \$4,000,000 in cash and foreign balances.

30TH APRIL., 1883. [In thousands.]				
Description.	Banks in Que- bec.	Banks in On- tario.	Banks in Mari- time Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up ..	\$ 36,717	\$ 18,027	\$ 6,487	\$ 61,231
Circulation	17,571	11,647	3,864	33,082
Deposits	55,042	43,189	9,809	108,040
Loans & discounts..	95,459	67,335	13,628	181,422
Cash and foreign balances (Net) ..	17,075	7,715	1,763	26,553

30TH APRIL., 1884. [In thousands.]				
Description.	Banks in Que- bec.	Banks in On- tario.	Banks in Mari- time Prov's.	Total.
Capital paid up....	\$ 36,295	\$ 18,722	\$ 6,744	\$ 61,761
Circulation	14,889	10,606	3,734	29,239
Deposits	52,903	40,267	10,767	103,937
Loans & Discounts.	87,625	64,514	19,005	171,144
Cash and Foreign Balances (Net) ..	20,149	8,555	2,034	30,738

OUR FIRST LIBEL SUIT.

Many enquiries have been made of us why no comment appeared in the *MONETARY TIMES* on the result of the suit brought against it by Mr. Livingston for libel, in the course of remarks made upon his appointment to a certain position. To these enquiries we may explain that there were legal reasons which kept us silent on the subject until the present time. These being removed, we are now free to discuss the matter. It is a fact which may well occasion some surprise, that a class journal such as this has reached its seventeenth year of publication without having to defend itself for libel. Especially will this appear remarkable when the kind of institutions or firms and persons with which its criticisms have mainly had to deal is borne in mind. This duty of criticism has often been an unpleasant one, and not seldom unprofitable to the publishers. But the journal which, through fear of consequences fails to express its convictions boldly when the facts are before it, and where the circumstances demand that its readers should know them, is rather deserving of censure than of commiseration.

Had the *MONETARY TIMES* failed in its duty in this respect, in all likelihood it would have ceased to exist long ago. But so far from seeking shelter in silence, it has always pursued a bold and independent course regardless of the issue to itself. We have been threatened with suits at law a hundred times. Indeed, a score or two of writs have been issued against us, claiming damages, varying from five to fifty thousand dollars, for our too great outspokenness. But in every such

instance the threatened action has been dropped, and the plaintiff has been known to pay our costs as well as his own rather than go into court.

Mr. T. C. Livingston, of Hamilton, has proved the boldest of our pursuers, for he had the courage to go before a jury in order to recover from us damages alleged to have been caused to his reputation. But with what result? He estimated the damage at \$5,000, but a Wentworth county jury differed from his appraisal, and assessed the damage at one shilling. Considering the scope of the evidence to which we were restricted, it would not have been a serious surprise to us had the jury decided even more favorably to the plaintiff; for although evidence of his general reputation was admitted, the Court refused to allow proof of specific acts of alleged improper conduct, unless the same were directly connected with the business of the Standard Fire Insurance Company.

As to the general reputation of the plaintiff, evidence was given by a number of the most prominent insurance men in Canada. Among these were: Dr. Joseph R. Hea, Adjuster of the Western Assurance Co., who deposed to plaintiff's reputation being "very bad, as far as I know." Mr. William Henderson, agent of the Hartford Insurance Co., referred to plaintiff's reputation as being that of a man "very unfair in his adjustments to the public, to those with whom he had adjustments to make," and in reply to the further question: With insurance men themselves, what reputation has he? his answer was: "I never heard any one but what spoke bad about him." Mr. William Blight, an experienced insurance adjuster, subpoenaed by the plaintiff himself, referred to the plaintiff's reputation as being "unfavorable as an insurance adjuster, as far as I have been able to learn." Mr. George Pyke, of the Quebec Fire Insurance Company, referred to plaintiff's reputation as "unfavorable, I consider," and in reply to a further query: Is it a good or bad reputation? replied, "I should say, bad." Mr. Pyke further deposed that the plaintiff's reputation was "unfavorable and bad among insurance companies." Alderman John Maughan of Toronto deposed to plaintiff's reputation being "bad amongst insurance people." Mr. George H. Mills of Hamilton stated that what he had heard about plaintiff "has not been favorable." Mr. William Badenach of Toronto, liquidator of the Union Fire Insurance Company deposed to plaintiff's reputation being "unfavorable to Mr. Livingston." Mr. Richard Wickens, of the Commercial Union, had heard plaintiff's reputation "spoken disparagingly of, and my conclusions are it is doubtful." Mr. Robert Cunningham of Guelph, who had at one time represented the Standard Insurance Company, referred to plaintiff's general reputation as an insurance adjuster as "not fair. He is not fair in making adjustments." Mr. A. G. Ramsay, of Hamilton, managing director of the Canada Life Assurance Company, referred to plaintiff's reputation as being "unfavorable, doubtful." Mr. M. Gibbs, of the Citizens, stated that the plaintiff's reputation, "as far as I have heard, is unfavorable, I would say it was bad." Mr. Alexander Turner, a prominent business man