

J being omitted; a fresh alphabet is then again commenced. Twenty-two carats fine is the legal assay mark for gold. Gold of 18 carats fine bears the legal mark of the Crown; silver of the new standard, 11 ozs. 10 dwts. fine, the figure of Britannia.

The cutting, and, it might be added, manufacture of precious stones, is an important branch of the jewellery trade. Diamond-cutting is an industry peculiar to Amsterdam, but it is not unknown at Birmingham. Artificial precious stones are produced largely in Paris, and likewise in the industrial villages of the Jura. Of the latter Septmoncel is famed for its colony of lapidaries. About 4,000 individuals, indeed—men, women, and children—are here engaged upon the cutting of precious stones. The lapidary of the Jura works alone, with his family, in a little workshop, furnished with two wheels, at a rent of from about 2s. to 4s. for twelve hours' use of it and, the machinery. He never touches a diamond; otherwise every natural stone of value is welcomed by his hand, as well as those others artificially manufactured, which he can set forth in a manner to deceive all except the practically initiated. The lapidary of Septmoncel, indeed, often begins by fabricating the gem which he afterwards cuts and polishes; and it is marvellous how he can simulate at once the tint, the degree of hardness, and the weight, upon which, in genuine stones, the value of course depends. These ingenious villagers, as they are termed, although the centre of their abode resembles rather a towaship, recognise eleven classes of gems, giving the foremost rank to the diamond, which, however, as we have said, they do not profess to deal with; but next to it they rank, as colourless stones, the white sapphire, the white topaz of Brazil, and all the varieties of rock crystal.

In succession they prize the red qualities—the many varieties of ruby, the garnet, and the crimson tourmaline; thirdly, the blue, comprising most of the sapphires, the beryl or aquamarine, and second variety of tourmaline—very rare, at Septmoncel at least. The colour green they hold to be represented solely by emeralds, whether Brazilian, Peruvian, or Oriental, regarding the apple-green chrysolite and its kindred as mere mixtures; while of the yellow they acknowledge the topaz of that tint, the Singhalese crystal—often mistaken for diamond—and so on, through all the glittering list of chrysolites, amethysts, hyacinths, opals, moonstones, sunstones, the turquoise, agates, and an inferior family which are not precious in the strict sense of the term, and include malachite, jasper, lapis-lazuli, cameo, and cornelian.

Whatever of these are destined to be operated upon at Septmoncel are received there from an agent. The local craftsman does not know whence, in the course of commerce, they come; he takes them in their rough state, executes his task according to exact instructions given, and returns them to the same agent, without the slightest idea of their destination.

ARTIFICIAL BUTTER IN COPENHAGEN.—It seems, says the *Scientific American*, that our friends in Northern Europe are not to be outdone in the butter-market by the French nor ourselves; and

one of them, named Diderichsen, has devised a new method of making suet butter, which differs in some of its details from that employed in New York city some two years since. The suet is first washed in cold water, and cut up in fine pieces; then it is placed in wooden vessels and melted by aid of steam heat. About 1 per cent. of soda, dissolved in some water, is added to the melted fat, which is cooked for a few hours. Fresh soda is added, and the boiling repeated; after which the mass is washed with boiling water and pressed through flannel. To this mass, while still warm, but not above 140° Fahr., 3 per cent. of olive oil is added, and 3 or 4 per cent. of sour milk, and the whole is then churned. Shall we not hear again from the Canada Suet Butter Company?

CHINESE FERMENTED DRINKS.—The ravages of the phylloxera among the vines of France have incited many attempts to discover a new kind of beverage to take the place of the juice of the grape. The Marquis de Villeueuve reports that in China a pseudo-wine called *tsien ia* is much used, which is concocted from a preparation of four plants common in that country, and mixed together in certain proportions. The plants are dried and powdered, and made into a paste, which is sold in the form of balls or squares at the rate of about threepence a pound. One square or ball will make several pints of a fermented liquor pleasant to the taste and much resembling wine, which is now sought after by Europeans and others living in China. A fictitious brandy is also prepared in the same way, and the manufacture is so simple that, with a capital of \$25 or \$50 to purchase the apparatus, a man may make twenty-five gallons of "brandy" a day. The Marquis adds that the liquors possess no injurious matter.

THE SEAL FISHERY.—Newfoundland papers received lately report the following arrivals from the seal fishery:

AT ST. JOHN'S.	
Hawk (SS), Jackson.....	4,000
Ranger (SS), Delaney.....	13,000
Lion (SS), Ash.....	20,000
Proetus (SS), Pike.....	10,000
Micmac, Drake.....	15
Stella, Kane.....	2,400
Gem, Facey.....	1,500
Oban, Windsor.....	2,500
Barbara, Kane.....	1,500
Rolling Wave.....	2,200
Peerless, Kane.....	1,800
Flash, (fore-and-after).....	2,200
Fleetwing, Nowlan.....	500
Isabella Ridley, Thomey.....	2,500
Confederate, Greene.....	2,000
Escort, Perry.....	3,000
Micmac, Drake.....	900

All the steamers have returned from their first trips, save the Micmac, and the average is about 8,000 per steamer. We include, as a matter of course, the Hector, that was disabled two days after leaving port.

AT HARBOR GRACE.	
Vanguard (SS), Munden.....	12,300
Commodore (SS), Jeffers.....	9,500
Masiliff (SS), Keefe.....	2,600
Escort, Perry.....	3,100

AT BAY ROBERTS.	
Greenland (SS), Dawe.....	12,500

The crew of the SS. Merlu shared £22 10s. per man, at 32s. 6d. per cwt. for their seals. This is the largest dividend yet on any cargo of seals for the current year.

The sealing fleet for some days past has had an opportunity of moving, we fear at too late a period of the season to admit of saving voyages, but we may reasonably expect that some of the vessels will realize fair trips. The seals will have come to their full growth, and no immature ones can be taken. Our reports from the North lead us to hope for a favorable shore catch. The general impression, however, is that the aggregate can in no way represent a fair average voyage.—*Halifax Chronicle*.

LUMBER NOTES.—It is estimated that 18,000,000 feet of square timber will be brought down the Ottawa River to market this ensuing season of navigation. As for saw logs, the river from Ottawa to Keepewa is lined with them.

The transportation of logs and timber down the Trent River will be in full operation shortly, a small quantity having passed Campbellford on Monday last. We understand there are about 300,000 square feet of pine to be shipped for the Quebec market during the present season.

The shipments of lumber from Lock Haven, Pa., for the past season thus far foot up 4,614,000 feet, an increase over the same time last year of 1,841,000 feet.

John Ardell, of Bellafonte, Pa., is reported to have 5,400,000 feet of logs in Masquito Creek, a tributary of the Susquehanna, to be driven down that river this spring.

A considerable amount of lumber which has been tied up at Dend Lake, Wis., for the winter, owned principally by Carson & Rand, Knapp, Stout & Co., and the Northwestern Lumber Company was swept away recently by the ice. The Northwestern Lumber Company had about 1,003,000 feet.

An Eau Claire, Wisconsin, paper says: The prospects for any material advance in the price of lumber at the down river markets are not very bright. The railroads leading from Chicago to the Mississippi River have cut down rates so as to place the dealers and manufacturers at the river towns at a great disadvantage. Chicago dealers are now able to lay down lumber in Kansas at the rate of \$45 per car load, instead of \$70, the price some time ago.

THE WEEK'S ASSIGNMENTS IN ONTARIO.

Samuel McLelland, general store, Bobcaygeon.
John McKenzie, trader, Ripley.
Stephen R. Gorman, general store and hardware, Warkworth.
Edward Young, waggon, &c, Youngsville.
Jas. S. Jackson, general store, Clark's Mills.
Robt. Barnham, merchant, Simsbury.
Arch. N. S. Black, hardware, Watford.
Chas. A. Morgan, general store, Smith's Falls.
H. & J. Gowen, picture frames, &c, Ottawa.

WRITS OF ATTACHMENT ISSUED vs.

Wm. Begg & Son, boots and shoes, London.
Thos. Metcalf, lumber, St. Thomas.
D. & R. Mooney, traders, South March.
Jas. Egan, grocer and provisions, Hamilton.

ASSIGNMENTS IN PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Fortune Dionne, merchant, Quebec.
P. Joly & Co., wholesale grocers, Montreal.