ITEMS OF NEWS.

The Valencia raisin crop is above the average in quality this year, but the size of the fruit is smaller than usual

A vessel chartered by a company of Italian silk-worm egg buyers recently left Yokohama for Nee-o-gata the newly opened port of Japan on the West coast.

A decided improvement has taken place in the iron trade. Welsh iron-masters have now advanced the price from 7s 6d. to 10s per ton, and that one of the largest firms in Staffordshire have issued circulars to their correspondents that they cannot accept any further orders excepting subject to next quarter day's price.

THE COTTON CROP OF 1867-8.

FROM a compilation of the cotton movement of the United States just issued by the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, we are enabled to present a statement of the details of the crop of 1867-8. It appears that the total receipts at the ports for the year ending Sept. 1, 1868, have been 2 240.282 bales, against 1 965,-774 for the year preceding. The following is a statement of the receipts and exports at each port:

Ports—	Receipts year ending Sept. 1, 1868.	Exported, year ending Sept 1, '68 to all For'n P'ts.	Stock Sept 1, 1868.
New Orleans	584,240	581,477	1 959
Alabama	368,193	236,511	2,161
South Carolina	240 431	105,813	1,945
Georgia	495,059	259 604	696
Texas	114,166	68,595	166
Florida	38,593	....	....
North Carolina	38,643	.	....
Virginia	106,587	8,283	1,000
New York	106 973	374,734	23,440
Boston	34,862	1,441	2 500
Philadelphia	24,221	1 440	1,763
Baltimore	26 610	16 3'9	2,500
Portland, Me.	2,304	2,807	....
San Francisco	....	1	....
Total	2,240,282	1,657,015	38,130

It is necessary to add to the receipts at the Atlantic and Gulf shipping ports, the shipments from Tennessee direct to the manufacturers, and the amount manufactured at the South, as follows:—

	Year ending Sept 1, '68.
Receipts at the shipping ports	2,240 282
Add shipments from Tennessee, &c., direct to manufacturers	198,613
Manufactured South, not included in above	60,000
Total cotton crop for the year, bales	2,493,895

It thus appears that the total crop for the past year reaches 2,498,845 bales, against 2 019,774 bales in 1866-7 an increase of 479,121 bales. The receipts from each state compares thus with the previous year:—

States—	Total crop 1868.	1867.
Louisiana, bales	584 240	702 131
Alabama	366,193	239 516
South Carolina	240,131	162 247
Georgia	495 939	255,964
Texas	114,666	185 922
Florida	38 593	57,791
North Carolina	38,643	38 628
Virginia	166 287	127,867
Tennessee	393,683	249,712
Manufactured South*	60,000	No return.
Total crop	2,498,894	2,019,774

* Taken from different St tes.

The portion of the crop consisting of Sea Island the past year has been as follows:—Florida, 10 3'4 bales; Georgia, 6 2'4 bales; South Carolina, 4,727 bales; Total 21,275 bales. Compared with former years, the crop of Sea Island is very light.

The consumption of cotton in the United States, a matter of considerable dispute, as between crop compilers and manufacturers, is thus arrived at:

Total crop of the United States as above stated		2,498,895
Stock on hand commencement of year (Sept. 1, 1867)		
At Northern ports	56 497	
At Southern ports	26,658	83,155
Total supp'y year ending Sept 1, '68.		2 582,050
Of this supply there has been exported to foreign ports during the year	1,657,015	
Burnt at New York	1,247	
Burnt at the South less recovered	643	
Now on hand, (Sept. 1, 1868)		
At Northern ports	30,203	
At Southern ports	7,927	1,697,035
Total consumption in United States year ending Sept. 1, 1868. bales.		885,015
Consumption in Southern States		60,000
Leaving con'n in Northern States		825,015

According to this reduction, the total consumption of cotton in the United States during the year, has been 885,015 bales,: in the North, 825,015, and in the South, 60 000 bales

We are hardly prepared to take direct issue with so careful an authority; but it appears to us that 60,000 bales for Southern consumption is an under estimate. The estimate, however, receives a certain degree of confirmation from the inquiries of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers alluded to in the following remarks of the *Chronicle*.

According to this formula, the consumption the past year appears to have reached 825,015 bales in the North, and 60,000 bales in the South, or a total in the whole country of 885,015 bales. That our readers might see how this result tallys with the actual facts, we were making arrangements to obtain the returns from our different manufacturing establishments when we learned that the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers were pursuing the same inquiries; and we have now received from their Secretary the result of their labours. The returns are not complete, (that is they are from only 465 mills,) but with the help of the census of 1860, we shall be able to reach satisfactory results. It appears, then, that the number of mills and consumption in the United States in 1860 and the consumption of 475 mills in 1868 were as follows:

States—	No. of Mills.	No of Spindles.	Consum'n Bales.
	Census of 1860		
Northern & West'n	772	4,870,958	703,950
Southern	143	164,810	87,650
Total United States	9 5	5,035,798	791,600
	Return from Mills, 1868		
States—	No of Mills.	No of Spind'es.	Consum'n Bales.
Northern & West'n	423	4,004,220	656,964
Southern	52	135,382	38,990
Total United States	475	4,139,602	798,954

It is important to notice that the consumption in the Southern States was only 87,650 bales (460 lbs each) in 1860, according to the census, and that this year the mills which have made returns have consumed only 38.990 bales. Further, it appears that the Northern States (as also given in the census) consumed 703,850 bales in 1860, and the returns of 423 mills in the same States this year show a consumption of 656,964 bales. Now if we estimate the mills which have not reported this year as having 1 200,000 spindles (making the total spindles for 1868, 5,339,502, against 5,035,798 in 1860), and as producing the average size yarn of those reporting, we shall find that the whole consumption of the country the past year has been about 890,000 bales, about the same total we have reached above.

The exports of cotton from the United States for the year am unts to 1 657,015 bales, against 1,558,787 in 1866-7, and 1 552,457 in 1865-6 but are less than half the total of 1859-60.

EXPORTS OF GRAIN.

MESSRS. Edward Bell & Co., of New York, have furnished to the *Times* of that city some interesting statistics on the above subject. From them we learn that during the year ending September 1, 1868, there were exported to Great Britain 523,294 barrels of flour, against 179,990 barrels in the year preceding; 12 992,609 bushels of wheat, against 6,014,271 bushels in 1867, and 9,121,449 bushels of corn against 10,410 208 bushels in 1867. We are without the amount of other grains exported to England, but the following table shows the exports from the United States to all ports from Sept. 1, 1867, to Sept. 1, 1868:—

	Total year ending Sept 1, 1868.	Total preceding year.
Flour, brls	2,065,359	1,416,486
Rye flour, brls	8,392	16,616
Cornmeal, brls	281 577	551,014
Wheat, bush	13,193,845	6,768,145
Corn, bush	9,569 562	10 877,330
Rye, bush	595 434	211,127
Oats, bush	153,895	1,463,4:5
Barley, bush	23,330	2 423,157
Peas, bush	587,619	814,000

The exports from Canada to Great Britain, *via* the St. Lawrence, during the last three years, ending Sept. 1, are stated as follows:—

	Flour, brls	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Peas, bush.
1868	242,419	1,036,107	660,426	806,187	872,679
1867	19,246	31,154	1,416,679	510,839	1,376,210
1866	30,150	43,860	1,417,474	2,803,386	61,188,061

THE PRICE OF GOLD.

A FEW weeks ago, we presented some considerations, principally connected with the course of our foreign trade, tending to show that we were in danger of a heavy efflux of gold to Europe, additional to the large amounts sent there during the last few months. Luckily, it turns out that to be fore-warned is to be fore-armed. These anticipations at the time were the cause of an advance in the premium to 50. The rise in the premium, however, so far cheapened our securities to foreigners as to stimulate an extraordinary exportation of bonds and stocks. It is estimated among foreign bankers that not less than $25,000,000 of Government bonds were shipped from New York in July and August, and some carry their estimates as high even as $45,000,000; besides which a large amount of Erie and Illinois Central stocks were sent to London. These shipments of securities have supplied the market with exchange, and the result has been a comparative cessation of the exports of specie. These remittances of securities were, of course, almost exclusively on speculation; and it remains to be seen how far the European market will absorb them, or, whether a certain portion of them will be returned; for the present, however, they have served to set an adverse trade balance, and to check the outflow of gold.

The foreign trade movement has also become most conservative. The exports of domestic products have materially increased, principally owing to the scarcity of dairy products in England and the demand for our breadstuffs. The imports also have contracted, apparently from a prudent regard, on the part of the importers, to the danger of a renewal of over-trading. In this way the trade movement is righting itself, which removes one important cause of apprehension of a further drain of specie. Again, more recent advices from the South encourage the expectation of a larger yield of cotton than was expected two months ago; while unfavorable reports from India hold out a prospect that our exportable surplus will realize good prices. The harvest is now placed beyond all doubt, leaving us a large surplus available for exportation. These are new elements bearing upon the prospects of the gold premium, and go far toward removing the apprehensions justified by the condition of things two months ago. Political affairs also have a more assuring aspect. There is le s disposition in the South to encourage political disquiet, the Democratic leaders in that section being apparently careful to avoid any outbreak that could be used at the North against the success of their party. Under these changed circumstances, it is not surprising that the price of gold should have fallen to 144, nor would it be remarkable were the premium to go down still further when this improved course of affairs comes to be more generally comprehended. This change is but another illustration of the tendency of an extreme to beget a reacti n, resulting in the restoration of the wonted equilibrium,

A telegram from Gaspe, published some time ago, stated that H. M. Ship "Doris" repo ted a great number of American fishermen in Bay Chaleur, of whom but very few have taken out a license. A correspondent writing to the *Advocate*, published at Chatham, the special organ of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, tells the following story:—

"One day last month an American fishing vessel was seen about two miles from our shore. Our fishery overseer went on board, and found her using a seine *one hundred and twenty fathoms long, by eight deep*. She had on board about seventy barrels of *mackerel* —Since then quite a number of American vessels have been at work close to our shore, and this evening, there are between *one and two hundred* of them within two miles, doubtless engaged in fishing."

Is this the kind of protection the Confederates promised our fishermen they were to receive from the Dominion Government under Confederation? -*Halifax Citizen.*

The following are the latest quotations of insurance stock in the Liverpool market. The first column represents the amount of the share; the second the amount paid:

20	2	British & For. Marine (lim)	25-16	27-16p
20	2	Lancashire Insurance	13-16	15-16p
25	3½	London & Lancashire Insur.	2½	27-16d
20	2	Liv. & L & Globe Fire & Lf	4¾	5 p
10	2	Maritime Insurance (lim)	9-16	⅜p ⅝p
20	3	Mercantile Marine (lim)	1¾	1½d
100	5	Northern Assurance	4¼	4¾p
10	1	Queen Insurance	1-16d	par.
20	3	Royal Insurance.	3¼	3½p
20	2	Thames & Mersey Mar (lim).	2¾	2⅞p
50	5	Union Marine (limited)	4¼	4⅜p 4⅜p

MONEY MARKET.

AS will be seen from the bank returns published in other columns, there is greater activity in financial circles, and money is considerably more abundant, and can be borrowed easily on good securities.

Sterling Exchange is quiet; in New York the latest quotation is 109 for 60-day bills.

Gold in New York during the last week has remained quiet, the latest rate being 144. There is a fair supply of greenback and currency drafts on Boston or New York at 30¾ to 31¼ per cent discount.

There has been a considerable demand for Silver in order to move the grain in the country to market, and rates are now 3¼ for buying and 3 per cent discount for selling.

The following are the latest quotations of Sterling Exchange, &c:—

Bank on London, 60 days sight	108¾
" " sight	110
Private, " 60 days sight	108¼ to 108½
Bank in New York, 60 days sight	109 to 109¼
Gold Drafts on New York	Par
Gold in New York	144¾
Silver, arge	3¼ to 3 dis.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

Baillie, James, & Co.	May, Joseph.
Clark, Jas. P. & Co.	McLachlin Bros. & Co.
Claxton, T. James, & Co.	McMaster & Co., Wm. J.
Donnelly, James.	Moss, S. H., & J.
Foulds & McCubbin.	Muir, W., & R
Greenshields, S., Son & Co.	Plimsoll, Warnock & Co.
Hughes Brothers.	Roy, Jas., & Co.
Lewis, Kay & Co.	Robertson, Stephen, & Co.
MacKenzie, J. G. & Co.	Stirling, McCall & Co.

DURING the past week a considerable number of buyers have been in the city, and large sales have been effected. Cottons and fancy goods are generally most in demand, to the neglect of woollens, which are hard of disposal, especially flannels and blankets. The arrivals of dry goods per steamers are considerable, but not more than sufficient to meet the demand.