

A FAR-TRAVELLED TELEGRAM.—A remarkable instance of the value of the telegraph in abridging time and space and enabling many nations to join in being useful to each other has been recently brought under notice. A resident in Auburn, N. Y., wished to communicate with a person in Sydney, New South Wales, and sent him a telegram, on which sixty-five dollars were charged. Let the reader take a globe or map and trace the following route: To reach its destination, it had to traverse the Atlantic, Europe, Asia, and the Eastern Archipelago; passing over about two hundred and fifty degrees of longitude, and about ninety degrees of latitude. It passed through the United States, Newfoundland, Ireland, England, Germany, Russia (European and Asiatic), reaching Waldiwodstock in what is termed the third "region" of Siberia. Passing thence, the message next traversed the Yellow Sea to Shanghai, and passing through Nagasaki in Japan *en route*, and subsequently by the submarine cables touching at various points; finally starting from Bangowjie, the terminal point in Java, for Port Darwin, Australia, and so to its destination. The journey would exceed twenty thousand miles; being nearly equal to the earth's circumference, and almost double the direct distance between the points, had a westward route been open.

TESTING THE DYE OF PRINTED CALICOES.—The following method is employed by M. J. Reber, to distinguish calicoes that have been printed with madder dyes from those in which artificial alizarine has been employed. If the stuff be passed through a solution of potassic permanganate, then through an acid solution, the printed parts will turn reddish yellow if the dye be madder, and red if it be artificial alizarine. Successive treatment with potassic bichromate and nitric acid almost completely decolorises madder prints, while in the case of artificial alizarine the same red colour as above described will appear. If the samples thus treated be plunged into a bath of soda of 18 deg. Baume, for a couple of minutes, and then into another bath of hydrochloric acid of 20 deg. Baume, and subsequently washed, the artificial alizarine will give a yellow colour, whilst the madder dyes present a dirty orange tint.—*London Warehouseman*

SAVINGS-BANK DEPOSITS.—The fact that one-third of all the savings-banks deposits in the Old and New Worlds are held in the United States, conveys several important suggestions. The aggregate sum, as computed by Superintendent Lamb in his paper read before the Banker's Convention, is \$2,400,000,000 of which the proportion of Great Britain and the Continent is \$1,555,000,000 and that of the United States \$835,000,000—or, in round numbers, one-third. When it is considered that out of this enormous mass of savings, the American account is mainly held in the States, north of Mason and Dixon's line, the marked difference between the prosperity and frugality of the North and South gets a fresh and very striking illustration. The Eastern, Middle, and Western States, with their thrifty, industrious, and saving population, represent nine-tenths of the savings banks' accumulations—New York alone having 124 of these institutions, with 810,000 depositors, who hold \$300,000,000. Massachusetts and some of the Western States make a showing relatively as good as this. The South has had fourteen years for recuperation since the war, in which to repair damages, nurse industries, adjust the relations of labor, and start on a fresh path, but it has neither made money nor saved it, and is now in danger of losing the small amount of prosperity it still possesses, because its people are short-sighted and foolish. N. Y. *Commercial*.

—Although there are no people in the world so comfortable in circumstances as the Amer-

icans, says the Springfield *Republican*: "there are none who live, so far as their tables are concerned, at once so expensively and so unwholesomely. No one thing troubles physicians so much in their practice as the inability of a wife and mother to cook plain food well. The hard times of recent years have shown the want of knowledge and skill in this department to be a serious evil. A woman in a manufacturing town, talking over matters with her physician, pleaded poverty, saying they had one child and her husband earned only \$60 a month.

"And you can't live on sixty dollars a month?"

Her answer was: "Our grocer's bill is forty dollars—how can we?"

"Gracious!" said the doctor—one of our best physicians—"my grocer's bill isn't so much as that."

In talking it over he found that they had pie, cake and doughnuts every day, and for this horrible food they needed a great deal of butter—the most costly item in the grocer's list—as well as a great deal of sugar. Another instance: The food of another woman, with two babies, whose husband had deserted her, because, although the 'graduate' of 'a high-school,' she could neither cook nor sew, was, alas! for her babies and herself, doughnuts, hot soda biscuits and tea three times a day.

THE GROCER'S JOKE.—A grocer who had a little time to study human nature, wrote a note to several parties selected for the occasion, to the effect that he lost his account books, and must depend upon their honor to call and give in the balance against them. One of them replied that he presumed he owed three or four dollars, when the books showed that he owed twenty eight dollars; another thought there might be a possible balance against him, though he had been very careful to pay cash down, and yet his account was fourteen dollars and over. Out of twelve or fourteen customers, the grocer found one who replied that he owed three dollars and eighty cents, being fifty cents too much. He then wrote to each that he had found his books, and sent statement of account, and as they dropped into the store, one at a time, each laughed, shook hands, and remarked, "I knew it was one of your jokes, of course, so I thought I'd give you a chance to play it clear through."

—Chicago has just won a suit which will bring the city nearly \$1,500,000 of taxes unpaid in 1873 and 1874. By a special assessment of property within the city, a valuation for city purposes larger than the State valuation was obtained. Taxes to the amount of nearly \$10,000,000 were levied, of which \$7,500,000 were collected at the time. The courts once decided that a special valuation was illegal; but the Supreme Court declares valid a law re-imposing these doubtful unpaid taxes on the basis of the State valuation.

—The new liberal member for Glasgow, Mr. Charles Tennant, of Tennant's brewery, stands next to Herr Krupp as the largest employer of labor in the world. He has employment for eight thousand men, and at St. Rollox chemical works alone, two thousand men are engaged, while the remainder are employed at Jarrow, Newcastle-on-tyne and Deptford chemical works.

—The Canada Central Railway company has sold to Kuhn, Loeb & Co., of New York, representing a syndicate of New York and London bankers, its entire issue of first mortgage bonds, \$2,500,000 in amount. The interest is guaranteed by the Dominion of Canada.

—The New Brunswick & Canada Railway company is building a branch 6½ miles long from McAdam Junction, N. B., to Vanceboro. The work is light, and it is expected to be fin-

ished in September. The object seems to be to secure a connection with the European & North American without using the St. John Maine track.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 19th August 1879.

The excitement of last week seems to have subsided, but confidence does not appear to be restored. It will be some time before the consequences of the recent Bank failures can be fully developed. Business has not improved much in the city; and although orders are coming in very freely both for Dry Goods and Boots and Shoes, their amounts as a rule are much smaller than usual. Merchants are sanguine that a large sorting up trade will be done after the harvest has been brought to market. The Flour market has been quite stagnant all week until yesterday, when there was more inclination shown to buy at reduced rates. Nothing has been done in Grain, and prices here are nominal.

ASHES—Pots.—The market for ashes has been fairly active, but prices are, if anything, a trifle lower than those of this day week; firsts have been selling at \$3.65 to 3.70, some very choice tares bringing a little more. Seconds sold from \$3.10 to 3.15. *Pearls* have been coming in much more freely, and prices have declined to \$6.20, not much doing. The stocks at present in the Inspection Stores are, Pots 1,721 brls; Pearls 137 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Trade remains quiet, but fairly good. Orders are mostly all taken for the time being, but prospects for sorting up are considered good. Prices are very firm, and likely to remain so as stock has advanced. We continue to quote *Men's Stoga Boots* \$1.65 to 2.50; ditto *Kip Boots* \$2.50 to 3.00; ditto *French Calf* \$3.25 to 3.75; ditto *Ruff Congress* \$2.00 to 2.25; *Boys Split Brogans* 90c to \$1.00; ditto *Buff* and *Pebbled Congress* \$1.50; *Womens Buff* and *Pebbled Balmorals* \$1.15 to 1.75; ditto *Prunella Balmorals* 50c to \$1.50 ditto; *Prunella Congress* 50c to \$1.25.

CATTLE.—There was a very poor demand yesterday for the large stock of cattle offering, and the most part were taken away unsold. Some very fine stock were brought up at equal to 6c per lb. for shipment to England, but the general range was from 3c to 5c, according to quality. *Hogs* were not very plentiful; sales averaged from \$4.60 to 4.75 per 100 lbs. live weight.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There is very little change to note in this branch of trade, business reported to be quite of a jibbing character. *Morphine* is advancing. Sales of all articles reported are within our range of quotations. We quote *Bi Carb Soda*, \$2.90 to 3; *Soda Ash* \$1.40 to 1.75; *Bi Chromate of Potash*, \$10.50 to 12.50; *Borax*, 10 to 12c; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 24½ to 26c; ditto ground 26½ to 28c; *Wt Caustic Soda*, \$2.15 to 2.25; *Sugar of Lead*, 11 to 12c; *Bleaching Powder*, \$1.30 to 1.40; *Alum*, \$1.55 to 1.70; *Copperas*, 1c; *Sulphur*, 2½ to 3c; *Roll Sulphur*, 2½ to 2¾c; *Epsom Salts*, per 100 lbs., \$1.25 to 1.50; *Sal Soda*, per 100 lbs., 95c to \$1.00; *Saltpetre*, per keg, \$8.50 to 9.00; *Sulphate of Copper*, 5 to 5½c; *Whiting*, 45 to 50c per cwt; *Opium* \$5.25 to 5.50; *Quinine* \$4.30 to 4.40 per oz; *Iodide of Potassium*, \$6.00 to 6.25 per lb; *Bromide of Potassium* 45 to 50c per lb; *Morphine* \$2.75 to 2.90 per oz.; *Castor Oil* 11½ to 12½c; *Cod Liver Oil*, Newfld., 95c to \$1.10 per gal.

DRY GOODS.—Orders are coming in pretty