

herself under the elevated train because she couldn't pay her bills and who turned out to have more money due to her than she owed. He told of the grocer in a small way who failed, having \$5,000 due him for groceries from one family who lived on Fifth avenue. He told of the fashionable dame who owed her dressmaker \$150, paid \$50 on account and went to Europe, leaving the balance until fall and leaving the dressmaker to distressful shame meantime. He told also of the physician whose bill went unpaid so very long that at last he remonstrated, and the lady coolly told him she had had the money three times from her husband, but had put it each time to other uses.

It might offend rich folks or fine ladies to ask them to read and profit by the sentiments of "The Song of the Shirt." But if this poem should seem to reflect too severely upon them we would recommend that they read "The Lady's Dream," by the same great moralist, and learn that

Evil is wrought by want of thought
As well as by want of heart.

BUCKET SHOP GAMBLING.

The report of the Bankers' Section of the Montreal Board of Trade calls attention to the renewal of Canadian bank charters which will probably take place during the present session of Parliament, and suggests improvements in the Bank Act. This it is probable the Bankers' Association will look after, but the Section makes reference to the Bank Ville Marie failure as a lesson taught the community that provision should be made to prevent over issue of bank circulation. It is also of the opinion that some further effort should be made to banish dealing in stocks, bonds, etc., on margin, by and through irresponsible parties. The difficulty is recognized of framing a measure that will prevent such speculations without impeding legitimate business. But the Section considers that it would be of mutual advantage if brokers would communicate to bank managers and even to managers of mercantile houses the names of clerks placing orders with them.

Such a virtuously simple proceeding on the part of brokers generally is, we fear, too much to expect. Why should brokers as a class be regarded as any more unselfish than other people. Of course, there are brokers and brokers: some would honorably refuse the money of a youngster who was disposed to run the risk of ruin by gambling on margin, even though they might not be disposed to tell his employer on him. Yet there are other brokers to whom it would not appear a duty to do either the one thing or the other. All is fish that comes to the net of such people, and they do not propose to be their brothers' keepers, especially when to do so would lessen their business. To banish gambling on margin is something devoutly to be wished; its evils have been recognized for many years and yet it does not seem to be lessening, but increasing. The disposition to gamble in some way is deeply rooted in human nature; any exciting tidings of a new avenue of speculation; every fresh mining "boom"; the many schemes of industrial trusts, so promising of late years to a speculator—all these have fed the appetite.

Indeed we fear that bankers and merchants have not been strict enough, have not fully realized the extent to which their clerks and employees are addicted to gambling, whether in bucket shops or more reputable places. We have heard many instances where youngsters of twenty were venturing a week's or even a month's pay at a time on margin. Would that a stop could be put to such dangerous folly! Meantime employers should take pains to let it be known that every gambling employee is a

marked man. If indulgence in the habit should cost a few score of clerks their positions, it might "encourage the others" to leave gambling shops alone.

SOME GROCERY FEATURES.

Although this is one of the quietest seasons of the year for jobbing grocers, and there are no exciting features at the moment, a few circumstances connected with the trade merit notice. The continued firmness in Rio coffees has excited remark and some people wonder that it has not extended to other brands. But the cause of the advance in Rios is local, the bubonic plague, to wit, and the milder Arabian and West Indian sorts are not affected in price. There is a marked scarcity of Louisiana sugars, and as a consequence cane syrups and molasses have gone up two cents per gallon. The firmness in sugars both in the United States and Canada is assisted by the fact that beets are cabled higher, and the visible supply of sugar beets in Europe is less than that of last year.

It may be remarked, by the way, that the industry of sugar beet growing is making substantial progress in the United States. Indeed, the number of points in the State of Michigan alone at which sugar factories exist, and around which sugar beets are grown is quite surprising. And Canada should watch this object lesson carefully, for if Michigan can make the beet sugar industry pay surely Ontario can do so likewise. The feature of the market in teas this year is the increase in orders for Ceylon teas in bulk for import. There are now standards established in these whereon purchasers can consistently depend; the teas are classified as to district and quality just as Chinese teas have long been. The business now passing in teas generally at Montreal and Toronto is fair, both for spot trade and import. All kinds of fish are in very brisk demand, doubtless because the Lenten season approaches; prices are firm, too, the supply of all kinds being in moderate compass. There is no particular change to note in canned fruits or vegetables, but holders are very firm on some brands of fish and meat.

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

Japanese publications continue to advocate the more general cultivation of silk. One of these papers in a recent article on the subject, says: "Japan cannot be any longer doubtful that her future lies in the direction of manufactures, and it is equally plain that the hundreds of millions of inhabitants of Europe and America are ready to take any quantity of silk she has to offer."

Manchester cable advices of last Monday showed the cotton industry to be in good shape. Engagements are so heavy and extended as to secure very profitable employment of all available machinery for a long time. Yarns closed fully 1-16d. higher on the week. Egyptian yarns and fine goods attained remarkably high prices. The margin is still splendid; but the continued furious rise is beginning to excite apprehension.

Are you taking advantage of the rise in all textiles and marking up your selling prices accordingly? If not you are not doing yourself justice. Don't be too much afraid of losing trade. Get your rights in the shape of a decent profit.

In silk piece goods it is believed that plaids for the better class of trade will have a large sale this year.

The N.Y. Bulletin learns that the American Woolen Company's sales have been enormous. The volume of them has been "guessed" at all the way from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 for the eight days since the new serges and fancies were opened; that is from about 15 to 40 per cent. of an entire year's production of the combined mills.

The silk trade of Rouen is active, with rising prices all round.

Notions, trimmings and silk ribbons are in enormous stock and very unusual variety in the New York market.

The raw cotton market shows firmness. In New York on Wednesday speculative dealings continued on a fairly extensive scale and for the day prices show a slight advance. One of the principal bull factors in the Liverpool market was the unfavorable prospects for the next Egyptian cotton crop, owing to the lower waters in the Nile. Advices from the Southern States continued to report firm markets, although according to the