

We hear of a proposed Ontario Vessel Owners' and Captains' Association in the nature of a grand combination, or pool. And we are told that circulars have issued from Toronto, calling a general meeting of delegates from the Provincial ports at St. Catharines, February 23, to complete the organization. "The main object appears to be the appointment of a member as agent at each port throughout the Province, to have control of all vessels, of the harbor tugs, and of the negotiations for charters, and also to attend generally to the interest of the vessels, and to correspond with other port agents and with headquarters. The Association proposes also to put tugs on at certain ports. to own wrecking-tugs, etc., etc.,

Two communications reach us on the same day: one illustrating tardy honesty and the other life-long ingratitude. To dispose of the latter first: it describes the case of a man who had been in his early years befriended by a fellow-boarder, in the way of small loans of money, a personal bond and even the supply of the necessities of life. When a time comes, however, in which the respective positions of the parties are reversed, and the recipient of these benefactions becomes a creditor (for merchandise) of their bestower, he is the first to refuse discharge in insolvency to his benefactor—unsuccessful as a merchant but not dishonest and votes to deprive him of his household goods! It is as if this ingrate had, to quote Pollok,

"With one hand put
A penny in the urn of poverty,
And with the other took a shilling out."

It is a relief to turn to the other case, in which the letter subjoined tells its own story. The death of the merchant to whom it is addressed only makes it the more touching:

(Copy)

200 M. Avenue,
Detroit, Mich. Jan. 11 '81.

Mr. Thos. Haworth

Toronto.

Dear Sir,—Will you please let me know if you have anything on your saddlery or hardware books charged to me sometime about 1856 to 1860. I cannot locate the date any nearer than that, but I bought some tools from you when I worked for C. Ludford, Thornhill, and never paid you for them. Please send bill, I don't know how much it is.

JOHN ———.

A good story of a commercial traveller is told in *Harper's Magazine* as follows: Before the erection of the new pier at the castle rock, passengers from Dumbarton had to be conveyed down the Leven to the Clyde steamer by a ferry-boat, rowed by two elderly ferrymen. On one occasion an English commercial traveller had seated himself on the gunwale at the stern. One of the old ferrymen warned the man of his danger: "Noo mamon, come doon aff that, or ye'll coup ower." The bagman only replied by telling him to "mind his own business, and trust him to take care of himself." No sooner had the rope been attached and the boat got the inevitable tug from the steamer, than the fellow went heels up over the stern. "Gowk! I tell him that." However, being in the water, it behoved that every effort should be made to save him.

So the ferryman made a grab at what seemed the hair of his head, when a wig came away. Throwing this impatiently into the boat, he made a second grip at the collar of his shirt, when a front came away. Casting this from him with still greater scorn, he shouted to his companion, "Tummas, come here and help to save as muckle o' this man as ye can, for he's comin' a awa' in bitts."

RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

	Week ending	Total earnings.	Like period 1879.	Increase or decrease.
G. T. R.	Jan. 22	\$190,877	\$177,605	\$13,272
G. W. R.	" 21	91,075	86,148	4,927
N. & N. W.	" 22	15,628	15,022	606
Can. Central	" 21	7,787	4,178	3,609
Midland	" 21	3,327	3,201	126
T. G. & B.	" 21	3,337	3,18	159
T. & Nip.	" 21	2,152	1,547	605
W. P. & L.	" 6			

—The year 1880 has not proved a profitable one to American manufacturers of silk goods. Protection was greatly stimulated and while the spring business was more active and "rushing" the fall market was overburdened by the home production added to large importations. But appearances now indicate that the excessive production will not be carried into another season. The Silk Association of America thus states the production of finished goods in the United States for the year ending December 31, 1879:

Machine twist	\$5,891,300
Sewing silk	778,250
Floss silk	166,935
Dress goods	3,896,525
Satins	1,100,175
Tie silks and scarfs	547,675
Millinery silks	977,495
Broad goods not above enumerated	538,655
Handkerchiefs	3,583,125
Ribbons	5,537,205
Laces	406,300
Braids and bindings	828,255
Fringes, dress and cloak trimmings	3,590,860
Cords, tassels, and millinery trimmings	930,540
Upholstery and military trimmings	947,405
Other trimmings	141,180
Silk value in upholstery and mixed goods	123,750
Total	\$29,983,630

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*Are very busy opening
SPRING GOODS.*

Travellers orders are receiving attention as fast as goods arrive.