

and the third to France. In my country, he says, merely a quantity of silver goods is sent. The only thing he has in special commendation in the exhibits was the church plate, plain and gilt, such as chalices, flagons, and cups. It arrives at is this:—"In my croak about our lack of money, there is not one nation on earth that can beat us in the articles we produce. Specially, by reason of work, for lower wages, some of the price." This is true and so is Mr. Pettifer's. England has very little to lose by contributing to the kind.

In my mind, of course, that of the Englishmen. If French, or German, or even Americans, they might have a different view. Still, the reports I have quoted above, judging from the face of an effort to be fair, there is quite enough in the feeling of satisfaction that has made such great progress in the thirty odd years since the first great Exhibition. I lamentably behind her in matters of taste.

any report been made of various handicrafts who were at the Paris Exposition by the American Newspapers? In book form we have seen, though we are aware that they were sent home by those to time.

AT CHRISTMAS.

We have received quite a number of complimentary letters to THE MONETARY TIMES and take pleasure in making of these, which show that a journal worthy of its place by the class for whom it is written.

Montreal: "I beg that you paper to the bank instead of my. The subscription is for me and those who work in REVIEW is necessary to all under how you manage to get so small a subscription." Farnham, Que., writes: "I am glad when you said you had any presents this year, for, well, for, with such a subscription to THE MONETARY TIMES at \$2 a year, I could afford to give presents to my live besides, at such a price for subscription to it, I don't think I am making much getting full value in it."

grocer at Dunnville: "I have had a week to the arrival of which furnishes news to every merchant. It is valuable, as they are independent standpoint, and in forming an unprejudiced public questions."

Calkin, dealer in hardware materials at Kentville, only too happy to add

my quota to the many well-earned encomiums passed upon your valuable journal. I desire also to convey to you my little meed of thanks for your painstaking efforts tending to the welfare of our common country and the mercantile community in particular."

Referring to our postal card reminder, headed "About a Little Matter," Messrs. McCleary & McLean, lumberers and manufacturers of wood goods at Thorold, pen the following practical note: "We have your 'Little Matter' before us. We cannot possibly give it further consideration than this: to go to our till, extract four dollars therefrom, and enclose herewith, which same you will find. Give us the necessary credit and send on your always welcome and instructive paper, wishing you a Merry Xmas and Good New Year."

We have pleasant recollections of Springhill as a delightfully hospitable place, we "have been there and still would go." It is a lively, bustling community, with the biggest and best attended church for a small place we ever saw, and its mines turn out (or did, in Leckie's time) more coal per man than any other round about. It is near the shores of the Basin of Minas, besides, where you are freely invited to fill your pockets with Blomidon amethysts. Either on sea or shore, above-ground or below, Springhill, N. S., is an interesting place. Furthermore, it is the dwelling-place of R. B. Murray, who thus responds to our seductive Christmas card:

"Springhill, N.S., Dec. 12, 1889.

"EDWARD!—He would have to be a flinty-hearted 'son of a gun' who could resist your winning appeal to pay up. You are somewhat of a philosopher, Edward, and have studied human nature. You knew that this sugar-coated piece of humor would have far more weight and yield a larger amount of remittances than a curt 'Please remit.' I prophesy that you will have no difficulty in making collections if you keep this sort of thing up. R. S. V. P., Edward, renew my subscription for another year.

"R. B. MURRAY."

From R. Graham & Son, for twenty-five years dealers in dry goods, millinery, etc., hats and caps, at Lakefield, Ont., we hear:—"Find enclosed two dollars to change the label on our paper for another year. We could hardly get along without THE MONETARY TIMES."

Jas. H. Lennon, auctioneer, real estate and insurance agent, at Lindsay, writes:

"As Christmas is near
I thought of good cheer,
So would not appear
In your book at New Year."

Please find enclosed \$2.00, which kindly acknowledge and oblige." Was it by way of a Christmas joke that Mr. Lennon neglected to enclose his two dollars?

Dixon Brothers, general merchants at Maple Creek, N. W. T., write: "THE MONETARY TIMES is at all times a welcome visitor at our office."

From Mount Pleasant, in the County of Durham, Mr. J. J. McIndoo writes: "Some call your paper the business man's Testament. I know that I value it very highly."

A Hamilton subscriber tells us that the Factory Notes and Shop Hints "are well-chosen and practical, hope you will continue them, for they are not only interesting reading but they are often just so much capital to a manufacturer. Should think the Grocer's Column and the Shoe Trade Items worth attention by those trades too. You give good money's worth, I must say."

LEATHER.

During December the volume of trade in leather has been smaller than usual. This is rather difficult to account for, but may probably be put down to the bad country roads, backward payments, and almost general stock-taking. We hear of no marked accumulation of any description of leather at the end of the year, although values in some black leathers, such especially as splits and light harness, are

weaker, and heavy upper is in very poor request. Prime jobbing stock is in fair supply now with quotations well maintained. Heavy prime harness sells well. In other lines, especially imported leathers, there is no marked movement. The enquiry for French kip has been very good during the fall, and the year closes with probably the smallest stock on hand of this description of upper stock that this market has known for a long time.

In Montreal the present is a quiet season, partly because the shoe factory employes go in for a good time at "Noel" and prolong it to "le Jour de l'An." But after the New Year is properly welcomed the factories will be busy, for there have been a fair aggregate of orders taken. There is no scarcity of leather on the Montreal market. The reports from Britain state that demand is improved and stocks declining a little, so that they begin to hope for an improvement in price.

The volume and character of the trade during the year has been on the whole fairly satisfactory. Profits have not been large, but the aggregate of business done has been fairly large. There appears to be no disposition to despondency, but the prospect for next season is fair. Probably the worst feature is that of payments, which are not up to the mark.

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

Our Montreal correspondent, writing on Christmas Day, but hardly in Christmas mood, refers with manifest impatience to the number of recent retail failures not only in the East but in the West. He says: "There have been two or three late failures among the Quebec city trade, following the collapse of the several old time and somewhat extensive concerns recently noted in our summary columns, but these have been discounted to some extent, as it has been apparent that the retail dry goods trade of the Ancient Capital has been largely overdone of late. West of Toronto there are considerable signs of weakness in the trade, and several of our leading houses have been gradually reducing their risks in this quarter."

There is no doubt too great a number of retailers in the business. Indeed, there has always been too many, but of late years when expenses of living are increased at the same time that profits are reduced by competition, the disparity between the limited volume of trade to be done and the eager crowd who is pressing to do it is more marked.

We remark as to the December trade that the warm weather has been most prejudicial to sales of heavy woollens, furs, and such goods. In many cases purchases of retailers in the early fall are not yet broken in upon by reason of the lack of snow and cold. Some holiday goods have sold, of course, but the volume would have been far greater had the weather been seasonable. There have been already shipments of spring goods bought by undoubted retailers for early delivery. It sounds oddly to hear of spring goods wanted delivered in December. But the fact is that a lot of staples are among these, and the staples are got and sold in January and February, while they do not have to be paid for, under our beautiful system of credit, until four months from 1st of March or April. We need not wonder that retailers wish to continue this vicious system of forward dating, but we may well wonder that importers continue it. Experiences differ as to remittances in these last three months. Nearly every one found November unsatisfactory; many find December almost as bad, but some few declare that they

were well paid during this month, which is to be wondered at, considering the roads.

In textiles generally prices continue firm, in some they are advancing, especially in wool. Trade is very brisk with woollen producers in England, and the French makers of dress goods, at Roubaix and other points, are so full that no orders can be placed with them for delivery before 1st March. With respect to domestic products we are told that in both woollens and cottons there is an upward tendency. There appears to be no great overproduction in knitted underwear, for dealers have had to pay 50 cents per dozen advance on repeat orders.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

At a meeting of the New Brunswick Board of Health, held at Fredericton last week, it was decided to ask the Dominion Government to secure the passage of an Act to restrict the sale of poisons. A committee was appointed for the purpose. It is said that there is a very large demand for morphine in New Brunswick cities, and particularly in Fredericton. The board at this meeting consolidated all the existing regulations. The changes made were immaterial.

A lawsuit now before the courts in Montreal is of interest to pharmacists. A French-Canadian practitioner, wishing to prescribe quinine for a child, through absent-mindedness wrote upon his prescription bisulphate of morphine, instead of bisulphate of quinine. The paper was taken to an apothecary, whose assistant, perceiving an error at once, attempted a substitution, and made up the powders with sulphate of morphine. The result was fatal. And now a curiously complicated question has to be settled by the judges. The father of the child has sued the doctor because it was through his absent-mindedness that the child lost its life. The doctor has sued the apothecary for all the damages to which the father's suit may put him. He pleads that he ordered bisulphate of morphine, and that if such a substance existed and if the apothecary had sent it to the child he would be responsible, but he never ordered sulphate of morphine, and it was the sulphate of morphine that killed the child.

Out of 86 samples of cream of tartar collected by Government officers in Ontario, Quebec, N. S. and N. B., and subjected to analysis, 52 were found to be genuine, 13 adulterated, 18 were phosphate substitutes, and 3 alum substitutes. Quebec shows worse than the other provinces in this respect. The adulteration takes various forms, wheat flour, maize, rice flour, potato starch, alumina and iron, maize starch, maize and potato. The adulterated articles are diluted by such ingredients as calcium tartrate and sulphate, sulphate of lime, sulphate of lime and corn starch, calcium tartrate and rice flour, &c.

Cinnamon bark is used to flavor chocolate and puddings, as an ingredient in the "incense" of Romanist churches, and a constituent of Thorley's food for horses. In medicine and confectionery the bark and oil are used to some extent, while cinnamon and sulphur are combined in a new mode of preserving food. In the time of the Dutch monopoly the famous cinnamon of Ceylon, the finest by far produced in the world, occasionally realised for first-class bark nearly £1 in money for one pound of bark, and even in 1830, in the British period, the average price of Ceylon cinnamon in the London market was 3s. per lb. Thence the descent was rapid under the influence of the