

While the American papers are claiming the recent passage of a new Inman Line steamer as the fastest ever made across the Atlantic, *i. e.* from Liverpool to New York in 7 days and 6 hours and a half, the London *Times* of late date declares the fastest ocean-going steamer in the world to be the *Stirling Castle*, in the China trade, which made, in March, on the River the rate of 18.42 knots or 21 $\frac{3}{10}$ miles per hour. She is built of steel, is 430 feet long, 50 ft. beam; and 33 feet deep, registering 4,300 tons. Her engines are of the three-cylinder kind, 8,237 horse power. She was tried with a cargo of 3,000 tons dead weight on board. Some of the speed is due to the character of the propeller. It is made of manganese bronze, is 22 feet, 4 inches in diameter, with a pitch of 31 feet, revolving 66 times per minute.

Mr. G. R. McLennan, a small grocer at Cornwall, has assigned in trust for the benefit of creditors. Messrs. Chapman Bros., doing business in tinware in a small way in Hamilton are reported to have left the city. Apparent assets, 12 boxes of tin. Jno. Rellis, an industrious blacksmith for many years, at St. Thomas, has assigned. Latterly his habits were not good; too much corn-juice was probably his ruin. W. C. Fox & Co., jewellers, whose store was burglarized in March last, have not recovered their loss, and the bailiff is now in possession on a landlord's warrant. S. R. Loane, a city saloon keeper who has been in business over twenty years, and at one time was said to be worth over \$10,000, has failed. James Croskery, a shoemaker at Gorrie, has compromised with his creditors at one half of his indebtedness. From what has since transpired, we judge that he ought to have paid in full with interest.

SOMETHING over a year ago, quantities of shellac varnish, belonging to Messrs. James Harty & Co., of Kingston, were seized at New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and elsewhere, by the United States Customs' authorities, for supposed infractions of the revenue laws. The American press insinuated that the firm was undervaluing its wares, but the Government allowed month after month to pass without forfeiting the goods. At length Messrs. Harty & Co. addressed the Secretary of the Treasury, personally, setting forth the facts, and asking him to command an investigation. He ordered one of the N. Y. District attorneys to look into the matter, which has been done. His report, as we learn from the *Kingston Whig*, shows Harty & Co. to have acted in compliance with the regulations of the American authorities, and to have entered their goods at a rate fixed by the Customs' people. He therefore recommended that the goods be at once released, which was done. The Treasury Dept. ordered the goods to be released and all proceedings against the importers to be abandoned, the Government paying costs, but, it seems, nothing for damages, for it would not do to be held responsible for the bungling of subordinate officials.

FASHION'S CHANGES.

The dry goods dealer must always know what the fashion is in ladies' dress modes and materials, and should know also what it is going to be. The milliner, too, must keep track of fashion's vagaries. We find the following seasonable hints in the N. Y. *Tribune* :—

Neck ribbons are revived, and new mantles have paniers; white vests take the place of fichus. Black braid is used to trim colored dresses. Neckchiefs are tied in large bows. Berry buttons are used in jet and pearl. Shirts are narrow, but bustles are large. Japanese crimped crape is used for bonnets. Ivory white is the fashionable shade of white, and India linen is used for white morning dresses. Embroidered silk muslin and nuns' veiling are the finest fabrics for white dresses. Cream white cotton grenadine is made up over satin and trimmed with flowers cut out of cretonne for summer dresses. A bonnet, fan and parasol are made to match these. Breakfast caps are of silk muslin embroidered. Shoulder capes cross in front in surplice style. Diamond-shaped openings are on new corsages. Small black Neapolitan bonnets are fashionable, and ostrich feathers droop over the front edge of large straw hats. Braiding on jackets bids fair to become very common. Veronese green is an artistic shade for spring dresses.

Watering place dresses for day and evening are short. Smooth English Cloths are more stylish than chevrons, and remember, soldier-blue is the popular shade for cloth jackets and suits. Wild rose pink is the stylish color for evening dresses. Worth uses striped and changeable silks in his richest dresses. Jersey jackets are preferred to the masculine English walking jackets. Persian cloth mantles trimmed with chenille fringe are very fashionable. Basques with skirts of different fabrics are still popular and are economical. Puffs of ruffles are more stylish than pleatings for edging dress skirts. Silk underclothing in princess shapes is worn with the new costumes. Japanese satins have heads, birds, fans, screens and letters printed upon them. Brick-red silk stockings with neck ribbons to match are worn with black dresses. Flannel dresses for seaside and mountains are of soldier-blue or mustard color.

—A letter-carrier in Meriden, Conn., whose wife has inherited \$60,000 still goes his rounds, although the Postmaster has several applications for his place.

Making maple sugar is a "live industry" in the Eastern Townships. The season, which is about closed, has been a moderately good one for the running of sap. One "sugar-bush" proprietor at Abbotsford, got 2,150 pounds of sugar out of the product of his maple-trees. Another, near by, lost all his sugar and syrup and some 300 sap tins by a fire which consumed his cabin and contents.

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