

THE TRADER.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

To ensure insertion, changes or new advertisements must be sent to the office not later than the 27th of each month.

Editorial.

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

The present is the season of congratulations and good wishes, and for the fourth time we have pleasure in availing ourselves of the opportunity of saying a few kind words to each of our readers. Looking back on the year that has just passed away, we think most of our friends will agree with us that, as a people, Canadians have very much to be thankful for. Our country has enjoyed the blessings of peace and prosperity within its borders, our fields have furnished an abundant harvest to the husbandmen, prices for most kinds of produce are high enough to amply repay the grower for his toil; our manufacturing industries have greatly increased in number and in the quality and variety of their productions. Our great North-Western country has developed with an almost amazing rapidity, and the Trans-Continental railroad, which is to unite our scattered Provinces into one solid confederation, has been pushed ahead with a speed that has outstripped the anticipations of even the most sanguine.

In a word, our affairs are in a highly prosperous condition, and though there is and must always be exceptional cases, the great mass of our people are much better off than they were at this time last year. Of course all of us have had our trials and troubles, and no doubt

many of us thought that perhaps we had more than our share; but, in spite of all that is past, we think most of us will look back to the year 1882 as one of the best and brightest in our lives. Life is not all saccharine matter, as some would have us believe, neither on the contrary is it all vinegar; but we think most of us will agree that the sweets are more plentiful than the bitter, and the memory of our many joys dwells with us longer than the recollection of our sorrows. It is well that this is so, for it would be ill for us if the paralyzing influences of sorrow failed to be chased away by the soothing influences of our more cheerful surroundings.

This being the case we think that most of our readers as they look back on the year that has just passed, will, taking it all together, regard it as a good year and a bright one. May the new year on which we are about to enter prove equally fruitful to us of prosperity and happiness. And now in this season of mirth and good-fellowship, although we cannot shake them all by the hand, we desire to wish our readers one and all a Happy New Year, and to say like little Tiny Tim, "God bless us every one."

TORONTO AS A TRADE CENTRE.

We have frequently felt called upon to draw the attention of our readers to the wonderful growth of Toronto as a commercial city, and have pointed out the fact that its geographical position and unrivalled facilities for communication with the richest provinces of Canada, are bound to make it in the near future one of the most important trade centres on this continent. Containing as it does with its suburbs, a population of nearly one hundred thousand inhabitants, its purely local trade is in itself no small item, but when to this is added the large and ever growing wholesale trade that this city now possesses, it will easily be seen that its residents may safely congratulate themselves on being "citizens of no mean city." It is now an almost admitted fact that Toronto now controls the wholesale trade of Ontario, at present the richest province of our great Dominion. In addition to this she is making a strong bid for a goodly share of the immense trade that must shortly spring up in the fertile prairie lands of our wonderful Western Provinces. As

these fertile bolts consist mostly of agricultural lands, and must of necessity be peopled mainly by immigration, it can be easily seen that for many years to come it will be almost an impossibility for manufacturing centres to spring up in a country where wages and living of all kinds are as high as they must necessarily be there. This being the case, these western agricultural provinces will have to look to the populous Eastern Provinces for the manufactured goods that they will for many years be compelled to buy with the product of their farms. This trade, which must shortly grow to gigantic proportions, will have three strong competitors: Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, three cities that are bound ere another decade to rank among the commercial centres of the world. In this race for commercial supremacy, Montreal has a slight advantage from its proximity to the seaboard, but against this, Toronto has the command of the trade of the magnificent Province of which it is the capital, and its advantage in distance to the prairie provinces. Winnipeg, although having many drawbacks, has one great advantage, it is like the man in possession, on the field and always ready to do the business. So far as present appearances go then the chances of those three cities for the possession of this market seem almost equal, and we very much doubt if any one of them will ever get much more than its legitimate share of the immense trade that must very soon spring up in that wonderful western country.

Any one looking at the Toronto of today and the Toronto of twenty, or even ten years ago, can hardly fail to be struck by the great strides it has been making. Its buildings are larger, coslier and of greater architectural beauty, its streets are better drained, better paved and better lighted, its public buildings are worthy of the province they represent, and its private residences vie with those of any city on this continent, and worthy of the city "whose merchants are princes and whose traffickers are the honourable men of the earth."

As a manufacturing centre, Toronto, although at present probably the second city in the Dominion, bids fair ere long to lead the van in this department of Canadian enterprise. In every quarter of the city, tall chimneys may be seen belching forth the smoke and steam, that