

CITY CHIMES.

On Monday evening next the Academy of Music will be opened for a six weeks' season by the E. A. McDowell Comedy Company. Every preparation has been made to make this season a successful one. Arrangements to have the stage lighted with 150 incandescent lights and many other improvements have been made. The first play to be produced is "May Blossom," which will (as well as the other plays to follow) be put on with new and beautiful scenery, the work of Mr. Adrien, a well known New York artist. "May Blossom" is a beautiful drama and is altogether wholesome and pure. The other plays to be produced are all good ones and have been successful in large cities. Mr. Clark deserves credit for bringing this first-class company to Halifax and should be rewarded by a liberal patronage.

The Royal Blues sports in the Exhibition Building on Tuesday evening were witnessed by about 800 people. The military gymnasium instructors went through some difficult and graceful movements on the horizontal and parallel bars. The band of the West Riding Regiment played a choice selection of music during the evening.

The Y. M. L. A. have arranged a choice programme of lectures and amusements for the winter. His Grace Archbishop O'Brien, Hon A. G. Jones and Mr. R. Motton are among the lecturers. There will also be several social, musical and literary entertainments, as well as debates, all of which will no doubt be thoroughly enjoyable. The course opens with a social and dance on Thanksgiving night.

The bazaar held in Dartmouth last Thursday and Friday by the "Steadfast" circle of the King's Daughters, was very successful. The tables were well covered with a variety of seasonable and saleable articles and the affair was liberally patronized. The sum of \$170 was realized, \$100 of which is to be given to the Sailor's Home and the remaining \$70 to other charities. This is a very good showing for the work of 30 people.

The Rev. Dr. Laing in a sermon in St. Matthew's Church on Sunday last, made reference to the state of the dwellings of the poor of our city. He said in effect that many of them were physical and moral pest houses with no excuse for their existence but the cupidity of the owners, who collect rent for these hovels which are not fit for human habitations. He urged that the citizens arouse themselves to remedy this state of affairs. He took for his text Matthew, "th chapter, 36th verse. "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were distressed, and scattered as sheep not having a shepherd."

Christmas is not quite eight weeks' away and as usual we can hardly believe it. Already mysterious bits of work are kept out of sight of certain members of the family, and fathers and brothers have well grounded suspicions that slippers, smoking caps, tobacco pouches, and sundry articles useful to gentlemen, are in course of construction. The little ones are preparing lists of what they want, to leave where papa or mamma will be likely to see it and so make probable the fulfilment of their wishes.

St. Luke's Cathedral was re-opened on Sunday last, after being closed for repairs and alterations for three months. The sermon in the morning was by Rev. Hoher Bullock, and in the evening by His Lordship Bishop Courtney. Large congregations were present.

Last Sunday was generally observed as Dispensary Sunday, except in the Catholic churches, which will make an offering for this purpose next Sunday. Some few churches have not yet contributed, and in these a collection will be taken up on Thanksgiving Day. The Dispensary is one of our best and most deserving charitable institutions and should be remembered by all who have the welfare of the poor and sick at heart.

It is a wonder some enterprising boy does not start in business as a crossing sweeper. The need of such a person has been painfully apparent during the past week where the beautiful plastic mud has heaped itself thick on the crossings. Once upon a time the crossings were rounded up and the mud ran off, but now that most of them have been re-laid level with the street, their usefulness is much impaired. A broom would be all the stock in trade required for the business of keeping them clean, and one boy could attend to several. At least it could do no harm to try the plan, for until the snow comes we shall have more mud than we have any use for and it should be kept off the crossings if possible.

The paintings by Miss Howard, of the Halifax Ladies College, have been on exhibition during the afternoons of this week. They consist chiefly of oil and water color paintings and sketches from nature, most of them representing scenery on the Hudson and Nevernink rivers, and other places in the United States. There were also a few pieces of china very prettily decorated with conventional designs. A particularly striking picture is of Falstaff, the original being by Elliott of New York. The expression in this picture is capital. Miss Howard has also a few sketches in water colors of trees at Cow Bay, which are very artistic. We cannot describe any of the pictures owing to want of space, but we recommend those interested in art to go and see for themselves. If Miss Howard's ability as a teacher equals her skill as an artist she will certainly be successful in her work.

COMMERCIAL.

The weather has continued unsettled, and that has had an effect in retard-

ing business, which is generally very brisk from the middle of October for about five or six weeks. Still, the movement of goods has been fairly general, and on the whole is in satisfactory form. Payments as a rule have been as prompt as could be expected. Continued rains have put the country roads in such a condition that travelling and the delivery of merchandise are very difficult. If we are favored with fair, cool weather it would give a great impetus to trade, as country dealers do not appear to be well stocked up at present, and are only awaiting favorable weather conditions to send in their orders for winter supplies. Meanwhile the trade here is largely confined to filling sorting-up orders for fall goods.

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—J. C. B. Ward, (Est. of) Canning, Jeweller, stock advertised for sale by tender; Thomas Beach, Hotel, Bedford, offering hotel for sale; Chas. F. Ettor, General Store, Mt. Uniacke, assigned to Evan Thompson in trust for benefit of creditors.

	Week		Prev. week		Weeks corresponding to		Failures for the year to date.			
	Oct. 25	1889	Oct. 25	1888	Oct. 25	1886	1889	1888	1887	1886
United States	196	205	208	213	216	9132	8074	7718	8312	
Canada	26	41	28	25	10	1233	1410	1052	991	

Dry Goods.—There is little to note concerning the position of the market for textile fabrics. Colder weather, which must be here before long, will show the general public that they require warmer clothing, but until it comes trade will be comparatively dull. In the matter of payments it is said that they are not exactly what they should be, retailers reporting that their customers are behind in this respect. This is, of course, felt to a considerable degree, especially by the small retailers with whom every cent counts. On the whole, however, conditions appear to be favorable, and as soon as the movement countrywards actually sets in—which is expected to commence when the farmers are through with their fall ploughing—the trade will be able to gauge pretty accurately the ground on which they have to stand. Reports from travellers now on the road are fair, and most dealers regard the outlook as hopeful.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—The strength of the iron market shows no sign of breaking. If anything it is intensified. All materials, from pig iron down through the list, show firm values, and buyers are extending requirements considerably. Advices from the other side continue strong in tone, and state that the generality of makers are sold up to later dates than for years past. This and the fact that stocks are light are sufficient reasons for believing that the strength of the market is likely to continue for some time. This is evident on spot, and those who are deficient in the matter of supplies are wondering why they did not cover their shortages before the rise, but the fact remains that they did not. It is needless to say that holders continue independent, and that even the slightest reduction will not be assented to. The movement during the week has been of fair dimensions. Canada plates are firm. Advices in tin plates from the other side continue strong and prices are firm. Copper and tin are unchanged.

BREADSTUFFS.—There is little to note in regard to the local flour market. The demand continues small and trade is generally dull. Prices are not notably changed. Beorholm's cable reports wheat and corn off coast, on passage and for prompt shipment quiet but steady. Wheat country markets slow. The Chicago wheat market was active but weaker, and prices declined $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to $\frac{1}{2}$ c. On the other hand corn was firmer and moved up $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Oats were steady. The New York wheat market was weak and fell off $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Corn was stronger and advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Oats were unchanged. At St. Louis wheat was weaker and dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Corn was firmer and improved $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Oats were quiet at unchanged figures. The Toledo wheat market was weaker and declined $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Corn steady and oats unchanged.

PROVISIONS.—The local provision market is fairly active under a good demand for small lots of pork, and sales have been freely made at steady prices. Lard has also been more enquired for, and some fair-sized lots have changed hands. A moderate amount of business has been accomplished at steady prices in smoked meats. The tone of the Liverpool provision market was weaker as regards lard which fell off 3d. Pork, bacon and tallow were unchanged. There was a weak feeling in the Chicago provision market. Pork declined $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Lard fell off 5c. to $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Short ribs dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 10c. The hog market was weak and prices declined 5c. to 10c. The cattle market was fairly active and steady. At Montreal considerable pork has been imported this year, the demand being stimulated by the low prices in Chicago. The western short cut pork seems to be growing in public favor there, and fears are expressed that Canada short cut will no longer command the high premiums heretofore obtained. Some of the local packers in that city have still stock on hand, which is unusual at this time of the year. The opinion is that low prices will again prevail in the west next season as large receipts of hogs are being calculated on, owing to the big crop of corn and the low prices which are at present ruling for it. It is expected the season will open with very low prices as compared with last year.

POTATOES.—The receipts of potatoes of late have been large and the market is more than supplied. In consequence the feeling is weaker and prices have a lower tendency. The early reports that the potato crop had been seriously injured by rot, etc., have proved untrue, and the yield throughout Canada and the United States is quite equal to, if not above the average.

BUTTER.—Trade continues quiet with choice stock in good demand at steady prices. Supplies are coming forward more freely as the season advances and, under a moderately good demand on all grades, prices are well maintained. There are said to be very considerable quantities of mid-summer make still in the hands of country manufacturers that cannot be disposed of owing to their stale quality for more than about 70 per cent. of what they would have brought if they had been promptly marketed.

CHEESE.—Buyers and sellers continue to have their own opinions on