

THE BARRON BLOCK.

In a former issue we gave a view of the Barron Block copied from the plans while the building was under construction. In the present issue we give an illustration showing some of the principal business offices in the "block," which is such an ornament to St. James Street. The splendid offices on the first floor, forming the corner of St. John and St. James Streets—are occupied by the Dominion Agency of the New York Life Insurance Company under the able superintendence of Mr. Walter Burke. This Life Insurance Company occupies the leading position among the many excellent life corporations, which are doing a noble work among our friends in the United States. In the latter part of the year 1868, the Dominion Agency was opened in Montreal, and by the close of the year, it had received \$10,000 in premiums. In 1869, the premiums received amounted to \$35,000; in 1870, to \$57,000; while in the past year 1871—so rapidly did the Canadian business increase, that the total premiums received at the Dominion Agency amounted to the large sum of \$127,295 41—the policies issued the same year, amounting to \$1,453,750, being the second largest business (of branch offices) done in Canada. We are informed that this year, the business of the Agency shows a still further increase over previous years—at present rate amounting to fully two millions and a half. The total assets of the Company are over \$29,000,000. A very excellent time-piece from Messrs. Savage & Lyman's, occupies the upper portion of the corner window, and while it is ever an excellent advertisement for the Company, it is no less a convenience to the thousands who daily pass that way. The New York Life clock is a recognised necessity to the frequenters of St. James Street.

In this building are the head offices of Messrs. Chisholm & Bros., the well-known Guide Book publishers and Steamboat and Railway advertising contractors. Amongst the Guide Books issued by this firm, special mention should be made of "The International Railway and Steam Navigation Guide," "The all Round Route and Panoramic Guide of the St. Lawrence," and the "Strangers' Guide to the City of Montreal"—all of which, both as regards the admirable taste displayed in their arrangement and the valuable information which they contain, are highly creditable to their enterprising publishers. The advertising facilities which this firm offers to the public are worthy of special attention. In addition to their series of Guide Books they have also a complete and extensive system of Steamboat and Railway advertising, which cannot fail to give satisfaction to any one making use of it. At this season of the year we cannot do better than recommend our advertising readers to make themselves acquainted with this system before completing their arrangements. Any communication addressed to the firm will, we feel sure, meet with prompt attention.

The Improved Mercantile Agency of J. M. Bradstreet & Son was established in 1849, and has its principal office at 279, 281 & 283 Broadway, New York; with branch offices in Augusta, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Louisville, Milwaukee, Montreal, New Orleans, Norfolk, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Savannah, St. Louis, and Toronto. The Montreal office is at No. 3 Barron's Building. The Improved Mercantile Agency, although of twenty-three years standing in the United States, was only established in this city in January, 1867, and the success it has met with shows that it was required in the community, and that its style of doing business has been duly appreciated by our merchants, bankers, manufacturers, and others who require reliable information as to the standing, character, and credit of parties doing business of any kind in any part of the Dominion of Canada, as well as throughout the United States of America.

The great object and aim of the Improved Mercantile Agency is to give every man his just grade of credit, and so keep subscribers duly advised of all changes that occur in the status of business men. An institution so conducted and with such objects, cannot fail to be useful to the business community.

No. 2, immediately to the left of the stairway leading to the first landing, fronting on Great St. James Street, contains five apartments, three of which comprise the neat, airy, and commodious offices of the law firm of Messrs. Macmaster & Bagg, and the remaining two the Estate Agency of W. A. Curry, Esq.

The extensive suit of offices of Messrs. Charles Legge & Co. is on the second floor of the building. The drawing and consulting rooms of the Patent Branch face St. James and St. John Streets, and are admirably adapted for the respective duties for which they are designed. This is the oldest, most extensive, and reliable Patent Agency in the Dominion, and possesses a large foreign connection, with agents or branches in the capital cities of all countries to facilitate the obtaining of foreign patents. In the Library of Reference will be found Patent Office Reports, &c., containing specifications and drawings of all patents heretofore granted in Canada, United States, Great Britain, &c. Inventors can consult these valuable publications and ascertain whether their inventions have been anticipated or not, prior to incurring the expense of making applications. The public is largely indebted to Messrs. Legge & Co. for the Improved Patent Bill recently introduced into Parliament, and which has now become law. In addition to obtaining Patents of Invention in Canada and foreign countries, copy-rights, industrial designs, and trade marks are secured. The Patentee's Manual, containing Patent Laws, with full instructions for obtaining patents, is sent free on application. Facing St. John Street, and in rear of the building, are the offices connected with the engineering department. The professional reputation of the firm is so well known that it is needless to dwell on the subject, further than to state that in those offices many of our leading public works have been designed and reported on, and likely many more to follow.

No. 160 St. James Street, in the same block, has been leased and elegantly finished and fitted up for offices of the South-Eastern Counties Junction Railway, the Canada Central Railway, and the Montreal Northern Colonization Railway.

The South-Eastern Counties Junction Railway is a new road—opened up for traffic last October—between West Farnham, Province of Quebec, and Richford, Vermont; distance, 33 miles.

This road was contracted for and built by Hon. A. B. Foster, the present manager, and passes through one of the finest agricultural districts in Canada. The road is now under

contract, and to be extended and completed to Newport, Vermont, the present season, under a charter to the Missisquoi & Clyde River Railroad, leased to the South-Eastern, a distance of 28 miles from Richford to Newport, where it will make a connection with the Connecticut & Passumpsic River Railroad.

This connection gives Montreal another first-class Boston and New York line, and will also connect with the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad at St. Johnsbury, Vermont, making the shortest road from Montreal to Portland.

For pleasure travel to the White Mountains it will be the shortest and most direct line from Montreal, connecting at Wells River with the Littleton route. The cars of the South-Eastern leave Montreal daily and run to Richford without change. The road is said to be one of the best finished and furnished roads in Canada. The depôts are of brick, and the rolling stock all new and of the latest and most improved design for comfort and safety.

The Canada Central is an Upper Ottawa Railway, commencing at Ottawa City and extending up the Ottawa River as far as Renfrew, and to be constructed and opened up to Pembroke the present season, a distance of over 100 miles.

The Montreal Northern Colonization Railway is a new road to be constructed from Montreal to Ottawa on the North Shore of the Ottawa.

The offices are large and finely finished and furnished, and in keeping with the elegant building in which they are located.

The extreme eastern end of the building is occupied by the Royal Canadian Bank, of which Mr. Saché, so long connected with banking in Canada, is the local manager.

It will be seen from what we have stated that there is much important business transacted in the Barron Block.

SOME AMERICANISMS.

Many of the most recent Americanisms are highly imaginative, formed as they are on metaphorical principles. Take these for example: "Shell out," in the sense of paying from one's own purse, is a metaphor drawn from the opening of the shell to extract the fish. "Mudsill," as a term of reproach, applied by the Southerners against the Northerners, meaning the very dregs of the lowest strata of society, from mudsill—the beams which underlie the "sleeper" on a line of railway, applied figuratively, first, to the lower classes, upon whose labour the upper classes rest in luxurious ease. "To come out at the little end of the horn," meaning to be unfortunate in a speculation of any kind, has been traced to a fairy story of a pigmy or elf, which being imprisoned in a cow's horn, was foolish enough to squeeze through the little end of the horn, instead of passing through the larger aperture by the mouth. Then, "to bet one's pile," which means to stake or risk all one's wealth, or to make the greatest of all sacrifices, is a term for the gambling-table. In America language, like everything else, is on a big scale. Schools are "academies" and "colleges;" holidays are "vacations" and "recesses;" boys are "young gentlemen;" servants are "helps" or "clerks;" wives are "ladies;" letters are "epistolary advices" or "communications;" much larger is a "nation sight bigger;" a good deal is a "nation deal." The following expressions we think peculiar: "To rush it" (to perform a bold action). "To happily," "to fix" (to settle a matter). With the singular expression "to ring" (facts into a person's mind), we may compare our own indigenous expression to keep "dingdonging" at a person. It is a singular fact that English and American telegraph clerks employ the letter "O. K." to denote that a message sent is "Oll Korrekt" (all correct). Some American corruptions of our pronunciations are very curious, as "chille" for "child," "hull" for "whole," "nawthing" for "nothing," "s'pose" for "suppose," "pint" for "point," "sassy" for "saucy." As a rule, the weak preterite is preferred to the strong preterite, hence the vulgar use of "grewed" for "grew," "throwed" for "threw," "knowed" for "knew," "frezed" for "froze," and even "seed" for "saw." The verbs "transmogrify," "caboot," "honeyfugle," and "highfalutin" are all indigenous to the American soil, as well as the "chunk" (of bread) for a "piece." "Hadt' ought" is used for "ought not," "had have had" for "has had," "got to get" "got to go" for "must get" or "must go," "to get shet of" for "to get rid of," "it taint so" for "it is not so." The prepositional adverb "up" is very commonly used with all sorts of verbs; hence a school is said to "take up" for "to begin;" a man is said to be "used up" for "exhausted," to be "picked up," for to be "deceived," and "cracked up" to be "praised," and to be "fixed up" to be "dressed" or "ready;" "to sail up" to "prosper," and to "sing up" to "flatter." What would Shakespeare, or Milton, or Hooker, or Addison have said to such pollutions of the well of English undebilitated by the infusion of streams so muddy?—*St. James's Magazine*.

GRANITE WORKS OF THE ANCIENTS.

The following, from an exceedingly interesting account of the colossal granite structures of ancient Egypt, India, and South America, appears in the current number of the *People's Magazine*:

"The art of carving in granite has never been carried to higher perfection than on the continent of India. At Chhillambaram, also in the Carnatic, and on the Coromandel coast, is a coterie of temples, representing the sacred Mount of Meru. Here are seven lofty walls, one within the other, round the central quadrangle, and as many pyramidal gateways in the midst of each side, which form the limbs of a vast cross; consisting altogether of twenty-eight pyramids. There are consequently fourteen in a line, which extend more than a mile in one continuous direction! Nor are these the only wonders associated with this metropolis of pyramids. The interior ornaments are in harmony with the whole; from the nave of the principal structures there hang, on the tops of four buttresses, festoons of chains, in length about 548 feet. Each garland, consisting of twenty links, is made of one piece of granite, sixty feet long; the links themselves are monstrous rings, thirty-two inches in circumference, and polished as smooth as glass.

Compared with the monolith temples of granite at Mahabalipuram, which is likewise situated on the Coromandel coast, those in Egypt sink into insignificance. The rocks thereabouts are composed of a hard gray granite, containing quartz, mica, and feldspar, with a few crystals of hornblende

interspersed. Many have been hollowed out by art, and sculptured into temples with spirited bas-reliefs, representing episodes in Hindoo history and mythology, and supported by graceful columns; all carved from the solid rock. Detached masses have been cut into shapes of elephants, tigers, lions, bulls, cats, monkeys, and various nondescript monsters, and colossal statues of gods, one of which, namely, that of Ganessa, being thirty feet high.

"The southernmost of the temples is about 40 feet in height, 27 feet in breadth, and nearly the same in length; the exterior being covered with elaborate sculptures. The adjoining edifice is about 40 ft. in length, and in breadth 25 ft.; it is rent by natural causes from summit to base. According to the local Brahminical tradition, these wonderful sculptures were executed by 4,000 workmen, who had come to the north, and returned before their completion. From a careful examination, it is evident that almost all the enormous mass of sculpture and carving that adorns this city of monolith temples and colossi, must have been performed without the aid of fire—with the hammer, chisel, lever, and wedge alone; and this is one of the hardest rocks in the world?"

The *Field* gives the following as the dimensions of a grand old yew tree growing on the Marquis of Bath's estate in Wiltshire:—Height, 50 ft.; circumference of branches, 154 ft.; spread of branches from north to south, 53 ft.; and from east to west, 66 ft.; girth of stem at 1 ft. from the ground, 32 ft.; smallest girth of stem, 24 ft. 6 in.; length of stem, 7 ft. Under ordinary circumstances, the age of yew trees may be approximately guessed at by allowing a century for every foot in diameter of stem; thus this remarkable old tree may safely be calculated at from 1,100 to 1,200 years old. It is a growing, healthy tree, rather cone-shaped, and is very dense in foliage."

VARIETIES.

A gentleman registered at a hotel in Louisville recently as John Blank, Hamburg, and was gratified at seeing his name in type, among the hotel registry, as "John Blank, humbug."

A South Carolina editor offers his paper free, one year, to the man who brings him the largest watermelon of the season. In the meantime he intends to live on the melons that don't take the prize.

A man in Wilmington, Delaware, whose feelings have been disturbed by the impertinences of the local press, writes to the *Commercial* of that city to know if he has a right to whitewash his chicken-coop.

The vexed conundrum propounded by Hamlet in his soliloquy as to "who would fardels bear?" has at last been solved in a satisfactory manner. The widow of a man named Fardels, hung for horse stealing in Texas, has just given birth to twins.

The *Mobile Register* publishes the following personal:—A young lady who has been greatly annoyed by a lot of young simpletons who stop under her window at night to sing, "If ever I cease to love," wishes us to say, if they will cease their foolishness, come in and talk "business," they will confer a favour.

Witty, but severe Madame Bolivar, having tried in vain to get pay for cravats, which a young fop had bought of her, at last sent in her bill in this style: To two dozen fancy satin policemen, 200 francs. "What do you mean? What are satin policemen?" asked the dandy. "Your cravats, for they take a thief by the throat every morning."

A servant girl at Pittsfield, it is related, was so much impressed the other night by dreaming that some one was robbing the clothes line, that she got up and looked out of the window, when she saw a man carrying off some clothes. She was so overcome by the singularity of the affair, that she let him go and did not tell the story till the next day.

The building committee of a church called upon a wealthy member of the congregation, soliciting a subscription toward a new house of worship. The sum he subscribed disappointed them, and they told him so, at the same intimating that Mr. J—— had given double the amount. "So he should," said the wily gentleman: "he goes to church twice as much as I do."

Rye looks good.—*American Times*. And it tastes good, too.—*Danbury Times*. In a horn.—*Berkshire Courier*. Whereupon the *Times* remarks: "We meant rye bread, but it is evident that the mind of the *Courier* man is wandering toward the stuff that biteth like a serpent and stingeth like a book-keeper."

When the small-pox gets hold of either of a pair of lovers, look out for romance and agony. The papers are telling of a Chicago girl who very recklessly flew to the bedside of her small-pox stricken lover and insisted upon nursing him regardless of danger to herself. It was a severe case, but she was unceasing in her devotion, and principally through her care and skill the patient recovered. Soon she herself fell a victim to the complexion-destroying monster, and although she survived the attack, at its close the beautiful pink and white of her fair face had flown forever, and from being the prettiest girl in Chicago became one of the plainest. Her lover had attended her through her illness but when he saw how fearfully she was changed his love for her departed, and when the marriage day drew near he refused to fulfil his part of the contract. She took his refusal very calmly, no reproaches came from her once pretty mouth which had lost its prettiness in saving the ungrateful one from death; her cheeks which the tell-tale blood used so often to tinge with rosy red, retained its colour, and she married an octogenarian worth \$500,000.

The *Galaxy*, the Ladies' fashionable newspaper of New York, 6th May, says:—It has been very noticeable since the introduction of that Italian preparation, the Concentrated Water of Tivoli or Bath of Beauty, that in society or at the theatres the toilets of our Ladies have been vastly improved. 5-25 d