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It is impossible to learn as yet anything definite about the position of the firm's affairs. He was formerly of the firm Maley Bros. & Co., whose failure of some three years ago will still be remembered. Ebenezer Cornell, of the same place, late a partner in the firm of Cornell & Stitt, general dealers, has been forced into bankruptcy by a Montreal house.

THE Secretary of the Niagara District Mutual Fire Insurance Company of St. Catharines, visited Montreal last week for the purpose of dismissing their agent in that city, Mr. A. De-Laet, and of appointing another in his stead. This was done, and Mr. Giles took possession of the books and papers. But on the following morning it was found that the office had been entered and the books were gone. The late agent appears to have regarded them as his property, and owns to having taken them to "protect his rights," so to speak. That gentleman is taking some proceedings against the company for what he calls defamation of his character.

THERE are ways of attracting custom, as there are ways of repelling it; and we are reminded of the value of manners in business by an incident of our own experience when we accompanied some ladies shopping in a quiet country town. The shopkeeper's manner was well calculated to drive people from his shop. He was a slovenly, bushy-haired man with a smileless face, and suspicious eyes that seemed to regard every passer-by as a burglar, and every customer as a possible swindler. His till was fitted with a patent burglar alarm which give a clang every time he opened it to change a ten cent piece. He watched with the glance of a detective every lady who handled a piece of goods, as if she purposed slipping a whole piece of Horrockses cotton under her cloak. Indeed,

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his entire manner made the party feel uncomfortable, and impatient to be out of his place. Finally, when one of the ladies gave him a five dollar bill to pay for her purchases, he put on his glasses to examine it slowly and carefully, then pulled out the burglar proof drawer with its ring of alarm, closed it on second thoughts with another clang, and hied away to the farther end of the shop to make sure from an old bank note detector, that the note was not counterfeit, after which he moodily made change. The party have never called upon him since, and no member of it ever will. The whole conduct of the man said, as in so many words, "Look here, you people, you can't cheat me, and you can't have my goods until I am satisfied about you. I have every device for swindlers, so keep your distance." The result was that he lost custom, for no one cares to be suspected obviously of being a thief. It is possible to please a customer by your manner and your business arrangement, and also to disgust him or her by pettiness or discourtesy. Proper caution is a good thing, but it need not be exaggerated, as in this case, into universal distrust and offensive suspicion. A shopkeeper, to attract customers must see that the looks, as well as the ways of his shop are inviting.

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Correspondence invited