

COLORED MORTALITY.

A colored party named Jake was very late a few days ago in getting down to the store. His employer, Mr. Allepice, rebuked Jake in somewhat severe language.

'I want you to understand that this trifling will never do. If you can't get down to your work in time, I'll hire somebody who can.'

'Boss, don't be hard on me,' and the negro's eyes filled with tears.

'Why, what's the matter with you? Anybody sick?'

'Sick! I don't know which am gwinter die fust, my wife or my old mulder.'

'I am sorry that I spoke so harshly as that. I didn't know it was as bad as that. We won't need you about the store to-day.'

'Thank you, boss. Thank you kindly,' and off he went.

Next morning Mr. Allepice asked Jake what he meant by saying that his wife and mother were dying, when he had seen both on the street the day before.

'Dyin' exclaimed Jake, opening his mouth wide enough to admit a coffee mill being thrown into it, and elevating his eyebrows in amazement.

'Yes, dying. You said they were dying, and half an hour after you left, your wife came here to see if you had drawn your wages for last month.'

'I nobber said dey was dying. Ef you was ter see de way dey opens dar mout and take in chunks of bacon, you wouldn't spec' dem ob dying. I bleeve I did say I didn't know which of 'em was gwinter die fust, and I don't know dat yet; deys boso got sich good appetites—I knows one of dem got ter die fust, but —'

Here Mr. Allepice interrupted the orator with an ax halve, and the business relations therefore existing between them have been severed.

MUDDLING THE MONEY-LENDER.

A London reporter, when in the country last summer, wanted to borrow some money of a plain, good-natured farmer, with whom he dined after an agricultural meeting.

'I want to borrow six pounds,' he said, 'until I reach London.'

The farmer had only three pounds, and the reporter said:

'Well I wish you would owe me the other three pounds, and we'll settle up when I come down again.'

When the day of settlement came the farmer was befogged by this conversation.

The farmer said, 'you owe me three pounds, don't you?'

'Certainly I do,' was the reply.

'Well, will you pay me?'

'Well, my dear fellow, I took our account is about square. I wanted to borrow six pounds, you remember. You let me have three pounds, and said you'd owe me the other three pounds. Now, then, you haven't paid that three pounds, and, consequently still owe it to me. I owe you three pounds, and if you will give the three pounds you owe me, I will instantly pay you the three pounds I owe you. Nothing could be fairer than that, I think.'

The farmer pondered, and has not got out of his reverie yet.—*Tid bits.*

NOT FLATTERING.

Put not your trust in a woman is a paraphrase to which the tragedian George C. Milne would unhesitatingly assent. He was at one time playing in a Western city, and observed in the front row an old lady dissolved in tears. Highly flattered, he sent an attendant to say that he would like to see her after the performance. When they met Mr. Milne was graciousness itself. 'Madame,' he said, 'I perceived my acting moved you.' 'It did that, sir, I've got a young son myself play-actin' down in Kentucky somewhere, an' it broke me all up to think that mebbe he warn't no better at it than you, sir.'—*Chicago Journal.*

COMMERCIAL.

There is very little change in business matters generally through the Dominion. Nearly every branch of trade continues to be characterized by the usual midsummer quiet.

The signs of financial improvement in the United States are becoming more and more apparent from day to day and promise to speedily materialize into permanent recovery. Meanwhile the trade of the Dominion rests on a fairly solid basis, and it is confidently believed that the strong financial resources, under wise and cautious business management, will prevent the possibility of distrust or disaster being felt in our commercial circles. While trade in the leading staple lines may be called quiet, it compares very favorably with former seasons. Country orders, as a rule, are moderate in volume, but cover most lines usually kept in stock, indicating depleted stores in all departments, which will require frequent replenishing to supply the ordinary consumptive demands.

The most serious matter before the United States Congress now is to devise a more elastic system of finance than now obtains, so that when a likelihood appears of a call for ready cash, it may be at once met. The suggestion has been made that the National Banks be permitted to issue notes to the amount of the ten per cent now reserved by the Government from their deposits guaranteeing their circulation. This will release about \$19,000,000 (now locked up) in small currency, and must alleviate the pressure for ready money which has been so severely felt of late.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REVIEW OF HENRY CLEWS AND CO., NEW YORK, August 12, 1893.—"So far as respects the investment markets, the past week has shown an improvement in both conditions and prospects. The working of the Stock Market has afforded clear evidence that the point of lowest depression has been reached. Under the worst conditions of demoralization, there is always a level of prices at which investors—either domestic or foreign or both—will become buyers, and it is a matter of ocular demonstration that that force has now come in to sustain the market. The orders to buy from this class form a back ground of support upon which the 'bear' attacks make little or no impression. Their sales are so far taken up by investment buying that, when they want to borrow shares to cover their sales, they find themselves more or less 'cornered.' Their operations are therefore confined to a few of the least supported stocks, out of which they seem satisfied to earn their daily salt. It is no small gain to legitimate business that the reckless filibustering of the raiders has been thus brought under check for it is the first step towards a rise to be assured that decline has touched its 'lowest deep.'

The Stock Market has to a considerable extent broken loose from influences that are still depressing general business. The extreme scarcity and continued hoarding of money has little direct effect upon Stock Exchange operations. That kind of business is done without the direct intervention of cash; and as the banks can lend on stock loans without parting with currency they give a certain preference to stock brokers, especially as their collaterals, at the present low prices, form good security. Members of the Exchange therefore find no difficulty in borrowing at bank at 5 to 6 per cent on call, while other important borrowers have to pay 10 to 12 per cent for the insufficient accommodation that can be afforded them. This returning ability to get loans enables holders to protect themselves and makes Wall Street less sensitive than other interests to the adverse course in which events are still running.

The week has on the whole contributed some important reliefs to the general situation. It is true that there is no abatement of the common dearth of money, and none in the large demands of the interior banks for help from the metropolis; the banks, indeed, are as much pressed as they have been, so much so that they are compelled to refuse currency to outside applications, and have advanced rates to almost prohibitory figures; which simply means that a point has been reached at which they can no longer afford to be generous, but must stand for their own protection. But, at the same time, the fact that, by the end of next week, nearly 20 millions of gold will have been received from Europe, while some 12 millions of new bank circulation will be in the course of issue, cannot but have an important effect in relieving the scarcity of money and thereby restoring confidence.

Some relief is also felt from the fact that Congress is at last brought face to face with the great silver danger. The message of President Cleveland was such a strong yet simple presentation of the case as to carry to all classes a deep conviction of the danger in which the Sherman Act has placed the country, and the consequent necessity for immediately repealing the obnoxious clauses of that law. The President having thus broadened and intensified the public hostility to silver purchases, it seems reasonable to assume the impossibility of Congress failing to satisfy this universal demand. From such symptoms at the capital as can be traced amid the confusion of party maneuvering, it appears quite safe to assume that Congress will ultimately adopt an unconditional withdrawal of the authorization to purchase silver. That is the sole *sine qua non* to the restoration of confidence and prosperity; and the country would like to know it—and the sooner the better,—if it is possible that a Congress of the United States could be capable of refusing a measure so fundamentally vital and demanded by such an overwhelming majority of the people.

It is much to be hoped that this conclusion may be reached with the least possible delay, and that the discussion of the question may not be hindered by mixing with it non-essential issues. After the main question has been decided, there are other financial problems that would naturally arise out of the suspension of silver purchases which Congress might well consider. Lest the sudden cessation of a large supply of silver money should result in the evils of contraction, it is necessary that some provision be made for new issues of currency from some other source. In order to provide against that inconvenience, means should be devised for an increase in the National bank circulation; and, to meet the emergency, it might suffice, for at least the present, that the National banks be authorized to issue notes up to the full face value of the bonds deposited as guaranty. This would allow of a large increase in the circulation; and if further expansion should be found necessary it could be provided later by other means.

Experience has shown the necessity of providing some resource by which the Treasury could protect itself and the public from such emergencies as have recently occurred and still exist. For that purpose it seems advisable that Congress should authorize the issue of Three Per Cent Bonds, by the Secretary of the Treasury and with the consent of the President, payable at pleasure after ten years, and to be used to provide for any obligations of the Government in periods of financial difficulty. These measures seem a necessary supplement to the suspension of silver purchases; but other financial legislation may well be left for later and maturer consideration. This being done, the situation will be cured.

At the close of the week, there is a decided improvement in the situation among the banks. They have made a considerable gain in currency during the week, and the arrivals of gold from England have relieved the tension in every direction. The general opinion among managers is that the danger point is now passed, and that with the further supplies of coin to come from Europe, affairs will gradually work into an easier position."

DRY GOODS.—The past week has been a quiet one in the dry goods trade, and the jobbing houses have very little to report. The actual movement is small, but several of the houses state that their travellers have been

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