MONTREAL IMPORTS.

COMPARATIVE statement of the quantity and value of the goods imported at the part of Montreal during the past two years has just been compiby the Customs Officials, and gives the following gross results:-

Total value, 1866

The following is a comparative statement of the value of the principal articles imported :-

•	-	
	1886.	1867.
Wine in wood	8 3 232	\$ 214,337
" in bottle	79 190	73 674
Whisky.	22 714	25 163
Brandy	272,917	163.336
Brandy Gin	20 89	1.8 461
Rum	23 013	19.679
Alo.	28 628	27.013
Refined Sugar	18 000	33.068
Raw Sugar	1 547 667	1,457,650
Cana Julco.	13 770	143.587
Molasses.	250 642	93.237
Brandy Gin Alo Hefined ugar Raw Swgar Cane Julco Molasses Tea Coffee green	1 662 714	1 708.601
Tea Coffee, green Conjectionery. Soap	70 (ch)	74.618
Confectionery	12,785	15 104
Soap	40 324	15,104 29 181
Starch.		
Manufactured Tobacco	38 445	4 430
Cigars	63 619	62,320
i hoosa	00 010	T13,867
Lard and Tallow	24.757	8 972
Fish, saited, &c	22,607	33.867
Piour	4231	12,132
Indian Corn	13,538	118,551
15	24 878	323 253
	51 474	124 187
	25.012	30,680
Oundito	8,059	12,129
arpote, &c	216 648	171,231
Prockery, &c	183,300	211,604
l'ottons	4,008,100	3,688,196
D. led Fruits .	244 245	317.034
trugs Fancy Goods	140,689	129 912
rancy Goods	206.048	232,835
Glass	110,289	120.015
ilais, Caps, & c.	261 749	815,814
monery	230 0 5	188,578
	1.058 415	1,161,957
	101,312	155,902
Leather	230.705	259,918
Linen Manufactured Leather	731 411	679.845
Janufactured Leather	26.262	165 672
and Shots	15,533 43 562	39 106
	43 662	89 415
Olls	167 419 97 889	197.47
l'aints, &c	97 889	117 797
i aper	01410	108 931
Shawle	29 313	22,694
Siiks, Satins, &c mall Wares Woollens	651 614	587 710
mall Wares	810.669	923 953
Woollens		4,865,495
Iotal Dutiable Goods	22,413,582	21 796,666
on and Bullion	75 618	316.201
Free Goods	G.334.121	6 265 250
Voilens Lotal Dutiable Goods on and Bullion ree Goods laive of Goods in bond	*****	2,137,923

the two divisions of Cornwe united,

BRITISH COMMERCE OF THE PAST YEAR.

who is a wood of the principal articles imported is—

Winso in wood 7 \$3.525 \$24.557

Winso in wood 7 \$3.525 THE monetary lifetory of 1897 presents a striking contrast with mo t previous years. The utter want of confidence on the part of the mercantile com-munity, both here an I abroad, has led to an enormous

beary withdrawals to meet cotton payments in India. The figures representing our imports and exports given above are, it must be understood, based on lower values (than in 1866). In that year, curn was cheaper than it now is The high rates curient for wheat, attitusty we have still a powerful competitor in the field for food, have brought us adequated couped informing the did for food, have brought us adequated couped informing the many important diectins in the importations would be followed by riving mark its, owing to the limited stocks of produce in warchouse, and the inferior yield of the last crop of wheat. During the whole of 1868 we shall be compelled to import largely to supply the wants of the country, and we shall have to pay fleavily for food. As a consequence, several millious in gold and silver will be required of us by continental and other growers of produce. We are not, however, apprehensive that the exchanges will be materially deranged, or that the stock of the precious metals, either here or in the Bank of France, will set keeps decline. On the other hand, we can lardly anticipate any considerable increase in it, unless the trade of the United Kingdom should rapidly improve. At present, it is in a stagnant state, but most of the leading countries are bardly supplied with British goods. The attempt on the part of the American Legislature to exclude us from participation in the markets of the United states has added to the depress in m. car woolen and other trades. Hence it is now purely a question of the price at which certain common. Increase any indicate and the product of the food of the precedent of the content from the food of the price at when it has been offered havegiven great relief to our manufacturing industry, and coabed our shippers to settreely in most quarters of the globe. The total imports of cotton from the foregree of the food our supply in London the solution that be required to solution and the supply to most quarters of the previous year Prices, however, and the hardy an

Subjoined is a tub (, affording a comparative view of the British Bank returns, the Bank of England rate o discount, the price of Consols, the price of wheat, and the leading exchanges, during a period of three years. corresponding with 28th Decmeber date, as well as ten years back, viz , in 1858:-

As corresponding dates with the present.	1828.	1863.	1865	1967.
	0, 297 7, 41, 43, 51, 57, 57, 57, 57, 57, 57, 57, 57, 57, 57	13 233,804 9,811,6 22 5 7,3 7,201,6 13,403,16 13,403,16 67,1 66, 86 15 10 17	3, p. c. 97½ xd 50m 50 25 174 25 11 154 16	7, 78,757 18,766,203 13,019,203 17,518,203

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN COT-TOW INTEREST.

HE following significant article is from a recent number of the New York Times: -

L number of the New York Times:—
We believe that American cotton has as many lives as a cat, but at the same time we believe it can in time be strangled to its ultimate death by persistent and determined efforts. The war, which killed almost everything else in the South, left it with a good deal of vitainty, and though its prospects were somewhat damaged, but a little care was needed to make them again bright as ever. It then suffered in the social chaos that followed the war, and in the "demoralies.