

munity that knows its own interest. A customer who lends one to a merchant should at once have it returned; for how can a man be trusted who will promise anything? If he sends a blank to one merchant, he will to another. How, then, can he tell what his liabilities are? And if he is so careless in incurring obligations, is he likely to be careful in meeting them? It should, therefore, be sufficient to damage any man's credit to be known to be guilty of such folly. A merchant receiving such a blank, and not returning it, is indiscreet, simply looking at his own interest, for he is surely paving the way for loss; but a merchant who uses such blanks to raise money, filling up amounts which are not owing to him, puts himself out of the category of honorable men altogether. If there be such a thing as obtaining money by false pretences, this is it; for in the very act of offering a customer's note for discount, a merchant says—"I have sold this party goods, and this is what he has given me in payment."

NOTES FROM NEW YORK.—No. 3.

THE GREAT UNEMPLOYED.

One of the most painful experiences which a business man in New York has, is the contact with the great number of persons seeking employment. If he happened to be at all recently from a part of the country where he is well known, it is a most natural thing that to him should flock all that come from that section who need introductions, advice, influence and aid. If all came provided with friends sufficient to support them until employment were secured, there would be no difficulty; but, unfortunately, few come with more than enough to pay a few weeks board, and very soon they are daily getting deeper into debt—daily their appearance becomes more and more woe-begone, until eventually distress and almost starvation stares them in the face. From day to day they haunt the place where the slightest hope is held out; regularly they scan the columns of the *Herald*, which is the great organ of communication between the "wants" and the "wanted," answering every advertisement with the "best of references," and an enumeration of every qualification needed for any business. But alas! to no purpose. Not because there is any fault in the party applying—not but that he would discharge the duties of the place with fidelity and efficiency—but because for every situation advertised, there are hundreds of applicants, literally hundreds! A dry goods house the other day advertised for a "statement clerk" in their counting room, and there were 320 letters received within three days asking for the place. There are at the pre-

sent moment, at least, 50 young Canadians here, within the writer's knowledge, who would gladly take five dollars per week, to work 13 hours per day, if they could get it. There are also a vast number from the old country and various parts of the States, and the chances of a situation are hardly one to twenty.

The matter is referred to here in order that young men who contemplate leaving Canada, to better their future here, may know the actual state of the case, and unless they have some opening positively in view, or have money enough to pay three or four month's board, they had much better stay away.

LEARNING A TRADE.

The same remark does not, however, apply to really good tradesmen. There are of course a great number of men, skilled in various branches, unemployed, but really good mechanics, in almost any line, find little difficulty in obtaining situations, and here they are much the best paid. A good carpenter gets four dollars per day, the printer twenty dollars per week; and the same rates prevail for other trades. If young Canadians want to live happily they should learn a trade. The avenues of business in every line are largely over-crowded; all over the continent the non-producers jostle each other in the pursuit of bread; and a few weeks' observation at this great centre, shows that the battle to the skilled mechanic is much more certainly a victory than to those who, however well they may be posted in business, do not possess the power and skill which a few years of apprenticeship in a workshop only can give.

THE SEASON THUS FAR

has not been a satisfactory one for business. There appears to be a general condition of inanition in almost all parts of the country. Some attribute it to the proposed changes which Congress are discussing, in the shape of the public debt; others that the tariff and its annual tinkering, which is now in process in Washington, is principally to blame; while others surmise, and most correctly, that trade has been, hitherto, largely overdone, and that to be healthy, we must have less pressure to sell, decreased expenses, and a more conservative policy.

THE FISHERY QUESTION—POLICY OF THE DOMINION.

The echo of the extravagant claims, and unreasonable complaints of American fishermen, that they are not allowed to poach on the special reserves of the Dominion, rightly interpreted, will be found to partake of the nature of a wail of distress. Before ever taxes abnormally raised prices in the States,

the average earnings of the American fishermen amounted to only one hundred and fifty dollars a season, for each man, bounty included. These fishermen show a wholesome horror of witches by nailing horse shoes to the masts of their vessels, to keep off the dreaded enemy; and they are constantly speculating on the chances of digging up Kidd's hidden treasure, on some dismal nook of the coast, and show their faith by the alacrity with which they ply the spade, in a cause which the disappointment of a century and a half has not made them despair of. A body of men, poor, ignorant, superstitious, readily catch at any apparent means of relief and eagerly believe what any self constituted champion tells them about imaginary curtailments of their rights. They seem almost made to be the sport of demagogues. When they are told that the war of 1812 did not annul their rights on the coasts of the Dominion, and that the stipulations of the original treaty survived the convention of 1818, it is not to be expected that they should refuse to believe in so pleasing a theory. Nevertheless, in practical life, it is necessary to come down to the hard facts.

The American fishermen cannot complain that timely notice has not been given, of the determination of our government, not to renew the licenses, which, since the termination of the reciprocity treaty, admitted them to a participation in the shore fisheries, on our seaboard. It had been found, in practice, that very few American fishing vessels took out licenses at all; the majority preferring the risk and profit of playing the part of poachers. So long as some were fishing under license, they served as a cover for others that did not; for without an examination, there was no means of discovering the delinquents. Under the new policy all this mystery will pass away; and any American vessel found fishing within the limits will be liable to have the penalties of the infringement of the treaty enforced against it.

Our new policy could not be expected to give complete satisfaction; in the United States. But the dangers of collision and international complications, predicted as likely to arise from it, are greatly exaggerated. No just complaint can arise out of the enforcement of an international obligation, equally binding on both parties; and it happens, fortunately, that there is scarcely any point that can arise regarding the respective rights, in these waters, of British subjects and American citizens. Almost the only question that can arise at all, looking at the whole history of the fishery dispute, is about the right of Americans to fish in the great bays, such as the Bay of Fundy and Bay of Chaleur. The language of the treaty of 1818, by