

(and good mothers can never resign that blessed hope), we must feel that He knows best, and that the natural nourishment given for the first months of a child's life must be the best, and whatever comes nearest to it must be next best. A mother who realizes this will never try experiments on the delicate organism of her child, exhausting its whole system in the laborious effort to rid itself of substances that were wholly unfitted to enter it. During these painful efforts to digest improper foods, children will cry painfully; but some believe that a child must do a certain amount of crying to expand its lungs. We do not agree with this theory. Nature has no such clumsy methods of performing her work. A child never cries unless it is in pain or uncomfortable. It seems a pity that while mothers lovingly guard their infants from all outward pain, they often, through ignorance, inflict upon them much inward agony. Unfortunately the child that is improperly fed suffers not only in the present but also from the after effects, since its whole system is weakened, and its digestive organs impaired. Many physicians say that colics and even convulsions are generally the result of improper food. We are now taught that if one is sick or suffering it is either his own fault or that of some one else. Colonel Ingersoll's idea that it is God who sends all the sin and suffering, is an old superstition, and no longer held by intelligent people. Increased knowledge teaches that while we must not blame God for all our miseries, we may bless Him for all our mercies.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BANK CLERKS.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—In a recent issue of the SPECTATOR, George Rothwell discourses on "Bank Clerks," their sins and sorrows. In a subsequent number of your paper "Bank Clerk" and "C. R. G. Johnson" appear as the champions of their order, and the apologists of their failings and foibles. Mr. Johnson's letter was characterised by smartness and flippancy, but was wholly wanting in force and earnestness. Doubtless he represents a division of the class against which such grave charges have been made. I do not propose, Mr. Editor, to enter into an elaborate discussion of the various points in dispute, but simply desire to make a few observations which suggest themselves. Mr. Rothwell's strictures are severe, but I frankly admit, that to a large extent, they are severely accurate. I would most humbly submit, however, that if Mr. Rothwell is, as I presume he is, sincerely desirous of benefiting bank clerks intellectually and morally, addressing them in offensive terms is not the mode best calculated to insure a respectful hearing. I take exception also to the sweeping character of his attack. Unless his acquaintance with bank clerks is very limited, I put it to him, whether among them he has not known men of high principle and honour, who loved truth for its own sake, and who had the manners and feelings of gentlemen, and were estimable in every relation of life. Dissatisfied with the term bank clerks, we have dubbed ourselves bank officials, but I will not stay to enquire what the distinction implies, or whether it implies anything. By bank clerks, I mean all subordinates, accountants and under. I would remind Mr. Rothwell that the subordinates of to-day are the bankers of the future, and that many of them have risen to responsible positions, solely by force of character and dint of industry. It is a most honourable profession, and the snobbery and ha, ha style which some of the craft affect, is repudiated and abhorred by all men of sense and education. Snobbery, and an ignorant assumption of superiority among bank clerks arises with them, as it does with any other class, from ignorance or want of breeding. There are many men who have the manners of gentlemen, who have not the feelings of gentlemen, and again there are many men who have the feelings of gentlemen, who have not much polish of manner, but a bank clerk who varies his politeness according to the style of his customer's coat, is only worthy of contempt, and with contempt he is usually regarded. When a poor man comes in, unfamiliar with the *minutiae* of banking, he is knocked about like a football, as if he were to blame for not being more up in details.

This sort of thing should be frowned down and stamped out. The fact is, bank clerks have been spoiled. This is more especially the case in small towns where they have the *entree* of the best society. Being in a bank is supposed to be a guarantee of their respectability, and so it is to a certain extent. Some young men on small salaries ranging from \$400 to \$800 a year, think it due to themselves under these circumstances to affect airs they can ill afford, and are led into all sorts of extravagances. Why the man actually begins to think he is somebody, when he is nothing but a poor devil of a bank clerk. Wanting ballast, they lose their heads, and are carried away with the frivolities of the hour. It wants some principle and not a little courage, under such surroundings, never to exceed your income by a dollar, and always to do without what you cannot afford; but in the end it ensures success and the respect of your fellows. The juniors in our banks—those at the foot of the ladder, who have to creep up—should see to it that as they ascend step by step, slowly it may be, but surely, this reproach is driven out before them, and give evidence of the truth of the poet's words,

"Honours from no condition rise—
Act well your part, there all the honour lies."

Montreal, 12th April, 1880

Another Bank Clerk.

TRADE—FINANCE—STATISTICS.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

COMPANY.	1880				1879.	Week's Traffic.		Aggregate.		
	Period.	Pass. Mails & Express	Freight	Total.	Total.	Incr'se	Decr'se	Period.	Incr'se	Decr'se
*Grand Trunk.....	Week April 10	\$ 60,744	\$ 140,053	\$ 206,797	\$ 152,261	\$ 54,536	.....	15 wks	\$ 370,497	.....
Great Western.....	" 2	36,172	65,938	102,110	83,573	18,538	.....	13 "	140,399	.....
Northern & H. & N.W.	Mar. 31	10,321	14,702	25,023	18,270	6,753	.....	12 "	29,392	.....
Toronto & Nipissing..	" 31	2,148	3,234	5,382	4,330	1,052	.....	12 "	7,825	.....
Midland.....	" 31	3,080	4,616	7,696	5,547	2,149	.....	12 "	10,024	.....
St. Lawrence & Ottawa	April 3	1,612	1,222	2,834	2,872	.....	.....	38 fm Jan. 1	1,268	.....
Whitby, Pt. Perry & Lindsay.....	" 7	683	1,110	1,793	1,385	408	.....	"	5,576	.....
Canada Central.....	" 6	3,215	2,995	6,210	4,594	1,616	.....	13 wks	9,236	.....
Toronto, Grey & Bruce	" 3	2,312	3,494	5,807	5,823	.....	.....	16 "	8,304	.....
Q., M., O. & O.....	" 23	7,266	7,124	14,390	7,506	6,884	.....	12 "	13,107	.....
Intercolonial.....	Month Mar.	43,034	97,075	140,109	93,222	46,887	.....	3 m'nths	92,958	.....

*NOTE TO GRAND TRUNK.—The River du Loup receipts are included in 1879, not in 1880; omitting them the week's increase is \$58,736, aggregate increase \$432,697 for 15 weeks.

[NOTE TO Q., M., O. & O. RY.—In this comparison are included Eastern Division receipts for week ending 23rd March, 1880. For corresponding week of 1879, this section of the road being still in the hands of the contractor, no account of its traffic was taken.

BANKS.

BANK.	Shares par value.	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid up	Rest	Price per \$100 April 14, 1880.	Price per \$100 April 14, 1879.	Two last 1/2-yearly Dividends.	Equivalent of Dividend based on price of Stock.
Montreal.....	\$200	\$12,000,000	\$11,999,200	\$5,000,000	\$143 1/4	\$135 1/2	10	6.95
Ontario.....	40	3,000,000	2,996,000	100,000	80 1/4	64 1/2	6	7.47
Molson's.....	50	2,000,000	1,999,095	100,000	80	77	6	7.50
Toronto.....	100	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	128	110	7	5.47
Jacques Cartier.....	25	500,000	500,000	55,000	70	34 1/4	5 1/2	7.85
Merchants.....	100	5,798,267	5,511,040	475,000	97	83 1/2	6	6.18
Eastern Townships.....	50	1,469,630	1,381,989	200,000	100	96	7	7.00
Quebec.....	100	2,500,000	2,500,000	425,000	.....	.....	6	.....
Commerce.....	50	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,400,000	119 1/2	104	8	6.69
Exchange.....	100	1,000,000	1,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Montreal Telegraph Co.....	40	2,000,000	2,000,000	171,432	94	103 1/2	7	7.45
R. & O. N. Co.....	100	1,565,000	1,565,000	.....	42 1/4	43 1/4	4 1/2	10.52
City Passenger Railway.....	50	.....	600,000	163,000	93	71	5	5.48
New City Gas Co.....	40	2,000,000	1,880,000	.....	118 1/4	108	10	8.42

*Contingent Fund. [Reconstruction Reserve Fund.

Imports of dry goods at New York for the week show a decrease of \$511,307, and general merchandise a decrease of \$2,054,309, as compared with previous week.

The following statement gives a comparison of total imports at New York for corresponding periods of 1878, 1879 and 1880:—

	1878.	1879.	1880.
Dry Goods.....	\$1,472,814	\$1,819,896	\$1,571,346
General merchandise.....	2,943,499	4,176,895	6,366,733
Total for week.....	4,416,304	5,996,793	8,938,079
Previous reports.....	74,763,131	77,114,458	125,170,402
	\$79,179,438	\$83,114,251	\$134,108,481

From April 1st to March 20th the Exchequer receipts of Great Britain amounted to £78,613,086, as compared with £80,165,292 in the corresponding period of the previous year. The expenditure has been £77,844,245. The balance in the Bank of England was £6,513,062.

During the year ending September 30, 1878, we learn from a return issued March 16th, 125,441,991 pounds of sugar were consumed in the breweries of England, Scotland and Ireland. In the following year the quantity was 116,927,019 pounds.

*Summary of exports for week ending March 27th, 1880:—

From—	Flour, brls.	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Rye, bush.	Pease, bush.
New York.....	42,142	831,025	1,459,022	5,427	13,027	8,101
Boston.....	19,535	1,993	341,518	.....	.....	.....
Portland.....	2,500	60,194	42,000	195	.....	15,993
Montreal.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Philadelphia.....	3,625	281,231	736,488	.....	.....	.....
Baltimore.....	7,517	452,077	593,066	605	.....	.....
Total per week.....	75,319	1,633,625	3,172,089	6,227	13,027	24,094
Corresponding week of '79.....	109,207	1,450,728	2,020,027	3,257	71,649	25,626

*bushels Barley. 17,399 bushels Barley.

*The receipts of Live Stock at New York for the last four weeks have been as follows:—

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Swine.
April 5.....	11,883	140	2,531	25,000	32,069
March 29.....	11,135	156	1,664	24,960	31,786
March 22.....	13,035	222	2,000	25,976	32,596
March 15.....	13,820	227	1,311	29,237	32,057
Total 4 weeks.....	49,902	745	7,531	105,182	128,508
Corresponding 4 weeks 1879.....	34,476	48	2,033	19,631	31,698
Weekly average, 1879.....	9,757	43	2,633	22,299	24,586
Corresponding week 1878.....	10,933	142	2,998	29,005	32,089
Weekly average, 1878.....	9,347	48	2,033	19,631	31,698

*From New York Produce Exchange.