

## WHOM SHE WANTS TO PLEASE.

Have you ever asked a woman whom she dresses to please? She will invariably answer, herself, but the statement is mendacious in every instance save in those of the dress reformer—and that means the woman without hope.

In the palmy days of Greece three philosophers sat against the sunny side of the temple discussing the infinite and branches thereof.

"A woman," said one, "dresses to please the men."

"A woman," said the other, assertively, "dresses to worry other women."

The discussion waxed acrimonious, until both appealed to the third, who belonged to the school of the trimmers.

"A woman," said he, "dresses to please the men, and thereby worry the other women."—Exchange.

## 'TIS POOR POLICY.

There are foremen who seem to take a pleasure in aggravating workmen, and making their positions as unpleasant as possible. Such foremen cannot be termed humane. They are unfit to govern any body of men, and their coarse nature seems to delight in torturing their own species. The writer has seen foremen who would stand before a strange workman for an hour at a time watching his every move with a hawk's eye, and the moment that he made a miss-stroke they would pounce upon him as some ferocious beast. No slave driver could have been more cruel in his capacity than such foremen, and the writer is inclined to think that there are a number of firms who imagine that such a man is a good foreman. They think that because he is noted as a driver, that he is valuable, and will have their work performed correctly and get the largest amount of labor possible from the workmen. The fact is, that such a foreman is the worst investment that any factory can have. He causes discontent, and breeds more strikes than all the anarchists and labor agitators combined. It is to be regretted that man when placed in a position to dictate and boss over his less fortunate fellow creatures should attempt to make their lives miserable by ruling them as though they were machines instead of with kindness and good nature.—Shoe and Leather Reporter.

## PROSPECTS FOR LUMBER IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The lumber trade in Great Britain seems to have settled down to a thorough recognition of the present state of affairs, but abroad the saw-mill owners, judging from the expressions of their representatives, still cling to the belief that the fall in values will be only temporary. Of course, they cannot shut their eyes to the fact that f.o.b. prices have to undergo further reductions to meet the exigencies of the market, but while lamenting the present state of things, they speak hopefully of the future, and with a degree of certainty in their tone that goes far towards conviction; but this strain is only a natural sequence of the present dullness when things are supposed to be at their lowest ebb. The wisest of us are apt to indulge in the hopeful view and prophecy of that which, in the ordinary course of things, is sure to happen; but in the present case we expect the "wish is father to the thought," and it no more betokens an improved demand than the mere fact of a poor man wishing to become rich will make him so.

For ourselves, we see nothing in the present aspect of affairs to warrant us in

anticipating any improvement this season. Our markets continue overstocked with sawn and planed wood of all kinds; and in the other great channels for timber goods, France and the Southern Continent of Europe, trade is also dull, and their markets cannot bear pressure any more than ours here. But, notwithstanding the depression at home, as already stated, prices abroad do not recede to anything like the extent they have lately done. It is with difficulty, however, that they are sustained, and only by keeping the goods out of the market, or, at any rate, disposing of them through private channels, can anything like profitable prices be obtained. A moderate trade is still being done with the exports, and retail prices in the provinces have apparently kept up, though the general effect of the great sacrifices made at the London public sales is felt even in the most out-of-the-way places. In fact, many of the large provincial firms are occasional holders of considerable parcels in the London docks, and latterly, if they have had occasion to realize, we fear the balance would be found on the wrong side in winding up their London transactions.—Timber Trades Journal.

## WHICH IS THE BEST KNOWLEDGE?

It is told of a certain scholar and literary man, who was puffed up with self-conceit, that, as he was being rowed across a lake, somewhere in Europe, he fell into conversation with the boatman, and said: "Have you ever studied philosophy?" When the answer came "No," he said: "Then a quarter of your life is lost." Then he said: "Did you ever study science?" The answer being the same, he replied: "Then another quarter of it is lost. 'Do you know anything about art?'" "No." "Well, then, another quarter of your life is gone." Just then a violent squall struck the boat, and the boatman turned and said: "Sir, can you swim?" "No," came the answer. "Well, then," the boatman replied, "the whole of your life is lost."

## THE NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE DECLINES TO COMPROMISE.

There is one point about the big British companies in which they resemble the Bank of England, they will fight to a finish, but they decline to compromise. The North British reinsured the outstanding policies of the Traders in Tennessee, which intelligence was communicated to Commissioner Craig. Of course, we know the Traders was a fraudulent company, although associated with the names of numerous millionaires, who were absolutely innocent personally, and who can only be accused of a considerable want of discretion and excess of confidence. The North British and Mercantile, one of the most powerful of our British offices, finding that it had been practically defrauded, declined to carry out these Traders' reinsurance contracts, whereupon the Insurance Commissioner for Tennessee ordered that it should either fulfil its obligations according to his lights, or have its license to do business in Tennessee revoked.

The North British and Mercantile got an injunction against this very intelligent Commissioner, restraining him from revoking the license, and the action was won by the company in the lower courts. But the Supreme Court decided that a letter to the Colburn Agency, Chattanooga, bound the company in good faith, and that the matter was one which came within the province of the Com-

missioner to decide. Commissioner Craig calls upon the North British and Mercantile to fulfil contracts which have been imposed upon it fraudulently, or to retire from the State. The North British and Mercantile, not going to be "bounced," quits Tennessee, which will have to go without insurance in the North British and Mercantile in future, until the Traders' Company or its millionaire stockholders realize their duties, pay up, and fulfil their obligations. The North British and Mercantile can do without Tennessee.

The intellectual capacity of that enlightened State can be best measured by the fact that the Senate, on April 17th, passed a bill imposing a penalty of 25 per cent. of the face value of the policy for failure to make prompt settlement of a fire loss. This legislative activity, according to our contemporary, the Insurance Herald, of Louisville, Kentucky, is a direct retaliation for a recent increase in rates on the tobacco warehouses in the north country. Really, these bucolic legislatures are too humorous for anything.—London Review.

## MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, July 3rd, 1901.

**ASHES.**—The market is practically lifeless, with no export demand, and receipts very light. Last purchases of first pots were at about \$4.25; seconds are quoted at about \$3.75.

**CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.**—Business in cements is fair, in bricks dull. Receipts of cements, for week ending to-day, have been fairly liberal, being reported 13,960 barrels of German and Belgian; firebricks, 234,900. For the previous week, the figures were only 1,100 barrels of English cement, and 52,000 firebricks. We quote: Belgian cement, \$1.70 to \$1.95; German, \$2.30 to \$2.50; English, \$2.25 to \$2.35; American, \$2.25 to \$2.50; Canadian, Beaver brand, \$1.90; Star, \$2.20; Silicas, \$2.10; firebricks, \$16 to \$22.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS.**—The cheese market, since last writing, has shown a heavy tendency, and quotations are a full 3/4 cent lower than a week ago. Fine Ontarios are now quoted at 9 3/4 c.; Townships, 8 7/8 c., and Quebecs, 8 3/8 c. Butter is also a little weaker, at 19 1/4 to 19 1/2 c. for fine creameries. Of cheese, 91,769 boxes were exported last week, as against 102,000 boxes for same period of last year. Butter shipments last week amounted to 9,892 packages, some 6,000 packages less than same week of 1900.

**DRY GOODS.**—The continued scorching weather has kept up a steady flow of letter orders from country dealers for all sorts of cotton goods and light summer stuffs, and city retailers are making up for the cool, damp spring. One special feature reported by wholesalers is the demand which has set in briskly within the last few days for material for men's shirt waists, which are beginning to be in evidence on our streets. One retailer reports having sold 15 dozen on one day last week.

**GROCERIES.**—Trade is reported as being kept up in very fair shape. Market values as a rule are steady to firm. In sugars there has been no change since those noted last week, and refiners quote \$4.60 for standard granulated, and \$3.85 to \$4.50 for yellows. The demand is said to be very fair. Molasses is said to be stiffer at the island, where stocks are said to be well sold up. For Barbadoes, the jobbing quotation is steady at 29c.; some fancy Porto Rico is held here, extra bright in quality, for which 40c. is being asked. Canned goods are moving somewhat slowly. It is thought the strike among the fishermen may affect the pack-