-The exchanges at American cities for the first week of October are the largest ever recorded, in spite of the fact that stock speculation con ributed to the aggregate very much less than on many other occasions. The only previous weekly report approaching this was the one for March 5th, when the aggregate was \$1,523,-.014,267. But the allowance for exchanges arising for sales of stocks in that week, says the N. Y. Public, was \$519,400,000-nearly \$200,. 000,000 larger than the allowance for last week when the exchanges remaining, after deducting double the market value of stocks stocks sold, amounted to \$824,250,566. This has never been exceeded except in the week ending Jan'y 8th. when yearly settlements swelled the aggregate. The amounts of exchanges at principal cities for the week ending October 8th, in comparison with the returns of the corresponding week last Year, are as follows: [San Francisco, Oct. 1st.]

Now	1880.	1881.	p.c.
New Yerk	1,154,052 466	\$651,169,10	+ 77.2
Ubio-	51.004,000	61,974,226	+ 49.4
Philos	89,2:0 108	41,32+,938	+155.8
St. Louis Phila	60.709,008	42,963 778	+ 41.3
Uinoi-	21 009,330	14,001 453	+ 54.8
Dalting Dalting	20,318.100	17,382,700	+ 16.9
08h 13	18 5:0,131	14,672,208	+ 267
Mil- Million Million	12,100,180	11,223,101	+ 8.3
Total of	10,827,638	8,071,487	+ 38.9
		899,427,428	+ 69.8
outside N.Y	357.455.677	248.258.398	+ 50.9

Some idea of the magnitude of speculative opera. tions can be formed, adds that journal, from recorded sales. "Only \$30,000,000 would more than cover the nominal value of grain sold in this city last week, contracts included; about \$45,000,000 would cover the nominal value of all cash and all option sales of cotton; and \$10,-000,000 more would cover sales of petroleum and provisions; and yet a great part of these transactions involved no payment of money except in the deposit of margins. It is evident that the flood of speculation has risen dangerously high, but is also evident that the volume of legitimate trade is much larger than ever before.

-The assignees of John G. Tappan, who defaulted for a large amount as treasurer of the Boston Belting company, have been authorised to dispose of an endowment policy for \$10,000 on his life for \$5,000 cash. It isn't every scoundrel that leaves behind him a collateral of this sort to cover a defalcation, but it is a very satisfactory and substantial way of satisfying creditors, so for as it goes, nevertheless, says a contmporary.

-Unusual efforts have been made this year by the civic authorities of Montreal to collect arrears of taxes, and up to date they have managed to collect about \$94,000 more than last year. The following are the amounts collected last Year and in 1881 to date :--

ARRON	1880.	1881.	Surplus
Assessment and per- sonal taxes	\$573,419 154,725		
rears of same	276,881	303,909	27,018
Arrears of special as- sessments	21,876	52,877	31,001

Totals ......\$1,026,901 \$1,188,415\$161,415 The increase is due to the heavy collections

in arrears.extraordinary efforts having been made in this direction by Sheriffs' sales, etc.

-A cable despatch of Saturday last states that the half-year report of the Great Western Railway shows that the receipts for the half-year were £470,000, and the surplus £15,000. The Directors recommend a half-year dividend of five per cent, on the preference stock and one and one-quarter per cent. on ordinary shares.

A STRAIGHT ANSWER WANTED. - One of the eastbound trains coming into Detroit the other day was heavily loaded, and a passenger who got on at Ypsilanti walked through two cars and finally halted at a seat occupied by a small man and grab bag and inquired;

" Is this seat occupied "

" Of course this seat is occupied" was the reply.

"Are both halves of the seat occupied?" was the next query. "Of course both halves are occupied"

"Well, my friend," said the new arrival, as he let go of his satchel, "I want to bother you with one more query. Had you rather I would toss that grab-bag out of the window and sit down with you, or chuck you ont and ride into Detroit with the grab-bag?

The grab-bag man got mad at that and wouldn't ride anywhere else except on the wood-box .-Detroit Free Press.

## STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTBEAL, October 19, 1881. Average Price, like Date 1880. Buyers. eek. ighest Sellers. eek [ota] STOCKS. H g я 1534 2441 201 202 197 2013Montreal u... x.d. 198 66 1991 197 196 88 Ontario...... Consolidated.. People's ..... Molson's ..... 20378 58 59 55 891 90 138 116 117 117 5161331 165 106 Toronto ...... Jac. Cartier ... Merchants ..... 132 . . . . . . 106 110 97 1083 1284 1223 128 1527 128 1284 1418 142 135 144 8640 Commerce..... Eastern Tps 1174 669 .... . . . . 97 . . . . . . Union ..... .... Hamilton ..... Exchange ..... Mon. Tel..... . . . . . . .... 127 1304 125 128} 2045 127 Dom. Tel. ..... Rich.&O. Nav . City Pass...... 534 117 5335 44 445 49 47 125 142 25 1142 1404 141 143 139 Gas x d ..... R. C. Ins. Co 504 16 50 55 . . . . . . Commerce x.d. 1191 122 120 100 Pass, x.d. . . . . . . . . .

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