

parcels to Great Britain at lower rates than by express.

COUNTY CLERK: Essex.—We have already repeatedly described the Metrical System. If you file your paper you can find particulars at page 541 of the volume of 1882-3. See elsewhere in this issue.

STYLES IN BOOTS AND SHOES.

It is remarkable how quickly abuses of established rules of custom often correct themselves. Within three years, says the *Shoe and Leather Reporter*, it was the ambition of manufacturers of boots and shoes to produce some marked innovations in the way of novelties. The comfortably-wide toe, common-sense, flat heel, the neat-fitting shoe, gave place to a toothpick toe, full French heel and Spanish arch instep, neither feature of which ever possessed either beauty or comfort—but they were novel. Slippers were inlaid with fancy-colored satin or leather, in every conceivable design, calculated to bewilder the buyer. It was a rush to produce something different from what competitors were making; and manufacturers jealously guarded their samples from prying eyes to prevent their designs being copied.

Salesmen, in order to show their samples complete, were obliged to carry three or four large trunks. The jobber scarcely felt competent to select a line of goods, because he was fully aware that another salesman was on the way with more novelties. To such an extreme were these efforts carried, that it became a burden to both buyer and manufacturer. It required a constant change in lasts, dies and patterns. No manufacturer could sell enough goods of one line or style to pay the expenses of making the necessary changes. Jobbers could not buy enough of any one kind to make it an object to the manufacturers. If they did so they were pretty sure of buying an overstock.

By common consent the whole matter was abandoned, and at present there are but a few distinct styles. For ladies' wear a button all-leather boot meets the demand of 90 per cent. of the consumers. Men's boots and shoes possess but little variation. A button shoe or ball-moral, with a box or plain toe, with a neat toe cap, is all that is required. A good, sensible, medium toe, common-sense or slightly-curved heel, a plain Newport or opera slipper, fully meet the wants of the majority of people. Manufacturers can take large contracts for goods, and run their factories for weeks without special change of lasts, dies or patterns. Jobbers can purchase understandingly. The goods are better fitting, more stylish and comfortable, and cheaper to the consumer. In fact, it makes the entire business satisfactory to all concerned.

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MANUFACTURERS,
TORONTO, ONTARIO.

Practical efforts are being made in Montreal to organize a company with a capital of \$75,000 to work the Philipsburg Marble Quarries.

—The steamship *Plymothian* has arrived at Bathurst, N. B., with 1,600 tons of steel rails and the necessary fastenings for the Caraquet and Shippegan Railway. It is expected that 10 miles of rails will be laid this fall.

—The importance of adding the county and State to the address of letters or other mail matter, even in the case of the most important American cities, is apparent from the fact that there are in the United States 11 St. Pauls, 20 Bridgeports, 18 Buffalos and Newarks, 17 Brooklyns, Cleavelands and Rochesteres, 16 Hartfords, 15 Louisvilles, 13 Bostons and Pittsburges, 8 Cincinnati and Philadelphias, 6 Chicagos, 7 Detroits, 5 Milwaukeees and St. Louises, 32 Washingtons and 4 New Yorks and Baltimores. New Orleans and San Francisco are not duplicated.

They tell this story at the expense of a Montreal cigar vendor: A St. Louis gentleman of Kentucky birth and education went recently to that city. Wanting a cigar, he called at the stand in the hotel and made known his desire. The dealer, a portly, side-whiskered person after the London pattern, asked him if he would "like to 'ave a 'Enry Clay," at the same time taking down a box of that well-known brand. While making his selections the Kentuckian said, "Henry Clay—Clay—seems to me I've heard that name. Pray, sir, who was Henry Clay?" "'Enry Clay, sir," replied the dealer, "'e was a celebrated tobacco manufacturer hower hin the States." "Is he dead?" "Hi think 'e his, sir; but 'is establishment his kep' hup by 'is sons." The Kentucky St. Louisian smiled to himself, lit his cigar, and went out musing upon the vanity of human greatness.

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