

would not have been tolerated for one moment in any clerk among us. As to hours, we never thought much about them. Our "Deputy" was regular as clockwork in a morning, and every clerk took good care to be there before him; time of arrival was entered regularly, and the time book regularly inspected. I admit that the hour for departure was grossly irregular, for our "Chief" was frequently in "Council" till six and later; our "Deputy" never left before his "Chief," and no clerk ever left until the "Deputy" had gone. Holidays were little thought of; and during the Session most nights were passed by me or some of my fellow clerks in the "House" in sight of the "Chief," who knew he could count on us at any moment.

This, I said, was in the seventies. I have not spoken to "Chief" or "Deputy" since, and my name may be forgotten by both, but I have before me at this moment a letter I received from the Deputy Minister—the sharpest reprimand I ever received in my life, and one which I never forgot. He was at home, ill, and I and a fellow-clerk had received leave of absence from the Chief Clerk of the Department for one hour on private business. This is what was written: "I heard this afternoon that you and — were seen away from the department, at which, unless you were on public business, I must express my regret, as I expect that in my absence the work of the department will be as regularly attended to, and its rules carried out, as if I were present. I recently reported to — (our Chief) that the clerks of my department never left the offices during office hours, and that they worked *irrespective of any reference to hours, or holidays, or half-holidays*, and I should be sorry to have cause to withdraw this report. Please show this to —, and if you asked leave of the Chief Clerk, to him also."

That was my first and last absence on private business. As I said, this was in the "seventies," and matters may since then have changed for the worse; indeed the recent irregularities and dishonesty cannot be excused. At the same time I cannot but believe that it is the majority who are hard-working, competent, in many cases highly talented, and always civil. R.

Montreal, Jan. 5th, 1892.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Jan. 6th, 1892.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average. 1891.
M. ntreale	232	222	83	225	220	222
Ontario	112	111	17	114	111	110
People's	97	97	8	100	97	97
Molson's	161	160	5	165	160	162
Toronto .....	.....	.....	.....	230	.....	218
J. Cartier .....	.....	.....	.....	109	108	.....
Merchants	149	149	35	152	148	142
Commerce	135	133	35	134	133	125
Union .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
M. Teleg. cash	130	129	350	.....	.....	.....
do. x'd.	183	128	2920	129	124	97
Rich. & Ont. .....	.....	.....	.....	67	60	50
Street Ry. .....	.....	.....	.....	186	180	171
do. new stock .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
do. new stock .....	.....	.....	.....	204	202	197
O. Pacific	94	91	6331	95	93	70
C. P. land b'ds	102	102	10m.	104	174	109
N. W. Land .....	.....	.....	.....	84	81	65
Bell Tele.	157	157	13	154	156	.....
Montreal 4% .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

NEW LATIN.

Very little Latin is made use of in modern medicine; but even that little occasionally trips up some one. An article in a late journal speaks of "the great desiderati of our day." This wrong termination is hardly as bad as one that appeared some time since in a large daily paper. The editor, referring to certain vehicles, spoke of them as "omnibi." Mistaking the *us* of an already plural ending for the singular, and repluralizing it, is decidedly funny.

GRAHAM FLOUR OR BRAN?

Solicitous waiter—I'm afraid your Graham rolls are too fresh for you, sir?
Sarcastic diner—Fresh! They seem to be bran new.

POINTS FOR CLERKS.

An old writer says that the best education for a youth destined for business pursuits is that which draws out (from the Latin *E* and *duco*), develops, trains and educates those faculties which distinguish the accomplished man of business.

A good man needs physical vigour and strong nerves, and should be able to read well, speak correctly, write plainly, and count quickly and accurately; therefore a youth should be taught reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic.

A business man needs good sense and a retentive memory; therefore the senses and the memory should be educated.

A business man should have business habits; therefore a youth should be trained to industry, system, punctuality and perseverance.

A business man must be decided in character, yet courteous in manner; a youth should therefore cultivate self-reliance, presence of mind and politeness.

A business man needs sharpness and versatility; there should be nothing in the plan of education which has a tendency to produce excessive prudence.

A business man is all the time concerned with money; therefore a youth should be taught early the use and value of money and practiced in self-denial.—*American Grocer.*

A BOOKKEEPER AT NINETY.

In the office of Mr. Frank Corwith, at No. 94 Washington street, is a gray-haired bookkeeper who is probably the oldest member of his profession in Chicago. In addition, as the despatches announce to-day, he is a brother of the lady who has celebrated her eighty-ninth birthday, and who is the oldest resident of Galena, Ill. Mr. C. C. P. Hunt is the man, and he thinks it nothing strange that at the age of ninety he should come down at 8.30 every morning and begin work on his books. He is a good penman, and has a splendid memory and business education.—*Chicago News.*

LEATHER MONEY.

Leather was very early used as a currency, the Romans employing it for this purpose before either gold, silver or brass came into common use. History is full of references showing that leather was used by the ancients as a sort of circulating medium of exchange. It is said, on good authority, that so late as during the reign of Louis XII. of France, the country became so impoverished, and, as a consequence, money was so scarce, that little pieces of leather with a small silver nail driven through each, were in general use as money. Some few specimens of this leather money are still in existence.

LUCK.

Brown—"Cobwigger is remarkably superstitious for a man of his intelligence. I saw him pick up an old horseshoe the other day."
Merritt—"Yes. He nailed it over that \$5,000 vase in his library."

Brown—"Did it bring him good luck?"

Merritt—"It fell down and broke the vase."

—How a guessing contest was squelched is told by the *New York Times*. A man owned a dry goods bazaar in Long Island City and some time ago offered every customer who purchased \$1 worth of goods a chance to guess at the number of toothpicks in a glass fish globe, the one who guessed the nearest to receive a four-hundred-and-fifty-dollar piano. It seems that Anthony Comstock got wind of Mr. Dillon's scheme to boom trade, and paid the city a visit. He promptly stamped the affair as illegal, and while he believed the merchant innocent of any intentional violation of the law, sent him his views in a letter. Mr. Dillon has discontinued the contest.

—Head of Firm—"Mr. Penwiper, you have been very faithful to us this year, and we have decided to show our appreciation." Penwiper—"Yes, sir; I have tried to do my duty."
Head of Firm—"So we have observed, Penwiper, and in view of this fact, we have decided not to reduce your salary on the 1st."
Clothier and Furnisher.

—We hear from Ottawa that the Dominion Government has decided to renew the plan of encouraging immigration to the great Canadian West by renewing the system of granting bonuses to actual settlers which was in force last year. A bonus is offered in the proportion of \$10 to each head of a family and \$5 to every member thereof over twelve years of age, and applied only to settlers on lands west of the eastern boundary of Manitoba. This is intended as aid to immigrants in defraying expenses of travelling long distances from the United Kingdom or continent of Europe to Manitoba, the North-West and British Columbia.

—This fall, when Mr. J. Cochrane was packing apples throughout East Wawanosh, Ont., he placed in a number of barrels a card upon which he wrote, "Whoever buys this barrel of apples kindly write to my address, if fine and in good condition." In reply to one of these cards, Mr. Cochrane received last Saturday a letter from Buckoll, King & Co., produce dealers and commission agents, Nottingham, England. They stated that the apples were in splendid condition and one of the finest barrels they had opened this season, and hoped that Mr. Cochrane could make them a trial consignment of from 100 to 1,000 barrels next year, guaranteeing perfect satisfaction.

—It is a waste of time and of a very generous attribute of human character to lavish sympathy upon the fools who buy bogus gold bricks, or who are bounced out of their money by sharpers, who are tempted into the dens of the "green goods" or counterfeit money dealers. Such cases are reported almost every day in some of the journals of the country, but the victim is always a countryman, and one whose habits of economy prevent him from reading the daily newspapers.—*Philadelphia Times.*

—The *Barrie Advance* thus talks to delinquent subscribers: "Our long suffering has been abused, and our patience is exhausted. We therefore have resolved to offer at public sale all such accounts as are not settled by the last of January, 1892. The names and amounts will be published some weeks before, so that any one who can see a bargain in the purchase can take advantage of it. Dead beating this office is played out."

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 6th Jan., 1892.

ASHES.—We refer elsewhere to the subject of the potash trade for the year. Values continue fairly steady considering the dull state of trade, and we quote first quality pots \$4.55 to \$4.60; seconds, \$3.85 to \$3.90. Pearls purely nominal at \$6.25.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business has not yet assumed a very active phase, but some moderate sorting trade is reported. The prevailing tendency is towards firmness in values. Citric acid is dull, but a marked rise is not improbable, as lemons are commanding higher prices, and shipments from producing points are considerable; aloes, slightly easier owing to freer receipts; the advance in ergot seems to have reached its limit at present, but the price is steadily held; tartaric acid is expected to advance, it being claimed that present prices are unprofitable; insect powder is more firmly held owing to an advance in the flowers in Trieste; kouso reported as scarce and dearer. In essential oils, lemon is very firm in Sicily, and higher prices probable later; distillers are asking higher prices for wintergreen; peppermint steady at last quotations. It is expected that the bromide combination will shortly be re-established; some makers have withdrawn quotations; coca leaves and cocaine are advancing; senna firmly held, better grades are in good request.

FURS.—In view of the cessation of the local demand, and the fact that all European advances give warning that low prices must be expected at coming spring sales, all dealers in raw furs are buying very cautiously for shipment. Indeed good authorities say that it will be hard to avoid loss on shipping furs this season. We revise quotations closely, but figures are subject to further material change at any moment, and it must be understood that figures below are for prime skins. We