

between Mr. Walker and the scurrillous *Globe* writer.—Mr. Walker is a gentleman. This impudent holding up to ridicule of the name of a gentleman not at all in public life, but one of the most estimable men in Canada, is on a par with the *Globe's* unwarranted and contemptible use of the name of the Baroness Macdonald on a recent occasion. The toe of a boot might be made to do good service on occasions of this sort.

SOME of our American contemporaries are crowing over a statement recently made by their Government regarding the large increase of shipments of flour from that country to Cuba under the operation of their reciprocity treaty with that island. It is shown that in the first two months of 1892, after the coming into effect of the treaty, as compared with the first two months of 1891, before the treaty was made, the imports of flour into the port of Havana were as follows:—

	1892	1891
From United States.....	33,643 bags.	5,753 bags.
" Europe.....	160 "	50,255 "

This is a good showing as far as it goes, but we would like to see the figures regarding the exports of American wheat to Spain before and after the going into effect of the treaty. There is an impression that the exports of American wheat to Spain have decreased largely since then, as the consumption of flour in Cuba was largely of American wheat ground in Spanish mills.

IN view of the recent utterances of Lord Salisbury the Cobden Club has adopted resolutions declaring that it will welcome all efforts that are based upon sound economical principles to draw closer the relations between Great Britain and her colonies. The resolutions further declare that the club is convinced that a fiscal union of the Empire by differential tariffs levied against the rest of the world, which are advocated in certain quarters, would be politically dangerous and economically disastrous. The only practical fiscal federation of the Empire, the resolutions say, must be based on free trade, and on the self-governing colonies adopting the non-protective policy of Great Britain. But this movement in Britain looking to closer trade relation with the colonies, on the basis of British tariff discrimination, like the soul of the late John Brown of Yankee war memory, will still go marching on, notwithstanding the Cobden Club resolutions.

A CIRCULAR has recently been issued by the Boston Manufacturers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, showing the results of fires occurring in buildings protected against fires by automatic sprinklers and those provided with other apparatus during a period of fifteen years, extending from Jan. 1, 1877, to Jan. 1, 1892. From the circular we take the following:—

	Fires.	Claims.	Losses.	Average Fire.	Average Claim.
Automatic sprinklers	406	206	\$247,073.38	\$610.03	\$1,202.29
Other apparatus....	1,196	501	\$720,437.98	7,291.33	17,406.06

Automatic sprinklers have their limitations, and may not stop a fire which starts elsewhere and burns to the room where they are installed, although there have been many instances where they performed valuable service under such conditions. They are not suited to the protection of large open spaces or

to deep piles of combustible material. Manufacturing processes generating corrosive vapors, or producing adhesive deposits upon automatic sprinklers, impair their efficiency.

ONE of the prophecies of the advocates of the McKinley bill was that it would induce foreign manufacturers to come to the United States and establish plants in order to compete with Americans on their own ground. The result has already come to pass, for one of the largest Welsh tin-plate manufacturers, W. H. Edwards, has decided to close his tin-house, or finishing department, at Cardiff, and to begin at once the erection of ten mills in the United States. These mills will be followed by others as fast as the business may require. Mr. Edwards will import his black steel plates from his factories at Swansea for the present. Eventually he intends to remove his entire interests to his new home. The firm of Morewood & Co., of Swansea, South Wales, will also establish a tin-plate works in the United States. The firm is an old one, and had been until the McKinley tariff went into effect a prosperous one. The steel plates will be imported and dipped in the product of the American tin mines.

THERE is in the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., quite a big bakery. There is nothing remarkable in this fact of itself, for other cities have big bakeries. The particular establishment in question, however, took pains last year to make a record of the material used during the twelve months, and some of the figures which are presented are quite remarkable in their magnitude. For instance, in the item of eggs alone, 1,985,000 were required to meet the demands—a number which would quite appall even the most industrious old "biddie" that ever cackled in triumph over her latest and freshest production. In the department of fine cake this bakery used over five tons of the highest grade creamery butter within the space of four months. It also consumed the entire milk and cream production of the largest herd of thorough-bred Holstein cows in the state.—*Good Housekeeping*.

This illustrates the value of the near-by home market to the farmer. There are bakeries in all large cities and in small ones also, and they all require eggs and butter. The inhabitants of cities are not producers of these articles, but consumers of them, and it is here that the farmers always find ready sale for their produce and at the very best prices.

THE *Toronto Globe*, discussing the numerical strength of different religious sects in the United States, says: "New England, where Congregationalism was once supreme, now contains a million Roman Catholics against 230,000 Congregationalists. This change is due mainly to the influx of French Canadians." Inasmuch as the increase of population of the New England States in the last decade was no greater than that of Canada, and if the Congregationalists were then "supreme" in numbers, they must have numbered as many then as the Catholics do now, or at least a million. If the accessions to the Catholic Church can be numbered by this difference, according to the *Globe* there must have been 770,000 conversions to it from Congregationalism and not by accessions of French Canadians. But there are probably less than one half of 770,000 French Canadians in New England, therefore it is certain that the change in the religious faith of New England is not, to any appreciable extent, due to the