

## FANCY AND DRY GOODS, &amp;c.

The following values of Importations during the past three years are taken from the Custom-House returns :—

| DESCRIPTION.                    | 1863      | 1862      | 1861      |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                 | Value.    | Value.    | Value.    |
|                                 | \$        | \$        | \$        |
| Cottons .....                   | 2,353,599 | 2,262,349 | 3,051,560 |
| Linens.....                     | 261,737   | 195,324   | 192,858   |
| Woollens .....                  | 2,340,690 | 2,048,668 | 2,452,776 |
| Carpets and Hearth Rugs .....   | 80,216    | 81,952    | 77,586    |
| Thread, Lace and Insertions ..  | 10,247    | 12,704    | 12,145    |
| Hats, Caps and Bonnets .....    | 113,920   | 136,782   | 122,007   |
| Hosiery .....                   | 83,236    | 69,601    | 88,422    |
| Shawls .....                    | 12,032    | 6,899     | 8,337     |
| Silks, Satins and Velvets ..... | 362,093   | 371,573   | 494,233   |
| Parasols and Umbrellas .....    | 11,899    | 17,239    | .....     |
| Cotton Yarn and Warp .....      | 30,257    | 36,756    | 49,850    |
| Clothing or Wearing Apparel ..  | 29,021    | 34,623    | 37,635    |
| Small Wares .....               | 364,277   | 234,921   | 246,174   |

The Dry Goods Trade for 1863 has been satisfactory to Importers,—the values showing an increase over 1862 of more than half-a-million dollars. The value of Cotton goods imported last year is shown to be \$90,000 more than in the preceding twelve months ; Linen goods, \$65,000 ; Woollen goods, \$292,000 ; and Small Wares, \$128,000. Cottons are said to be again advancing in the British markets ; Linens are 10 to 15 per cent. dearer than formerly ; and Woollens are 5 to 10 per cent. higher.

The large increase in the importation of Woollen goods is to be attributed to the high price of Cottons,—coarse Woollens being cheaper, and better adapted to the Canadian trade ; hence they are taking the place of coarse staple cotton manufactures.

For a week or two in December, 1863, there was an apparent lull in the English wholesale market, and some abatement in prices was conceded ; but, with the opening of the present year, speculation in cotton goods revived. The continuance of the war in the United States,—with no present prospect of peace,—has given fresh courage to speculators in the raw material ; and the feeling on both sides of the Atlantic now is that existing high prices, if not advanced, will at least be maintained.

The Fall trade in Woollen Goods of Canadian manufacture showed a large increase in 1863 over 1862 ; but prices were not in favor of manufacturers,—for although there was excellent demand, the supply on the market was greater than the requirements of purchasers, and prices were lower. The high price of wool was a serious drawback,—that which previously had been procured at 25c. to 30c. per lb., having latterly cost 50c.

The reputation of Canadian Tweeds is steadily advancing,—the principal manufacturers have engaged Scotch dyers for that department of their works, and are importing the best coloring materials that can be procured.

The Cotton manufactures of this Province have hitherto been small, and confined to the mills at Dundas and Hastings,—their chief product being cotton yarns.