

THE HAMILTON Powder Company, Montreal, has acquired the building now being erected on Bell's Island, Kingston, for the manufacture of dynamite. There is a great demand for this explosive and duelin at mines along the line of the Kingston & Pembroke Railway.

MR FRANKLIN J. LAIDLAW, for many years in the employ of the late Robt. Wilkes, and lately travelling for his successors, was last Thursday evening presented by his fellow-employees, with a gold Albert chain and locket, together with an address expressive of regret at Mr. Laidlaw leaving the employ of the firm.

A YOUNG Canadian named Aylmer Samis was arrested on the 5th of January at Detroit for smuggling five watches. He pleaded guilty and was taken to gaol to await disposition by Judge Brown. Samis formerly lived in Port Hope and Newcastle. He has been in Detroit only a few weeks. Still the work goes on, and still we wonder at crime.

MR J. A. WATTS, the well known and popular manager of the Toronto Silver Plate Co., has just returned from a visit to the United States, where he succeeded in securing the services of some of the best workmen in the electroplate trade. The Company will now prosecute vigorously the manufacture of the newest designs of Hollow Ware, and expect shortly to turn out an assortment of goods that will be a credit to Canada.

A NEW TELEPHONE.—Mr. R. Gray, agent of the Grand Trunk Railway at Acton, has invented and patented a new telephone. The instrument has been in successful operation over a three mile circuit at Acton for some time, and although it has received no greater test so far its utility for this distance leaves no doubt as to the possibility of its successful operation over longer stretches. The chief feature of the new telephone is that you can hear a message in an office without putting your ear to the instrument, and that it does away with the necessity of using a bell to call the person up with whom you wish to speak.

THE Hardware firm of J. L. Martineau et fils Quebec, has issued a circular to its creditors calling a meeting when a statement will be submitted. As far as we can learn from outside sources their liabilities will probably amount to about \$25,000, due principally in Montreal. The assets are understood to be largely composed of outstanding accounts among poor blacksmiths in the Saguenay district. The concern, while claiming a considerable nominal surplus, has been in a troubled condition for a long time past. A failure is recorded against them in 1871, on which occasion they settled at twelve and six pence in the pound.

MR. JOHN CROW for some time has kept a small jewelry store on York Street, Hamilton. He went to that city about eighteen months ago, soon starting business with a capital about \$1,000. On Tuesday, 2nd inst, he gave his wife some money and told her he was going to Toronto and would return the next day. He has not been seen in the city since. Deputy Sheriff Gibson is in charge of the stock for Mr. Crow's creditors, whose claims amount to about \$2,000; assets about \$700. Mrs. Crow states that she thought he was getting along well and had no idea he was going away. She is left in somewhat straightened circumstances, with an infant.

MONTAGUE BANKS carried on the drug business in Winnipeg for several years and made an awkward failure. Then he became a clerk. About a year ago he bought a small grocery and liquor business and opened in his wife's name. Now she has assigned, with liabilities of about \$8,000 and nominal assets of \$5,000 or \$6,000. Montague had not much business capacity, and could not reasonably expect to make money without it in a wide-awake city like Winnipeg. This is only another illustration of the folly of people who have not capacity rushing into business. "Oh! Montague, Montague, what would your mother say if she could see you now."

THE latest proposed method of ensnaring "the enterprising burglar," throws door-pistols, electric bells, and all previous burglar alarm apparatus completely into the shade. Electric pins imbedded in window sills and door-steps did their work, but overdid it by alarming the burglar oftener than the household, and have consequently, fallen into disfavor. According to the new plan, the electric buttons will be preserved as before, but the current instead of starting an alarm will turn on the full glare of an electric light, and at the same time expose a plate in a camera all in readiness to receive an instantaneous picture of the party "occupied in crime." The scheme is novel and ingenious, and would be useful if photographs of an unmasked man could be counted on. In the meantime it is better to be warned of the presence of a burglar than to have ever so good a picture of a felonious person effectually disguised.

JOHN SWINDLE, jeweler, Hamilton, Ont., levanted a few days ago, leaving a lot of creditors to mourn his departure. Developments go to show that he did business largely with the pawnbrokers. At the different pawn-shops some eighteen watches, gold and silver, have been seized by Detective Mackenzie. They were pawned for a total sum of \$223. The real value of the watches would not be less than \$1,000. Many of the watches have been claimed by their owners. This Swindle swindler, is a good example of a class that are becoming common in America, simply because credit is too cheap, and wholesale houses have themselves to blame for crediting such irresponsible people. If wholesale dealers always insisted upon such men paying cash until they get their credit established, we would hear of fewer rogeries of this kind. His creditors should hunt for this fellow until they find him and put him through as far as the law will allow. An example made of such people now and again might act as a deterrent against such practices.

Most jewelers find it hard enough to put their advertisements into prose, let alone into rhyme, but this does not seem to be the case with our friend W. J. Douglas, jeweler, of Pembroke, Ont. For his holiday advertising he mounts his Pegasus steed and soars aloft on the wings of verse away over the heads of his competitors. We trust his Christmas trade was as good as his verses, and that he may ever be able truthfully to sing

"Thus wags the world, success beget:
Envy and malice, and oft sets
Slander in motion, anger whets,
But DOUGLAS.

Onward, regardless, keeps his way,
Lets friends and foes have their say,
He sticks to business makes it pay,
Does DOUGLAS.

ANOTHER of the best known business men in Montreal, Mr. Horatio A. Nelson, has passed away. Born in New Hampshire in 1816, Mr. Nelson went to Montreal in the year 1840, where he began business in the firm of Nelson & Butters. In 1861 the firm became Nelson & Wood, and in 1874, the four sons of the deceased being admitted partners, the firm became H. A. Nelson & Sons. A prudent and methodical man, Mr. Nelson built up an extensive business, and what is more, earned an enduring name for fair dealing, which his sons and successors in two cities well maintain. In the City Council of Montreal the deceased gentleman served his fellow-citizens faithfully and well, holding for years the position of chairman of the Finance committee. In Quebec Legislature he spent three or four years; as president of the Montreal Loan & Investment Association, director in Molsons Bank and other corporations his judgment was valued; while in works of temperance, charity and morality his influence was strong on the side of right. It was not alone in church circles that he received and merited the affectionate title of "Father Nelson;" he has been father, helper, counsellor, to many. In his death the city of Montreal loses a diligent, conscientious and public spirited citizen.

DEATH OF AN OLD AND HIGHLY RESPECTED JEWELER.—We are sorry to have to chronicle the death of Mr. Henry Davis, the well-known jeweler of London, Ont. Mr. Davis had been engaged in the jewelry business in that city for nearly thirty years, and was well known throughout the trade as one of the best watchmakers in Canada. He leaves three sons engaged in the same business, one in London, who for several years past has managed the old business, and two in Toronto, who have built up a very successful trade under the style of Davis Bros.

By the death of Mr. James Michie, Toronto loses one of her foremost and most respected citizens. Mr. Michie was born in Strathdon, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1828. At the age of eighteen he left his native town and country for Canada, and arriving in Toronto in 1846. On coming to Toronto he entered into the services of Alex. Ogilvie & Co., of which his uncle, the late George Michie, was partner. In 1853 the now well-known firm of Fulton, Michie & Co. was established, the late James Michie being the managing partner. This was the retail branch of the wholesale firm of A. Ogilvie & Co. About the same time as the business of Fulton, Michie & Co. was established, the present firm of George Michie & Co. was also started, James Michie being a partner. Probably no citizen of Toronto was better known and liked than Mr. Michie. He was the soul of honor, generous to a fault and liberal, though unostentatious in his munificent charities. He had a host of friends, not one single enemy, and his name will long be remembered in this city as that of one who, possessing immense riches, used them so well as to earn the good will instead of the envy of those who knew him. The many who had not the pleasure of his acquaintance will miss his genial face and well-known form from our streets, but to those who knew him but to love him, his death creates a gap that no one else can fill.