

ballast for his watch chain, is entirely worthless. So much for the true inwardness of *The Globe's* great offer.

As far as the watchmaking trade is concerned we think they have no great cause for alarm in this new departure of *The Globe* people. We don't think it is going to hurt their trade much, if any, while the crusade lasts, and we are strongly of the opinion that it will do the trade good in the long run. It seems to us that *The Globe* people are doing a kind of pioneer work in educating the people up to the necessity of a time keeper of some kind, and any person who has worn one of their patent watches for a few months and had a fair taste of its quality will very soon become a good customer to some regular dealer for a real watch that will not only go when carried but keep reliable time.

If it accomplishes this, and this is about the size of what it will accomplish, we think *The Globe* will not have prosecuted its watch crusade in vain, and in educating the people as to the necessity of having a reliable time keeper it will have its reward.

In conclusion, we may say that we have no sympathy with those people who have attempted to belittle this great social reformation of "The Globe Printing Company." Virtue is its own reward, and bearing this in mind we would advise them to continue on in their elevating task—their reward is sure.

FREE TRADE.

The sentiments uttered by the Hon. Alex. Mackenzie in his recent speech before the Greenock Board of Trade, Scotland, have evoked a considerable amount of discussion in this country. Of course the party press each criticizes it from their own standpoint, and it is either good or bad according to the politics of the paper criticizing it. Apart altogether from politics, there is much in Mr. Mackenzie's speech that is calculated to do good to Canada, and raise it in the estimation of those who are at present or may in the near future be looking across the sea for a favourable spot in which to locate. To all such, it contains many truths that will go far in making them view Canada in a more favourable light than they have probably heretofore done, and we shall look for good to result from it in this direction.

We think, however, it was unfortunate

that Mr. Mackenzie should have touched upon the question of free trade as against protection at all, seeing that his audience, however loyal they may have been to Great Britain, could after all only view this question, which is really none of their business, in the sight of their own interests. Their interest is, as a general thing, opposed to the progress of Canadian manufactures, and it is no wonder that the free trade sentiments uttered by our ex-premier should have been received by them as marks of warm approval. If Mr. Mackenzie's speech is to do any good for Canada at all it must be because it is instrumental in influencing emigrants to come to this country in preference to going elsewhere. If it does not have any effect in this way, it will have been simply as "a sounding brass or tinkling symbol," pleasant perhaps, but useless. If it should have the effect, however, which we trust it will, of inducing Scotchmen to come to Canada, we are strongly of the opinion that if there are any manufacturers amongst them that they will change their trade creed before they are here many years. Trade is selfish, and what is sound doctrine in England, may be rank heresy in some other part of the world. Thus while Britain advocates free trade, it is simply because that system is best adopted to further her own interests. The country is one huge workshop, and her facilities for manufacture are so great that she can produce many lines of goods cheaper than any other nation in the world. With Canada it is the reverse; free trade to us means simply that we may close the bulk of our manufactories and become mere levers of wood and drawers of water to Great Britain, the United States, and any other country that is more favourably situated for manufacturing than we are. We do not think our people will care to do this, and although free trade such as Great Britain enjoys is entirely out of the question with us, even the revenue tariff of anti-protection days is looked upon by our manufacturers and the bulk of our people, as being unsuited to the requirements of a country so peculiarly situated as ours is. Of course Mr. Mackenzie has a perfect right to express his own sentiments upon any such occasion as the Greenock speech, but we think as a matter of policy and in the best interest of Canada, such subjects should be left severely alone. The result of their introduction is simply to

give the Conservative press an opportunity of going for him, and has the effect of weakening the force of the many excellent things which form the bulk of the speech. Politics are all right in their place, but politics and emigration don't mix well, and British manufacturers generally care a great deal more for our trade than our politics.

Selected Matter.

THE SEVEN METALS OF THE ANCIENTS.

The ancients had a knowledge of seven metals, viz., gold, silver, copper, tin, iron, lead, and mercury (or quicksilver). They were each sacred to some ruling deity. Homer has mentioned all these except mercury. Mercury was common in the century next before the Christian era. Gold, indestructible, malleable, the richest in color, in its lustre, and its property of not being altered or even affected by the air, has been known from the remotest times. It is the Sol or sun of the all chemists, who represented it by the circle, the emblem of perfection. There are drawings of gold washings on Egyptian tombs as early as 2,500 years before the Christian era, and fine gold wire was made into ornaments—often found on mummies—by the Egyptians 3,500 years ago. It was coined into the heavy *daries* of Persia, and woven into *mate* threads that enlivened the flowered stuffs of Babylon. In the earliest days of Greece gold existed in great abundance in the Levant. Cræsus, B. C. 560, coined the golden *stater*, and about B. C. 207, gold coins were first struck off at Rome and were denominated *aurei*. Copper came into use next after silver and before iron. It was called Venus by the ancients, who gave it the symbol of that planet. The age of copper followed the stone age. Homer wrote in the copper age. His famous shield of Achilles is made of gold, silver, and copper, a small quantity of tin being put in to harden it. The shield is itself a proof of the art of design, and the working in metals having attained a very high degree of perfection among the Greeks at a period believed to have been B. C. 962. In a mine near Lake Superior there was found, in 1858, a mass of copper forty-eight feet long, twenty feet