

SYDNEY SMITH remarked on his death-bed, "I have found it a pleasant world." The London *Advertiser* thinks "the world is growing better and better." The reason it thinks so is that a champion baggage-smasher on the Grand Trunk has been caught in the act, and now he has his option to pay \$22.75 damages, or leave the road.

THE Bahama Islands import from the United States substantially all their flour, corn meal, hominy, cured fish, salt provisions, canned goods, tobacco, paints, oils, canvas, liquors and sugars. And last year they have bought there boots and shoes, ready-made clothing and glassware. Some earthenware and crockery are now being bought in the United States as well as cotton goods, prints, flannels, and hardware. The old prejudice which has existed there against anything made out of England, seems to be breaking down, and the people of the Bahamas are now quite ready to concede that American goods in many lines, and even in cottons and cutlery, are superior in style and finish to the English. What about Canadian goods there?

THE news of the suspension of Messrs. Galbraith, Christie & Co., wholesale dealers in hats, caps, and furs, in this city, was received with surprise as well as regret. The firm was supposed to have had sufficient capital for their business, and were considered shrewd and careful financiers, but from what now appears, we fear the facts will not fully support this view. Neither of the partners can be charged, we think, with extravagance in living; both worked hard to meet their bills, the junior partner was assiduous in looking after the firm's outside affairs. It is to be borne in mind that high profits have not been obtainable in hats and caps of late years, that business having been overdone. Then the fur and robe trade has suffered from decreased demand and from a fall in prices. But we fear that their difficulties are not wholly attributable to shrinkage in values and heavy losses by bad debts. Good book keeping might have corrected some of their mistakes, and made known the real position of the firm at an earlier date. It is not possible yet to state what the amount of the firm's liabilities is, or what proportion to them the available assets bear.

Two failures of no small importance to the dry goods trade occurred in Quebec within the week, Messrs. Jos. Dion & Son, and A. P. Caron. The senior partner in the former firm an old and well-known trader, died about a year ago, having been insolvent on more than one occasion. The present firm has been doing a declining trade on Mountain Hill for some time past. Their liabilities are about \$10,000. A. P. Caron has only been in business six or seven years, succeeded to the business of F. Chabot, whose stock he bought at 62½ cents in the dollar. He has done a large business; but competition and dull times have been too much for him. Liabilities \$13,500, with assets nominally a little in excess.

MR. R. A. PARKER, crockery dealer in Ottawa,

has suspended, with liabilities of nearly \$5,000. His assets are valued at about an equal amount. He is anxious to retire from the trade, preferring some employment where there are less risks and more certainty of profit, especially in these dull times.

A WRIT of attachment has been issued against Mr. Louis Tourville, merchant of Montreal, and formerly associated with Mr. Adolphe Roy in the Pierreville Steam Mill Co., to which concern is in the main attributable his failure. His liabilities are placed at \$180,000.

ON Tuesday last a writ of attachment was issued by Vital Paradis against the wholesale crockery firm of Messrs. J. L. Cassidy & Co., Montreal. We are led to understand that this proceeding did not arise out of Mr. C's own proper business, but was occasioned by his endorsement for a friend; and are glad to learn that the matter has been settled, the writ withdrawn, and the firm continues as usual. It has been known for some time that Mr. Cassidy was in some embarrassment, through investments in real estate, although if granted time to realize upon his assets, they were ample. He has the good wishes of those who admire energy and pluck and resolute efforts in trying circumstances.

MR. WM. CLENDINNEN's creditors met last Tuesday, and decided that the business should be continued under the supervision of the assignee until such time as a statement of his affairs is completed. This will be submitted at a meeting early next month. The prevailing impression at the meeting was that with an extension of time Mr. Clendinneng, who has returned to Montreal, will be able to pay his creditors dollar for dollar.

WITH the inspiring motto "Give me liberty or give me death" here is the way an Ontario storekeeper unfurls his standard to the January air:

Messrs. ———
 "Gents—Your Samples to hand and quotations. I shall not ask you to sell me or neither shall you run any risk in selling me—you come here with Mr. ——— and wished to get a share of my trade now I don't care a contention dam for you or any House in Toronto I buy my goods where I buy them last, I pay my bills when due—I ask no favours of any House. I crave no Bank accommodation. And I am as independent as a Hog on ice—I bought the Sugars 60 cheaper than you can sell them for cash.

Yours ———

Speaking of sugar reminds us that we have recently heard of a sale made at Mitchell by a London house in January of bright sugar at six and a half cents, 6 months from 15th February, while the ordinary terms for sugar are sixty days. It is well understood that sugar is sold at very close profit as a leading article, but it would require Sam Weller's glasses to discover a profit in this case. Fame, not fortune, must be the object of the house described.

MEETINGS of shareholders in the Stadacona Insurance Company have been held in this city Halifax and St. John this week, the prevailing opinion expressed being in favor of winding up

the company's affairs. The annual general meeting takes place in Quebec on Tuesday next.

A SERIOUS charge is made against Mr. Dunbar Browne, Collector of Inland Revenue at Montreal, being nothing less than embezzlement from the departmental monies of some thousands of dollars.

THERE are fewer assignment and attachments this week than last. Among the occurrences not elsewhere noted, are the assignments of Dubuc, Desautels & Co., furriers, Montreal, and of J. B. Hay, seedsman, Brantford; the latter has since been settled with at 25 cents in dollar. H. K. Dunn, a retail grocer on Queen St., Toronto, offers a compromise. John S. Moore, ship chandler, Montreal, is attached.

THIS week we have to record the failure of another dry-goods house in Ottawa, Messrs. Garland, Mutchmor & Co., wholesale dry goods merchants, after a business career of seventeen years. About four years ago the firm built the fine premises they now occupy, which are an ornament to the city. But immediately thereafter and through "lockups" then occurring they were forced to mortgage these. Successive losses have since exhausted their capital and they are forced to call a meeting of their creditors. The firm were carrying some very heavy accounts, which, although they were at one time large and profitable, in the general depression that has visited the Ottawa valley, have persistently become worse, until their lock-up with two city houses, yet in operation, will exceed, we are told, \$50,000. These with other heavy losses, and losses on real estate, have brought firm to a stop.

MESSRS. CONNOR, rope manufacturers of St. John, N.B., who were recently burned out, have determined to rebuild on the Carleton side of the harbor. They are accordingly erecting, alongside the reservoir, a building 1000 feet in length and two stories high.

IT is stated in the official *Gazette*, for the information of ship owners and masters, that the Government of Spain has granted to Canadian vessels trading to Cuba, the permission to be in future admitted to ports of Cuba without measurement, the tonnage expressed in the certificate of the registry of the vessel being accepted by Spanish officials as the tonnage of the vessel.

THE officers of the Bank of New Brunswick occupied their quarters in the new and handsome banking room of the institution, for the first time on this day week.

THE annual meeting of the Dominion Millers' Association, held in the Board of Trade room in this city, yesterday, was largely attended. A deputation, composed of Messrs. Gibbs, Howland, Neelon, and Wilson, were selected to place the views of the Association before the Finance Minister. Mr. James Goldie was re-elected President. It was stated with much confidence by Mr. Lukes that "we are going to have a duty on flour."

WE are informed that it was at their own request that the firm of E. McGarvey & Co., of Wyoming, general dealers, were recently placed