

is said to be between seventy and eighty per cent. of their premium receipts. Underwriters see their danger and are considering measures for self protection. Some of the companies contemplate ceasing to do business on any terms in towns with defective fire appliances, until some better security is guaranteed by the authorities. Decisive steps need to be taken at once, or they will be too late.

**POCKET MONEY.**—Being obliged to do without pocket-money, and to empty the hitherto fairly abundant half crowns into the family purse, is the real trial of a young man's life when he marries on the same income which he has hitherto spent on himself. He must remain very much in love with wife and home if he does not sometimes regret the jingle of the sovereigns in his pocket which were not mortgaged to house-rents or servants' wages. It will be well if he always remembers that he cannot both have his cake and eat it. This is the impossibility aimed at by many of our artisans. They encumber themselves with a wife and countless children, and then feel aggrieved if they cannot have as much money to spend on beer, tobacco, and music-halls as their single comrades.

It is provoking to get behind the scenes in a household where the income is amply sufficient if it was only sensibly apportioned, but where every one is made miserable by the constant screw that has to be kept on incidental expenses. The servants, the garden, the stable, swallow up everything. There is no margin left. One of the girls has a fine voice, but it is uncultivated; another draws cleverly, but has not learnt perspective. Lessons would cost too much, so Lucy must go on singing through her teeth, and Maude doing sketches out of drawing. Perhaps another of the family becomes hopelessly ill from want of proper medical advice. Books, pictures, travelling expenses, and all the little etceteras which add flavour to life, are done without. No one is able to indulge any little harmless fancy or generous impulse. The mother's life is spent in trying to make every pound do the work of two, and her husband's in grumbling at the impossibility of keeping a balance at his banker's. It never seems to occur to them that by substituting a neat parlour maid for the puffy butler, and by being contented with the fruits and flowers in their season, they might get rid of most of their anxieties and make their children much happier. A hundred a year reserved for household pocket-money can confer a wonderful amount of pleasure. It will buy a new piano, give three people a nice little tour, or present a stained glass window to the parish church, as their tastes may incline. It is dull work drawing cheques for the wages of servants who are only plagues, and for the food which they spoil in the cooking. "Where much is, there are many to consume it, and what hath the owner but the sight of it with his eyes?" The French understand this better than we do, and reserve a large portion of their income for their amusements, whether these consist in drinking *eau sucrée*, eating bon-bons, or going to the theatres. We often spoil our pleasures by not providing for them and so turning them into extravagances. But this would not be the case if we laid aside money for the purpose of gratifying a legitimate taste, be it for lilies or operas. Any one without a taste does not deserve to have pocket-money. He does not know its use. We mean the word in its widest sense, of course, by which it can be made to include hobbies, whether they take the direction of ragged schools or etchings. Children can scarcely be given an allowance too early, but it should not all be for pocket money. They ought to be required to

provide certain things out of it. This teaches them to distinguish between income and pocket-money. Many people, unfortunately, never learn the difference during a long life. Parents are very apt to forget that their boys require to be taught about the management of money as well as how to do fractions. They avoid speaking on the subject before them, which is generally a great mistake. Young men are often extravagant entirely from ignorance of the value of money. They get into debt before they are aware of it, and have not the moral courage to take means to extricate themselves. They treat the allowance which their father intends to cover all expenses, entirely as pocket-money, with painful results to all parties concerned.—*Saturday Review*.

**BUSINESS CHANGE.**—The New York *Commercial Advertiser* announces that the firm of J. M. Bradstreet & Son, in the mercantile agency business, who have an establishment in this city, has ceased to exist. The firm is succeeded by a joint-stock organization, called the J. M. Bradstreet & Son Co. It is incorporated under the laws of Connecticut, and, according to the papers, is to be principally located at New York and elsewhere. It is understood that the largest creditors of the old firm have capitalized their claims, and taken stock in the new company therefor. Mr. Henry Bradstreet, who has hitherto managed the business, has withdrawn, and is succeeded by Mr. Chas. Clark, formerly of Boston, who is president of the company, and who, it is hoped, will be more successful than his predecessor.

**SINGULAR ORIGIN OF A FIRE.**—The steam and flour mills belonging to Mr. Reeves, at Great Horwood, near Winslow, England, were lately destroyed by fire. The machinery for stopping the mill had become broken, and during the night the heavy gale blew down a piece of timber temporarily used to block the sails. Being thus at the mercy of the wind, the sails were worked at such a terrific rate as to set the machinery on fire by friction, and the mill was totally destroyed.

**ON SMOKING.**—"No smoking" ought to be posted on every barn. There is not much difference between having a horse thief around the stables and a man cleaning off the horses and tending cattle with a pipe in his mouth; and there is no hired man much meaner than the one, who, when his employer comes round, slips his pipe into his pocket, or holds his hand over it, as if it were a little bird. All such fellows should be paid off, started off, and kept off. As for the farmer himself going into the barn with a pipe in his mouth, no complaints can be made; but if his establishment burns up, nobody should cry, unless it be the wife and children. Lightning and incendiaries, and spontaneous combustion combined, do not cause as many barns to be burnt as the practice of smoking.—*Baltimore Underwriter*.

**MIDLAND RAILWAY OF CANADA.**—Statement of traffic receipts for week, from 7th to 14th October, 1876, in comparison with same period last year:—Passengers, \$1,548 93; freight, \$5,378 22; mails and express, \$240 08—total, \$7,167 23. Same week last year, \$7,275 62—decrease, \$108 39. Total traffic to date, \$216,647 10; ditto, year previous \$233,032 93—decrease, \$16,385 83.

—The Syracuse National Cigar Company is the only establishment in the world which makes cigars by machinery. The company has now been in existence since May 1874. Since last April the company has sold between one and two million cigars. The work is done perfectly as well as quickly; every particle of tobacco is utilized, and a saving of a large sum in the cost of manufacture is effected upon every thousand.

**RAILWAY MEETING.**—The shareholders of the Grand Junction Railway Company met on the 16th inst., and elected directors. The Board of Directors subsequently met and appointed the following officers:—Thomas Kelson, President; Hon. R. Read, 1st Vice-President; Dr. Boulter, M.P.P., 2nd Vice-President; D. B. Robertson, Secretary, U. E. Thompson, Treasurer. It was decided to cancel all unpaid stock if the call are not met within two months.

**LAKE SUPERIOR MINING.**—We learn from the *Sentinel* of Prince Arthur's Landing that work is progressing in several of the mines in Thunder Bay. The interest in Herbert & Gunnor's mine is on the increase, while late reports from the Duncan mine and Stamp mill are quite favorable. It is expected that a considerable shipment will be in readiness before this season's navigation closes.

—It appears that notwithstanding the ingenious precautions taken by the most eminent safe manufacturers to prevent the forcible opening, under any circumstances, of their constructions, the equally ingenious and scientific burglar has lately adopted the method of destroying the mechanism of safe locks by the use of powerful acids, the introduction of which, it is asserted, renders both the copper and iron of the works soft and pliant in a few moments. To meet this new artifice, a London manufacturer has patented a new lock, which is claimed to be so arranged that, supposing the whole of the interior structure, upon which the key acts, to be destroyed, the bolt itself, by which the door is held fast, shall be left unmoved and perfectly secure.

## Commercial.

### MONTREAL MARKET.

From our own Reporter.

Montreal, Oct., 24th 1876  
The cold disagreeable weather which prevailed the week previous to the date of our last report has been succeeded by warm weather accompanied however by a good deal of rain which has made walking rather unpleasant and is hurtful to the retail trade of the city. The warlike rumors which have prevailed during the past week have unsettled many of the wholesale markets and under the influence of which flour and wheat has made a marked advance. News has reached the city that several cargoes of herrings coming to this market have been lost several of the vessels with all hands, the certainty of the short supply has made holders very firm and the market is now held at our outside quotation in almost all branches of trade there has been some improvement and appreciation in values, business altogether seems in a better state and buyers appear to be looking more to their future wants than they have done for many months past and are showing more disposition to buy in quantity. We hear of some houses already preparing to take stock and review the operations of the year which they are doing with more cheerful prospects than were at one time looked for.

**ASHES.**—*Pots.*—After the close of our last report the downward tendency in the ashes market was arrested and prices of firsts advanced to \$4.55 and 4.60, closing to day firm at \$4.75 to 4.80 with good demand; seconds and thirds are almost nominal. *Pearls.*—The demand which has prevailed for the last two weeks is well sustained, under which, price of firsts has advanced to \$6.05 to 6.10. Nothing doing yet in inferior sorts. The stocks at present in store are Pots 3347 brls.; Pearls 849 brls. Receipts during the week have only been moderate.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—Manufacturers are still kept busy on orders in hand, while the usual