

REVIEW OF THE MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, May 18th, 1858.

We have still to repeat a continuation of dull times, and an almost complete stagnation in general business, with but little prospect of any material improvement. This stagnation is not confined to any one branch of trade—hardware, dry goods, groceries, provisions, &c., are alike participators in the existing evil, and all feel the consequences of such a state of affairs.

These remarks, however, do not apply so directly to houses having an established country custom, as to branches of business depending on the requirements of the general trade for supplies. We are aware that certain firms in this city, particularly in the Dry Goods line, have this Spring done a good business, selling only to buyers of undoubted character and responsibility. This, however, has been the exception, and hard times and no sales have been the order of the day.

Notwithstanding the extreme dullness of the trade and the apparent scarcity of money, a large number of new buildings are at present in progress in Montreal: and most of the Stocks sold in our market are done at a considerable premium.

Our importations continue to decrease, although not in so large a ratio as the present state of trade would lead us to expect.

Total Dutiable Goods Imported at Montreal—Comparative Statement for the Four first Months of 1856, '57 and '58:

	1858.	1857.	1856.
	\$	\$	\$
January.....	109,254	147,316	224,168
February.....	210,470	481,632	235,668
March.....	1,734,233	1,734,232	884,380
April.....	686,124	837,647	275,589
Totals.....	2,740,081	3,199,727	1,619,795

Entered for Consumption at Montreal for Four Months ending 30th April. 1858, 1857 and 1856.

	1858.	1857.	1856.
	\$	\$	\$
Dutiable Goods.....	2,198,196	3,094,620	1,694,115
Free Goods.....	426,263	257,178	199,578
Totals.....	2,624,459	3,351,798	1,893,693

The tonnage from sea has likewise suffered, as will be seen on reference to the following figures:—

Statement of the number of vessels and tonnage entered at the Port of Montreal, from sea since 1852:

Years.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1852.....	27	11,986
1853.....	21	8,869
1854.....	First Vessel on May 20.	
1855.....	14	6,740
1856.....	13	7,861
1857.....	18	10,917
1858.....	13	6,965

THE GROCERY MARKET.

There has been little general business done this week. Confidence seems partially restored, however, and the impression is gaining ground that better times are coming soon.

There is a large fleet on the way to Quebec for timber, &c., and freights from the other side are low. In our harbor the vessels are discharging fast, and securing a good deal of Wheat for home freight, at fair rates.

The two steam elevators are kept fully employed.