

to organize a company to take hold of the project. No market fees are to be charged, and the market will be for both domestic and foreign fruits.

The Montreal Wholesale Grocers' Association at its last regular meeting passed a resolution tendering its sincere sympathy with the family of the late Geo. Childs, who was the guild's honored president: "As the head of one of the oldest wholesale grocery houses of this city, he won from all who came in contact with him the highest regard, his upright and unblemished character, kindly disposition and charm of manner endearing him to all his business associates, by whom his death is most sincerely mourned, and by whom his memory will be affectionately cherished." The vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Childs was filled by the election of Mr. Chaput to the presidency, and owing to that gentleman's advancement to the presidential chair, Mr. George A. Childs was elected vice-president.

BOOK AND STATIONERY ITEMS.

It is already time for baseball; the bats and masks, and other baseball supplies are in demand, and Spalding & Brother are the men to supply them.

Crepe tissue papers are still coming in for use by ladies for fancy costumes, for flower pots, for artificial flowers. The quantity used of these is enormous.

"The Story of Sonny Sahib," by Mrs. Everard Cotes (Sara Jeannette Duncan) is the title of a new story said to be full of interest for older as well as younger readers.

The next volumes in the series of "English Men of Action" will be "Dundonald," written by the Hon. J. W. Fortescue; and "Colin Campbell, Lord Clyde," by Mr. Archibald Forbes.

Mrs. Humphry Ward's new book is to be entitled "The Story of Bessie Costrell," and will be ready in two or three months. The Toronto News Company have secured the Canadian market for this much looked for book.

Among recent Yankee notions is the Deviline Whistle, which has a good deal of the small boy's devil of noise in it; and the Eureka Puzzle, a little brass circlet, is one of the devices to develop people's patience, or rather impatience.

The Toronto News Company has a Canadian 75-cent edition of *Trilby*, which is selling like hot cakes. And no wonder, for it contains reproductions of DuMaurier's original drawings and is of admirably clear print and good paper.

Mr. Canniff Haight, whose pleasing volume, "Country Life in Canada Fifty Years Ago," will be remembered by many, is preparing another book, with profuse illustrations, to be sold by subscription, entitled "Here and There in the Home Land."

We find the following paragraph in an American paper, attributed to an American author: "The haunts of happiness are varied, but I have more often found her among little children, home firesides and country houses than anywhere else." The real author of it is Sydney Smith, the English divine and wit.

To those who desire to learn something of astronomy or to those who wish to continue the researches they have already made into that fascinating branch of science, the sidereal sphere of Mr. Mungo Turnbull, of this city, offers a very ingenious and complete instrument. This is the invention which won a medal and diploma at the Chicago Exhibition, and we understand that the patent right for its construction in America is for sale.

Some days ago, Leonard Scott, the New York publisher, died at the great age of 85. He was born and brought up at Tower Hill, parish of St. David, New Brunswick, close to the borders of Maine. And of that neighborhood he gives a description in his 1866 volume, entitled "Reminiscences." Readers of Blackwood thirty or forty years ago will recall the name of Leonard Scott & Co. as the New York publishers of that magazine.

Every letter from Professor Blackie bore his motto penned in Greek characters in his own handwriting in the left-hand corner of the envelope. "Adopt it," he said, "and it will turn earth into Heaven; it will revolutionize society in the twinkling of an eye." This motto was: "Speak the truth in love." (Ephes. iv. 15.) And the second motto was, "All noble things are difficult to do." Letters he divided into four Bs—"Business, Bletchers, Bothers and Beggary."

Higgins' Vegetable Glue is announced to be "a novel semi-fluid adhesive, for manufacturing or household use. It will stick paper or cloth to paper, wood, leather, glass or metal." We have not tried it, but we have tried Taurine Mucilage, a vegetable gelatine, the result of a new chemical discovery, and in one of the new bottles it is the neatest and cleanest thing of the kind. The same Higgins, of Brooklyn, makes inks, writing inks, drawing inks, colored inks, which are highly recommended in the States, and for which Brown Bros. Co. are Canadian agents.

CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, April 25th, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	April 25.	April 18.
Montreal	\$10,111,937	\$8,813,534
Toronto	5,561,292	5,214,834
Halifax	977,608	894,294
Winnipeg	711,384	631,065
Hamilton	573,540	579,643

Total \$17,935,761 \$16,133,370
Aggregate balances this week, \$2,873,487; last week, \$2,089,400.

—The course of spring business, or rather the opening of it, is watched with a good deal of anxiety in many quarters. The beginning of navigation is late by reason of late-lingering ice in the upper lakes. The New York State canals will not be open till the 3rd May, although the Sault Ste. Marie Canal is already open. The Welland opened on the 20th instant, and the other Canadian canals are to be opened about the 1st May. Although grain vessels have got through the straits of Mackinaw, the Georgian Bay harbors are still full of ice. Country roads are bad; in some districts very bad, and we have heard of livery keepers refusing to hire out teams to commercial travellers who wished to visit interior points. In these circumstances country trade cannot be brisk. At the same time a hopeful feeling is general, and there is in some quarters a real lack of goods. In Montreal and Toronto a good Easter trade has been done.

—Mr. Sheppard Homans, the eminent actuary of New York, has retired from the presidency of the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society, feeling the necessity of some relaxation of his labours. He continues, however, to be the consulting actuary, and the directors have paid him the compliment of electing him chairman of the board. They express, at the same time, their high appreciation of the very valuable services he has rendered the society ever since it was founded. His successor in the presidency is Mr. Charles E. Willard, for a number of years superintendent of agencies, and lately second vice-president. Mr. Willard is said to be a man of excellent ability, and he has certainly had good experience, and is warmly recommended by Mr. Homans as "well qualified to win that success in the future which the Provident so well deserves."

—Regret at the death of Mr. B. Ross McConkey, many years a servant of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and of late manager of the Guelph branch of that bank, is wide-spread and sincere. Few men had obtained, by attractive qualities of character and manner, such a hold upon the esteem of a community as Mr. McConkey had upon the people of Guelph and vicinity. His funeral was one of the largest ever known in that quarter. We understand that his successor in the charge of the branch is Mr. Wm. Maynard, who for some ten years past has had charge of the Stratford branch of the same bank. Strong testimony is borne by the people of Stratford to Mr. Maynard's good qualities. He is a banker of experience and prudence.

—On the 18th May work is to be begun on the waterworks of Digby, N.S. The estimated cost is within \$340,000. The town council considered tenders on Saturday night last, nineteen bids in all having been received, some of them from the United States. The contract for the construction was awarded to Messrs. Wood, of Bridgeville, Pictou, for \$14,499. Tenders from the Londonderry Iron Works for the pipes, Toronto Engine Works for hydrants, the Truro Foundry for special castings, and Burrill-Johnston Company of Yarmouth, for valve boxes, were accepted. The water is to be brought a distance of five miles.

—Mr. William Rowland, inspector for the Sun Fire Office, died last week at the age of 70. Mr. Rowland was an insurance man of good repute and long experience. After he came from England in 1852, settling in London, he went into the service of the Hartford Company under Mr. Chaffey; then he was with the Queen, afterward inspector for the City of London, and joined the staff of the Sun, under Mr. Blackburn, in 1892. From the freshness of his face and the activity of his habits, no one could have supposed that he had reached three score and ten years.

—It is stated by the Moncton Times that Mr. John Trainor, who has been acting manager of the Merchants' Bank of Halifax branch at Moncton for some time, goes to Kingston, Kent county, New Brunswick, to take charge of the branch there. Mr. Abbot, who has been in Kingston, takes the Moncton branch, the same authority says.