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THE STAGNATION OF TRADE AND ITS CAUSES.

Mr. Bonamy Price, in the North American Review, presents an elaborate array of random statements as accounting for the general depression of trade. The people who sought the advice and opinion of the ancient heathen Oracles were often infinitely more puzzled with the answer received than they had been with the question propounded. Those who sought wisdom from Captain Bembly had a similar experience, and so will those who try to follow Mr. Price through the mystic subtleties of the labyrinth which he has so patiently contrived. Yet because the Review is supposed to be authority, and the instructors of the people are very anxious to trace out a theory of hard times, which will entirely exculpate the real and only cause, Mr. Price's article or an extract from it, has been copied from Canada to California, sometimes with commendation. It is not a matter of the very highest importance to our material welfare and progress, that the causes of the depression which has for years been attended with so much suffering, and which is getting worse every year of late, should be universally understood, in order to seek a present remedy and prevention for the future? It would seem a grievous wrong to mislead public opinion on this question, yet no subject has been treated with so much inconsistency, insincerity and reckless indifference.

CURRENT NONSENSE.

Statesmen, politicians, journalists, &c., very flippantly attribute these "evil days" to a variety of sources, all equally puerile and pitiful; to their political opponents being in power and themselves out; to free trade; to high or low tariff; to wars ancient and modern; a Canadian statesman of high standing lays the blame on the shoulders of an overstock of non-producing lawyers and other professionals; and the Pittsburgh Liquor Men's Advocate says, "if the churches were abolished, the poor man could lay up something for a rainy day!"

SOME OTHER REASONS.

It never occurs to them that "vice and crime" the acknowledged cause of the downfall and ruin of all the perished nations of the past, have anything to do with our distressed condition. It would not do to speak disrespectfully of our pet national vice, that is entrenched behind thousands of millions of invested capital; it would be likely to arouse at next election, or in next week's business, the ire and opposition of the source and fountain-head and head-quarters of all modern vice, the liquor trade. Although this trade pauperizes and plunders and kills a large proportion of the customers (and of those who otherwise would be customers of every man engaged in any honest, legitimate industry, profession or business, no one scarcely resists it. Because it handles the coin of its plundered victims, almost every profession and trade and industry in the civilized (?) world borne down before its whiplash and begs its custom and favor and patronage. We blind ourselves to the enormous wickedness of that traffic, to the horrible annual slaughter of men, women and children, and the annual devastation of homes and property and happiness, directly wrought by this monster agency of Satan. There are some very

STUBBORN FACTS

to be skipped over, by those who ascribe the long-continued paralysis of the commerce and industry of the Anglo-Saxon race to over-production or over-consumption, or trifling errors in tariffs and banking systems, hard or soft money, female extravagance, or any small matter or matters that foot up to a few millions or fifty or a hundred millions a year; the latter sum is a mere nothing in the annual commerce of the world.

It is a fact that ought to stand out prominently in every modern guide book of financial economy, that Great Britain every year wastes in drink and diversions the enormous sum of seven hundred and twenty million dollars; the United States about the same; Canada has sixteen million to give away to Bacchus worship, and wherever the British, American, French or Spanish flag protects our commerce with our less civilized and heathen fellow men, the rum punchon, the wine cask, and the opium chest, go to beggar, and blast and pauperize and destroy the numerous millions, who but these devilish elements of our Christian commerce would soon be paying purchasers, to an enormous extent, of the products of our varied industries.

Britain, Canada, the United States, Australia, Mexico and the republics of Central and South America, a convenient group of reciprocal markets, license men throughout all their communities, to collect mostly from the working and poorer classes, the great bulk of the people about sixteen hundred million dollars a year, about half the value of the labors of the entire populations. This money should properly go to purchase food, clothing, homes, furniture, books, pictures, and all the comforts and necessities of the household, the products of industry. But the liquor vendor intercepts it and the manu-

facturer and vender of useful articles is deprived of his customers. The money gets into the vaults of the brewer and distiller and banker capitalists without passing through the hands of the baker and grocer and farmer and clothier and carpenter and journalist, &c., &c. Millions of this money should have been paid to honest worthy creditors who are forced into bankruptcy through the default of their drinking and their drunken debtors. It is probable too that every dollar worth of liquor consumed inflicts a financial damage of another dollar at least upon its dupe, or upon the sober classes of society. Many a bottle of liquor has caused a careless or criminal act resulting in a loss of a hundred up to millions of dollars. Further, these sixteen hundred million dollars are paid to a trade which annually seduces from the ranks of the honest and innocent, an army more than two hundred thousand people whom it demoralizes, degrades, pauperizes, and converts into a dangerous and costly class, to be a burden upon honest, sober labour and lawful commerce, and to fill the places of an army of equal number, who are annually slaughtered to the human drink. It is claimed by shrewd statisticians that an average honest, healthy, sober, industrious man ought during his lifetime, to be worth about ten thousand dollars to the commonwealth. If we allow half that sum, the annual destruction of two hundred thousand lives is a money loss to our group of markets, of one thousand millions a year. How much more of a loss is inflicted upon us by their conversion into paupers and criminals can never be told.

Dr. Hargreaves, of Philadelphia, who has devoted years to the study of such matters, estimates the loss of life and industry, cost of pauperism, crime and idleness, &c. caused by drink, and the waste of the productive labor of half a million men engaged in the liquor business in the United States, to be a money loss to that country of thirteen hundred millions a year, exclusive of the seven hundred millions paid for the liquor. The thirteen hundred are fifty millions more than the annual value of all the labour of the U. S., according to the census of 1870. Taking a proportionate sum for the other countries named, we see what an appalling amount is spent annually in devil-worship, and every dollar of it goes to pauperize the masses, centralize capital and destroy commerce. Alongside such a gigantic factor of evil can we point out another reason for the present brood of poverty of the commercial world, that has a feathering weight in comparison?

Among all the cruel and bloody rites and vicious customs of the most heathen nations, none has ever been found to equal, in barbarism, cruelty, and enormity of wickedness, the national crime of our Christian and Protestant people, the licensing and tolerance of a boundless traffic in the blood and souls of our own people, of our own helpless women and children.

The complete arithmetic of this infinitely reaching crime is as incomprehensible as the distances of the farthest stars. One arises from a study of it, with an impression of having listened to the deliberations of a council of arch-fiends in the bottomless pit.

A. D. W.

LETTER FROM U. STATES.

The "heated term" has come, and the people are adjusting themselves to it with ease and readiness. It is vacation time for the schools, churches, and business houses. Summer homes are sought in all directions, some going to the sea shore, mountains, springs, islands, camping-ground, &c. This change is doubtless generally beneficial, but in some instances the care, anxiety, wear and tear attending it abstracts more from the health than is gained by the benefits experienced. But the change is the order, so all have come to think it is one of the necessary things of life.

THE CAMPMEETING

season has commenced. One paper contains notices of 147 meetings most to be held in July and August. Probably 225 of these meetings will be held in the States during the season, and will be attended by large numbers of people. That they are highly beneficial is unquestioned, but they are not altogether spiritual. They have now become places of summer resort for the masses, where they can spend a few weeks at a small expense, and where the influence is healthful and moral. They greatly aid too in the moral and benevolent movements of the day. In nearly all of these gatherings the temperance, missionary, and other interests of the church receive special attention.

DURING THE VACATION SEASON,

but little is doing in schools and churches. The former are suspended altogether, and many of the houses of worship are closed, and several of them are opened only for an occasional service. This we regret believing it to be injurious to the cause of religion, but the ministers claim that they need the vacation rest, and the churches generally are quite willing that they should enjoy it. One has said that the vacation season is the devil's harvest

time. We fear there is some truth in the remark.

FINANCIALLY,

business has a hopeful appearance. After so long a time of financial depression, this is most encouraging. In the

LITERARY WORLD

there is much activity. Nearly all of our publishing houses are quite active, and promise their readers publications of more than ordinary interest. Cheap literature is the demand, and it is supplied by our large publishing houses. The Messrs. Harper's "Franklin Square Library," contains works of great value at ten and fifteen cents a volume. Their "Half Hours Series," containing works of great merit in history, biography and general literature, at fifteen, twenty, and twenty-five cents. They have just issued three biographical works, the lives of Burns, Spenser and Taackeray, of 180, 205, and 206 pages, at seventy-five cents a volume. Their great Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature is approaching completion, having reached its eighth volume. In the field it occupies it has no rival. Considering the great expense of its publication, the vast labor in its preparation, and the elegance and number of its illustrations it is a marvel for cheapness. Their periodicals which stand at the head of their departments are offered at a price bringing them within the ability of the masses, and are read by more persons than those of any other publishing house.

MESSRS. D. APPLETON & CO.,

have just issued their "Annual Cyclopaedia for 1878," a supplement to their American Cyclopaedia, a register of the important events of that year. This is a work of great value, containing as it does facts and events relating to civil, political, commercial, military, social, scientific, manufacturing, agricultural, and literary departments. Indeed it gives the most important intelligence of the year in every department of life, and as a work of reference, it is invaluable. It spreads the year before the reader in all of its most important events. This extensive publishing house, have given some of the most valuable works issued by the American press, and in the art department, it stands unrivalled, as their "Pictorial America" and "Europe," abundantly prove. Their "Art Journal," stands at the head of its department.

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CECIL.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The mackerel fishing along the south-east coast of Cape Breton is, like that of last year, a failure. The catch of codfish has been pretty fair thus far, and haddock have been more plentiful this season in L'Ardoise Bay than for some years past. The herring have not struck in yet in any great quantity.

Messrs. A. C. Vanbuskirk & Co., of Kingston, Kings Co., have a man at work making apple barrels from hardwood staves, cylinder sawed, which are more especially intended for shipping apples in to England.

About 4 p.m. on Saturday last, a quantity of hay (about 100 lbs. in weight) lying in front of the residence of Hon. L. E. Baker, Yarmouth, was caught by a whirlwind and lifted in the air over 200 feet. After being whirled about in the air, the hay separated into small bunches, some descending to the southward of the jail, and others falling near the spot whence they were carried aloft. Outside the limited area of the whirlwind—a few yards in diameter—there was only a light air from N. W.

The brig "Orloff," of which the late Alfred Belmont was master and part owner, arrived on the 1st inst. at Arichat, under command of the mate, Mr. Simon Boudrot. The latter reports that the vessel sailed from Ponce on the 15th ult.; that on the first day out Charles Peardon, second mate, fell sick, and two days afterwards Michael Deegan, the master who succeeded their last captain, was also stricken; that on the 25th Charles Peardon died, and on the 27th the captain also expired, and both bodies were thrown overboard. No further signs of the disease—Yellow Fever—were shown. The vessel is now in quarantine, but no danger of the fever spreading is feared.

A lad named Joseph Withrow, aged 19 years, son of James Withrow, was drowned while bathing in Fenton's Mill Pond, at East Rawdon, on Saturday the 28th ult. The body was recovered about an hour after the accident. His death is a sad loss to the parents, for only about twelve months ago they lost three children from that fatal disease diphtheria, leaving only one daughter and one son. The family have the sympathies of their friends in this sad bereavement.

Mr. John Hunter, of Hunter Mountain near Baddeck, a few days ago received intelligence from Scotland to the effect that he has fallen heir to a large fortune left him by a deceased relative who recently died in Scotland. The North Sydney "Herald" understands that Mr. Hunter intends leaving for Scotland in a short time.

At Aوندale, on Friday week, while Mr. John Dodd was assisting the caulkers amidships on the larboard side of Capt. Fred. Curry's new vessel, now building, he stepped backwards off the staging, and falling 17 feet, fell on the sand and gravel 18 inches from the wharf, landing on his head and right shoulder. The injuries sustained were very peculiar. The spinal column must have been injured by the sudden fall, in some way, as Mr. Dodd's body has been from the chest down completely paralyzed since, and has wholly lost all use of his legs. It is now nearly two weeks since he met with the accident, and there is no change yet for the better. Several doctors have been in attendance, and declare it a hopeless case. Mr. Dodd is from the Gore, and has a wife and family in Maitland. He had only been at work on the ship three weeks when the accident occurred.

On Tuesday evening, 8th inst., shortly before the arrival of freight train from Halifax, a large piece of iron was found fastened on the rail with a bolt and nut, at a place known as the big curve, a short distance from Hopewell station. Had it not been observed and removed by two men who happened along, the train would without doubt have been thrown down an embankment of thirty feet, with the certain destruction of a large amount of property and the imperilling of the lives of many passengers. Hanging, says the "Eastern Chronicle," would be too good for the villain who could be guilty of such a diabolical act.

The Windsor "Mail" says: "Owing to the rivers being obstructed by mill dams the gaspereaux have almost entirely disappeared on the Gaspereaux, Avon and St. Croix rivers. We believe that not one of these fish has been taken this season."

Two bears were recently killed in a dead fall trap at Garden of Eden barrens. The trap was set by Daniel McDonald. Other bears tore the trap in pieces, and ate a portion of one of their dead comrades. Bears are plentiful in that region.

The shad fishing in the Basin of Minas is the best that has been known for years. The Seine at Little Island has taken between 30 and 40 thousand already. The largest catch being 2500. The drift boats are doing extremely well. Some of the boats taking as high as five or six hundred of a night.

A dwelling house near Riversdale, Colchester Co., owned and occupied by Mr. H. H. McNutt, was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday last with all its contents. Cause unknown. The family were absent when it started, and when they returned they found their house enveloped in flames. No insurance.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

It is reported on what seems to be good authority that Mr. A. Gibson has purchased Fish & Hamilton's saw mill at Newcastle, and will commence operations this fall. This would give employment to many who badly need it there; and the report is received by Newcastle men with much satisfaction.—Fulton Star.

A little six-year-old son of Mr. James George, living on Main street, Portland, while playing with other children upon some logs in Lynch's ship-yard, slipped and fell into the water. A man named Thomas McAulay jumped in after the child, but was unable to render any assistance, and soon was in danger himself. Had it not been for the timely appearance of Mr. Edw. Elliott, who successfully rescued the boy from his dangerous position, and immediately after went to the assistance of McAulay, the affair would from appearance, have resulted fatally.

A crew of 250 men are now at work on the New Brunswick and Canada extension, from Vanceboro to McAdam Junction. The distance is about six and three quarter miles, and the work is sublet in sections of about a mile each. The road is a very level one, with only two cuts in its length, and the road will probably be completed and in running order by the middle of September, at which time it will be run in connexion with the E. & N. A. R. R., at Vanceboro, under a lease to the N. B. and Canada R. R. It is owned by a private company, and will cost about \$35,000 to \$40,000. So says the Bangor Whig.

An express package belonging to the Montreal Telegraph Company's Office in Campbellton, containing \$290, was stolen by a messenger named Frank Belmont, on Thursday morning, but it was recovered through the vigilance of the manager, R. McCord, the same night. The culprit was discovered and arrested in a barn in the woods by Mr. McCord, assisted by Constable Adams, at night, secreted among some hay, and next morning was carried before the authorities, who set him at large on condition of restoring the money and paying expenses and leaving the County.

A young son of Thomas Friars, of the I. C. R. R., left his home at Sussex, on Friday morning last. He was seen at Amherst about two p. m. of that day, where he said he was going to return home by the next train. Nothing has been heard of him since and it is feared that he fell off the train. He was 17 years of age, with round features and black eyes. He wore a suit of black clothes.

Messrs. J. C. Burpee and William Stephenson are negotiating for the purchase of a tract of land in Albert County for carrying on a stock raising farm on a grand scale.

There were several extensive sales of logs at Indiantown last week. Upwards of eight million feet changed owners in 48 hours. They were sold at from \$4.70 to \$5.50 per M. Messrs. Gibson, Clark and King were the principal purchasers. Other sales are intimated, all indicating a speculative feeling arising out of the belief that in view of the scarcity the price of the logs must advance.

The success attending the speculation of Messrs. Keefe, McGirr and McDonald brothers in shipping cattle raised in the Maritime Provinces to the English market has induced Mr. Michael Coughlan to embark in the same enterprise. Mr. Coughlan has been in Nova Scotia lately buying up such animals as he can meet with to suit his purpose. A telegram was received from him on Saturday, stating that he had succeeded in securing 100 head of Cornwallis and Lunenburg cattle, which he intended to have shipped from Quebec to England in a few days. There is every probability that the trade in cattle between the Maritime Provinces and Great Britain may assume extensive proportions in the near future. A few cattle were shipped from Granville on Friday morning; 20 head were also sent up river, and 40 from Sackville for the English market.—St. John Tel.

At Tracadie, on board the whalboat Autumn Bell, Capt. McDougall, Mr. William Clark, a young man, of St. Stephen, met with a severe accident last week which resulted in his death on Thursday, 10th. Mr. Clark was the cook on the boat. She being aground on the flats a tug went alongside to take her off. A coil of rope was on the deck of the wood boat, and one end of it was handed to the tug by one of the hands on the boat, while Clark was standing on a pile of debris on the latter. When the tug moved off Clark jumped down to assist him to pay out the rope, and jumping into the coil, his legs became entangled in it and before he could get out his legs were so badly bruised by the heavy strain on the rope that the latter was sunk into the bone of his legs. Doctors John and Joseph Benson amputated both legs next day. Dr. Benson went to Tracadie on Wednesday to have him removed to Chatham, but on reaching there found him sinking very rapidly, at three o'clock on Thursday morning he died.

While Mr. Beatty, of Hillsboro, was out driving on Friday last, in company with his wife and three other ladies, the horse ran away and upset the carriage. One of the occupants, Mrs. Beanson, was it is feared, fatally injured, but the others escaped with slight injuries.

A portable steam mill is being erected at the mouth of the Nashwaak. Staves, shingles, pickets, etc., will be manufactured. About fifteen men will be employed.

Mr. J. D. Englehart, of J. L. Englehart & Co., of Petrolia, Ont., (manufacturers of "The Silver Star Oil") has sent to the firm's agent in St. John, Mr. W. J. Bullock, Twenty Dollars with instructions to contribute the same to the building fund of the Queen Square Methodist Church.

The Rev. Dr. DeWitt Talmage preached at the Agricultural Hall, London, on Sunday to two congregations of 20,000 each. Thousands upon thousands thronged the streets leading to the hall for miles, almost blockading the passage of vehicles and pedestrians. Many people were crushed, and Dr. Talmage's carriage was almost demolished by the crush of the great crowd, every individual in which was anxious to see the distinguished American preacher. His presence is creating a furore through Great Britain. The press comments deal with him daily from various points of view as a preacher of fear, but all admit his power and originality.

A BRAVE LAD.—The Pekin, Ill. Republican chronicles a bit of heroism by a Peoria county boy, which deserves recognition. A coal shaft is being sunk just north of Hollis, and the other day a workman by the name of Harland lighted a slow match leading to a blast, and then signalled to be drawn up. The depth of the shaft was seventy feet. When he had been raised fourteen feet he struck the bottom of a board partition, and was thrown back to the bottom. Thomas Crandall, a stepson of Harland, was a witness to the accident, and promptly slid down the rope, 70 feet, and tore the match from the fuse in time to prevent an explosion. The act was a brave one, scarcely to be paralleled. The boy's hands were terribly lacerated by the friction of the rope. The step-father was rescued with a broken rib and other severe bruises.

Louiseworth Mr B

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