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THE TRADER.

TORONTO, ONTARIO, JAN., 1883.

Sent free to every Jeweler and Hardware Merchant in the Dominion of Canada.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

To ensure insertion, changes or new advertisements must be sent to the office not later than the 27th of each month.

Editorial.

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

The present is the season of congratulations and good wishes, and for the fourth time we have pleasure in availing ourselves of the opportunity of saying a few kind words to each of our readers. Looking back on the year that has just passed away, we think most of our friends will agree with us that, as a people, Canadians have very much to be thankful for. Our country has enjoyed the blessings of peace and prosperity within its borders, our fields have furnished an abundant harvest to the husbandmen, prices for most kinds of produce are high enough to amply repay the grower for his toil; our manufacturing industries have greatly increased in number and in the quality and variety of their productions. Our great North-Western country has developed with an almost amazing rapidity, and the Trans-Continental railroad, which is to unite our scattered Provinces into one solid confederation, has been pushed ahead with a speed that has outstripped the anticipations of even the most sanguine.

In a word, our affairs are in a highly prosperous condition, and though there is and must always be exceptional cases, the great mass of our people are much better off than they were at this time last year. Of course all of us have had our trials and troubles, and no doubt

many of us thought that perhaps we had more than our share; but, in spite of all that is past, we think most of us will look back to the year 1882 as one of the best and brightest in our lives. Life is not all saccharine matter, as some would have us believe, neither on the contrary is it all vinegar; but we think most of us will agree that the sweets are more plentiful than the bitter, and the memory of our many joys dwells with us longer than the recollection of our sorrows. It is well that this is so, for it would be ill for us if the paralyzing influences of sorrow failed to be chased away by the soothing influences of our more cheerful surroundings.

This being the case we think that most of our readers as they look back on the year that has just passed, will, taking it all together, regard it as a good year and a bright one. May the new year on which we are about to enter prove equally fruitful to us of prosperity and happiness. And now in this season of mirth and good-fellowship, although we cannot shake them all by the hand, we desire to wish our readers one and all a Happy New Year, and to say like little Tiny Tim, "God bless us every one."

TORONTO AS A TRADE CENTRE.

We have frequently felt called upon to draw the attention of our readers to the wonderful growth of Toronto as a commercial city, and have pointed out the fact that its geographical position and unrivalled facilities for communication with the richest provinces of Canada, are bound to make it in the near future one of the most important trade centres on this continent. Containing as it does with its suburbs, a population of nearly one hundred thousand inhabitants, its purely local trade is in itself no small item, but when to this is added the large and ever growing wholesale trade that this city now possesses, it will easily be seen that its residents may safely congratulate themselves on being "citizens of no mean city." It is now an almost admitted fact that Toronto now controls the wholesale trade of Ontario, at present the richest province of our great Dominion. In addition to this she is making a strong bid for a goodly share of the immense trade that must shortly spring up in the fertile prairie lands of our wonderful Western Provinces. As

these fertile bolts consist mostly of agricultural lands, and must of necessity be peopled mainly by immigration, it can be easily seen that for many years to come it will be almost an impossibility for manufacturing centres to spring up in a country where wages and living of all kinds are as high as they must necessarily be there. This being the case, these western agricultural provinces will have to look to the populous Eastern Provinces for the manufactured goods that they will for many years be compelled to buy with the product of their farms. This trade, which must shortly grow to gigantic proportions, will have three strong competitors: Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, three cities that are bound ere another decade to rank among the commercial centres of the world. In this race for commercial supremacy, Montreal has a slight advantage from its proximity to the seaboard, but against this, Toronto has the command of the trade of the magnificent Province of which it is the capital, and its advantage in distance to the prairie provinces. Winnipeg, although having many drawbacks, has one great advantage, it is like the man in possession, on the field and always ready to do the business. So far as present appearances go then the chances of those three cities for the possession of this market seem almost equal, and we very much doubt if any one of them will ever get much more than its legitimate share of the immense trade that must very soon spring up in that wonderful western country.

Any one looking at the Toronto of today and the Toronto of twenty, or even ten years ago, can hardly fail to be struck by the great strides it has been making. Its buildings are larger, coslier and of greater architectural beauty, its streets are better drained, better paved and better lighted, its public buildings are worthy of the province they represent, and its private residences vie with those of any city on this continent, and worthy of the city whose merchants are princes and whose traffickers are the honourable men of the earth.

As a manufacturing centre, Toronto, although at present probably the second city in the Dominion, bids fair ere long to lead the van in this department of Canadian enterprise. In every quarter of the city, tall chimneys may be seen belching forth the smoke and steam, that

although disagreeable to residents, is a sure indication that within those mammoth factories are toiling thousands whose labours are ever tending to enrich the city. We think we are safe in saying that Toronto is progressing more rapidly as a manufacturing than even as a commercial centre, and it is the side by side growth of these two interests that we think must ultimately place it in the van of all Canadian cities.

The Globe, a few days ago, in the course of a very interesting article upon the commercial growth of Toronto, has the following table shewing in concise form the estimated total volume of trade or amount of sales in the various branches for the year, 1882. The figures will be found approximately correct:—

Dry Goods.....	812,000,000
Groceries.....	8,000,000
Hardware.....	3,600,000
Boots and Shoes.....	2,000,000
Leather.....	2,000,000
Millinery.....	2,000,000
Hats, Caps and Furs.....	1,000,000
Clothing.....	1,200,000
Fancy Goods & Fancy Dry Gds.	2,000,000
Jewelry.....	1,000,000
Stationery.....	2,100,000
Paints, Drugs and Oils.....	2,800,000
Crockery and Glassware.....	800,000

Total trade for 1882, \$40,000,000

It will be seen by the above figures that the wholesale trade of Toronto at first hands, irrespective of produce, will for the present year, 1882, total \$40,000,000, as compared with \$35,000,000 in 1881, and \$31,000,000 in 1880, or an increase in two years of \$9,000,000. The 150 houses give employment to about 4,000 persons.

The value of the imports for the first three-quarters of the calendar year amounts to \$15,132,426. A low estimate will place that for the current quarter at \$8,600,000, making a total import value for 1882 of \$18,732,426, as compared with \$13,500,461 for 1880, and \$17,565,890 for 1881. The value of imports in 1876 was \$12,637,239."

"WE CAN'T CHECK MANITOBA."

"That the road shall be allowed full play from twenty years from now, and only ten years after construction, and that it should be protected from the chance of being robbed of all the profits, robbed of all the gain, the legitimate gain which the company expects to get from this enter-

prise, and the employment of their capital. This was done only to protect them for the first ten years of their infant traffic. We know perfectly well it will take many years before that country is filled up with a large population, and the first ten years will be most unprofitable; we know perfectly well that it will require all the exertion, all the skill, and all the management of the Company to make the eastern and western sections of this road fully compensate them, and fairly compensate them for their responsibility and for their expenditure during these two years. In order to give them a chance we have provided that the Dominion Parliament—*mind you, the Dominion Parliament; we cannot check Ontario; we cannot check Manitoba*—shall for the first ten years after the construction of the road give their own road, into which they are putting so much money and so much land, a fair chance of existence." *Extract from Sir John Macdonald's speech in Parliament on the Pacific Railway Charter.*

The Local election in Manitoba which comes on now in a few days, is being fought out entirely on the question, "shall we have railroad competition, or shall we be left to the tender mercies of the Canada Pacific Railway for the next twenty years as proposed by that corporation." This issue, as every one knows, has been brought about by the disallowance by the Dominion Government of the charter of the Manitoba & South-eastern Railway charter, lately passed by the Local legislation of Manitoba. This road, which, as every one knows, was intended as an opponent to the Canada Pacific, by enabling the Grand Trunk and American railroads to gain admittance into Manitoba and the North-west Territory, would have been a great boom to the people of those western Provinces, because, as soon as it was completed, the exorbitant rates charged by the St. Paul & Manitoba, and the Canada Pacific Railway, which are really owned and run by the same company, would have to be lowered to something like reasonable rates.

This monopoly, the Pacific Railway Company of course will seek to preserve at all hazards, and it seems that in spite of the explicit declaration of Sir John Macdonald, as quoted above, that the Dominion Government is bound to stand by their railway friends and see them through. Whether this be a wise policy,

or whether they cannot help themselves it is hard to say, but the result as far as Canada is concerned is not hard to determine. It is only a matter of time when public sentiment on this question of railway competition for the Northwest will force the government to concede to the people of Manitoba, what they ask and grant them the inalienable right that every people have of self government. As a matter of fact, this disallowance of the Manitoba & South-western Railway is a matter that the Dominion Government has no connection with whatever, and belongs purely to the Province passing it. It is therefore a question for the people of Manitoba to decide, shall we have the right, the same self-government as is accorded the people of the other Provinces, or shall we suffer the Dominion Government to trample upon our rights as they seem inclined to do?

We shall be more than surprised if the verdict is not against monopoly, and in favor of free railway communication with the rest of Canada. If this is the case the fight will then be transferred from Manitoba to Ottawa, and we shall have the Federal Government at loggerheads with both Manitoba and Ontario. The question of Dominion interference with Provincial rights is getting to be a very important one, and it seems not improbable that if it is not exercised very discreetly and sparingly that we shall have trouble before our people will submit to it.

So far as Manitoba is concerned, we think that that Province is in common fair play entitled to railway competition, just as much as is Ontario or Quebec, and we all know that if the Intercolonial were handed over to a company and Canadian traffic over American railways to the seaboard interdicted, a rebellion would very soon follow.

Whatever be the result, we trust it will be brought about in a peaceable manner, and that by convincing the eastern Provinces that they are in all justice entitled to this demand, they may secure this much desired and needed competition. If they fail in their attempt, they will be entitled to the sympathy of the rest of the Dominion. While the speedy construction of the Canada Pacific Railway is a great national necessity if we are to have prolonged prosperity, the shutting off from it of all honest competition, while enriching its owners at the public expense, will act as a clog on

colonization and all kinds of merchantile pursuits.

We are of the opinion, that in the original contract with the Canada Pacific this monopoly clause was never intended to apply to Manitoba, and that when the Dominion Government find that the people of that Province won't stand it, they will find some plausible way of getting around it, and giving the company something else in its place. In our opinion, the sooner this takes place the better for Canada, and our prospects in the North-west. "We can't check Manitoba," neither should we try.

Selected Matter.

A SIMPLE BAROMETER.

A correspondent of *The English Mechanic* thus describes a simple barometer. Take a glass tube about 7 in. long, and about $\frac{3}{8}$ in. internal diameter, and draw out one end before the blowpipe to a point, leaving a very small orifice, about $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch diameter. This end of the tube should not be quite sharp, but somewhat rounded. A cork is prepared to fit tightly the wide end of the tube, and if the cork is made of cork, its sides and upper ends should be greased or coated with paraffine, the lower end being left uncoated. A rubber cork would answer better. The tube should now be about half filled with distilled water, although the exact height is of no consequence, and the cork firmly inserted. The tube should be suspended with the point downward near the window, and it should never be shaken. When the barometric pressure is low, indicating rain, a drop of water will appear at the orifice, and hang to the lower end of the tube. When the barometric pressure rises, the drop will disappear, and a bubble of air may sometimes be seen in the act of entering by the narrow opening. If more than one drop is extruded, of course they will fall, but one drop will always remain suspended.

I have had a tube of this description hanging in my laboratory, says the writer, for two years, and I find its indications for rain and dry weather most unerring. The only error arises from extremely sudden rise of temperature, which will sometimes force a drop of water out by expansion, although the barometric pressure is high; but in that

case the drop soon dries up, in the other case it hangs persistently, and will in many instances indicate the approach of rain thirty hours before the appearance of the storm. Before rain the drop does not dry up, because then the atmosphere is saturated with moisture. The sensitiveness of this weather-glass depends upon the difference of tension between the surrounding atmosphere, and the air within the tube, the latter expanding or contracting according as the barometric pressure is low or high.

ATTRACTIVE STORES AND KEEPING TRADE.

The first requisite, though by no means the only one to render a store attractive, is to have a good supply of daylight. It is impossible to show goods to an advantage in a dark, dingy place, even were it possible at all times to ascertain if the proper measure of weight is given, or the labels on shelf goods properly deciphered. Nothing will go further, apart from polite and ready attention, to draw new customers, or keep old ones, than a well-lighted, orderly kept store. It is not absolutely necessary that the front windows should contain simply one or two large panes of glass, but they should certainly be as large as possible, irrespective of the number of panes, so as not only to give good and sufficient light, but that articles may be displayed in them to good account. The store fixtures need not be of an expensive nature, but should be of a suitable kind; and the shelves ought to conform in size to the class of goods they are meant to hold. The door, the outside of the counter, and the edges of the shelves should be painted in a uniform, bright, but not gaudy, color.

Windows ought to be kept thoroughly clean at all times, tastily dressed, and the articles displayed therein changed at least once a week, if not oftener, if convenience will allow. If the front of the store is made use of to show certain classes of goods, nothing but the very best should be permitted to appear, and great care should be taken in their arrangement, as many people naturally look upon this as an index to the interior. Every kind of goods should have a special place allotted to keep them, so that they can always be found there when wanted. When serving customers

with goods do not, on any account, allow the remainder of those shown if any, to crowd the counter, but return them immediately thereafter to the drawers or shelves from which they were taken. This practice, if strictly adhered to, will not only prevent confusion, but the occurrence of any unpleasant circumstance. In the evenings the windows and inside of the store should be illuminated as bright as possible. To do otherwise, for sake of economy, is, to say at least parsimonious, and it would be far less damaging to the business to close the store door at an early hour than to keep it open, but dimly lighted.

Stock should never be allowed to run low, especially in staple goods: for, should you happen to run out of a particular kind, the chances are ten to one that that article will be the very one most often and first called for. This may probably result in some good customers finding their way to your neighbor's store, where, if they get their wants supplied on the first visit, they may forget to find their way back.—*New York Review*.

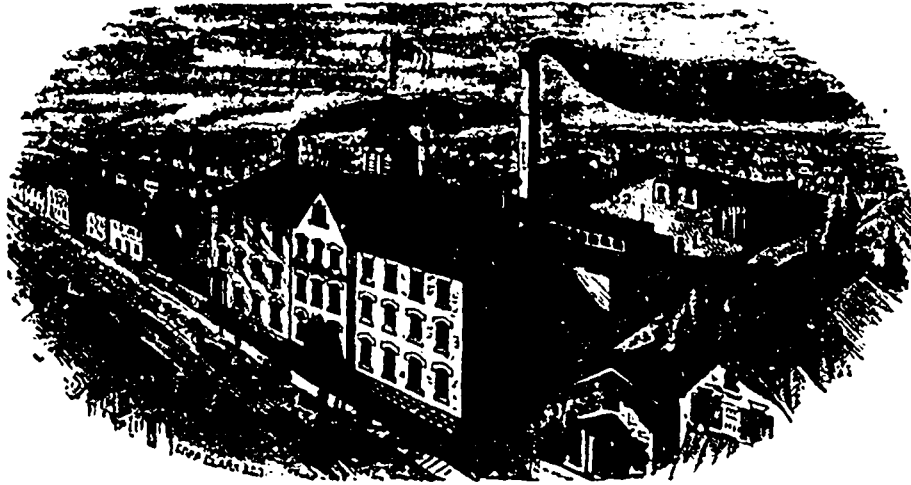
BANKRUPTCY LAWS.

Few subjects have been found so difficult of legislative settlement as that of the administration of insolvent estates. This has been the experience not only of England, United States and Canada, but of all civilized countries. What has increased this difficulty has been that nearly all the laws enacted on the subject have had a double object. They aimed at the equitable distribution of the debtor's assets, and at the same time made provision in one form or other for his discharge from his liabilities. There is evidently no absolutely necessary connection between these two matters, and it is believed that a very great deal of the difficulty experienced in the practical working of such laws is due to their being coupled together.

In the United States the General Bankruptcy law was repealed some years ago, and since that time there has been no law for the discharge of bankrupt traders from their debts. As to the administration of their estates each State has been left to enact its own law. The result is the greatest diversity in the rules of law existing in the different States. The evils of this condition of things have long been a

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ground of complaint on the part of the mercantile community. Especially with reference to the debts constituting preferential claims in the the different States, have complaints been frequent and loud.

Several times since the repeal of the general law, attempts have been made to have a new one enacted, but so far without success. During the present session the attempt has been renewed, no less than three bills having been introduced upon the subject. Whether they will result in a new law remains to be seen. Certain it is that before long the demand for a general enactment securing uniformity of administration throughout the whole Union will have to be met.

In Canada we have for two or three years been without any general bankrupt law, and in this Province, without any law whatever for the distribution of the estates of insolvent debtors whether traders or otherwise. Mr. Beaty, the member for West Toronto, has brought a bill into the House of Commons to provide for the distribution of insolvent estates. He does not, however, propose to grant the insolvent a discharge. There was some opposition to the first reading of the bill, but its introduction was finally allowed. The present state of the Canadian law is very discreditable, and some such measure as Mr. Beaty proposes is necessary to put an end to the existing confusion. It is doubtful, however, whether the bill will pass this Session.

Under the present state of things there is no provision for ratable distribution of assets in this Province, except in the single case of absconding debtors. The law, so far as they are concerned, is in so imperfect a state that it is seldom indeed that anything at all is realized for creditors after payment of expenses. The late Insolvent Act was no doubt open to some objections on the score of expense, but it was cheapness itself compared to the present process for the liquidation of such estates. This is well exemplified in an estate now being wound up by the Sheriff of York County. In the case in point some fifteen attachments have been issued, and, according to the requirements of the law, each of these fifteen creditors has taken all the necessary steps in a suit down to judgment, and the courts have taxed

some six hundred dollars, or about one-half the total amount realized by the sale of the assets by the sheriff, as solicitors' fees in recovering such judgments. In other words, it costs that sum to prove fifteen claims about the correctness of which there is no dispute. Under the Insolvent act it would have cost only one dollar for each claim or one-fortieth of the present expense. In addition to this, sheriff's and bailiffs' charges have to be paid. The fraction which the unfortunate creditors will receive will be infinitesimal indeed.—"*Monetary Times.*"

CELEBRATED HOROLOGISTS.

ADOLPH LANGE, OF GLASSHUTTE.

Incited by the flourishing of the organization of the watch industry among a mountain population like that of the Jura, Switzerland, and the Black Forest, whose inhabitants had formerly lived in woe and misery, and by their new vocation were raising themselves to a comparative state of prosperity, the governments of Prussia and Saxony contemplated making a similar trial with the poor population of the mountainous districts of Silesia and the Lausitz. These districts were exclusively inhabited by the poorest weavers, among whom the well-named "weaver's misery" was at home, and appeared to be indestructible; sometimes, as in the years of forty, their need and misery became so great that they cried aloud for succor, that they implored heaven-born charity of kindly-disposed fellow men in more blessed situations in life, for mercy and alleviation of their over-great misery.

At that time, in 1845, a man submitted a definite plan to the Saxonian government, specifying in what manner the foundation of such a watch industry for the suppression of woe and starvation in the "Erz Gebirge," might be conducted to a successful issue. As stated, the idea had been favorably entertained before by the Governments, but the right man was wanting for the undertaking. He must not alone be a good watchmaker, but also be endowed with the talent of teacher and organizer; he must understand how to deal with a people like that of these districts, which, by prolonged misery and woe, had become distrustful, bodily enfeebled, mentally withered, and dull of apprehension; he must under-

stand how to infuse new hopes, confidence and activity.

Such a man had apparently offered himself, and everything promised that he would discharge these onerous functions. His name was Adolph Lange, born in Dresden in 1815, the son of a gunsmith. His childhood had been unhappy, owing to the unfriendly relations of his paternal home; poverty had limited the field of his education, and when he entered his instructor's shop, only then the talents with which nature had gifted him, began to develop. The boy quickly collected his capacities; he saw a destiny before himself, and retained it in his eye. Applied mechanics contains a subtle, occult spirit that causes many a man to devote himself to its study, in order to lure him into phantasmagorical longing, to waste himself in infructuous nothings. Not so with Lange; he was practical; his nature demanded definite metes and bounds—it required the practical fruits of mental exertions. He suppressed the proclivities of visionary phantasy, and steeled his inclinations while learning—not alone his occupation of watchmaker, but also those sciences by the aid of which he might best himself for higher performances.

He went to Paris, after serving his time. It is unnecessary to follow him step by step, since it is less our purpose to write an everyday biography, than to show what a man *can* do. After acquiring all the branches of higher horology—chronometry, astronomical clocks, etc.—he returned to Dresden, and married his former instructor's daughter. He soon became famed as one of the first watchmakers of the day, and obtained orders far and near.

Such was the man who had proposed himself to the Governments for the undertaking. Most honourably had he shown his capacity, and his character, his life, his energy, offered safe guarantees that he would be the man for conducting the undertaking to a successful issue, and breathe the breath of life into the plan. He proposed to manufacture only good watches, and the very first step would be a horological school, in which to educate the suitable forces that should furnish the first skilled heads and hands.

Assisted by the Government, Lange erected this school at Glasshutte, until then, one of the most impoverished towns in the Saxonian Erz Gebirge, to-

WATCHES.

Just received, a large shipment Silver Swiss Watches, Ladies and Gents Key and Stem Winders; also a fine line of Ladies 10 kt. and 14 kt. Watches. Best value in the market.

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Canadian Wholesale Agents for American Watch Co., Waltham, Mass.

wards the end of the year 1845. He himself became its teacher. But it was not so easy to find a few smart, intelligent boys in the place that were willing to become his pupils, or whose parents were willing to acquiesce. They deemed that beside weaving and straw plaiting, such as had been pursued since ages bygone, nothing could be remunerative. With incredulity they listened to the representation of the, to them, stranger, who endeavored to explain to them the future prospects of such an industry in their remote valley. Ignorance is enemic to all innovation; accustomed misery resists every endeavor to alleviate it.

Finally, Lange succeeded in collecting a few dozen of sickly and weakly boys in a small house, in which he had established his school and shop. They had to learn the making of the parts of a watch movement from A to Z, to put them together, and to regulate the ready movement. Much patience was necessary, but Lange possessed it, and not all the many difficulties could cool his ardor, with which he had gone to work and pursued his plan. It did not require years before the first watches were sent from Glasshutte, of excellent, fine workmanship, constructed according to the latest scientific principles, and, above all, manufactured by those ignorant, sickly boys, his first pupils. It may rightfully be said that they became the fathers of the watch manufacture of Glasshutte—men who gradually convalesced both in body and soul, who acquired self-knowledge, executed their work with ambition, and were enabled to support their wives and children with honor, while several established in business for themselves.

But the beneficent influence of the humane watchmaker from Dresden, in years, became more and more visible in the town and vicinity of the Saxonian Erz Gebirge. His first pupils became teachers for other children when the factory manufacture was undertaken. Lange procured machinery and perfected tools; he obtained both the best and most perfect for his workshops, and invented and constructed others himself. Five years after the establishment of the factory, a fly wheel turned the finest parts of the watch, its pivots, pinions, etc. He was the first to construct the depthing theoretically correct, simple, and without show of artifice. The good

fame of these watches has maintained itself to this day. In 1870, there were 160 people in Glasshutte that lived from this industry, occupying journeymen and apprentices. Of course, the main business, on a far larger scale, has remained in the hands of Lange & Sons.

The man who produced all this work, was permitted to witness its growth and flourishings for thirty years. He died December 5, 1875, heartily mourned by the entire town. The Government of Saxony, which also watched his endeavor with pleasure, honored his memory by establishing the well-known horological school at the place, which had been the great desire of his life.

When we see the rapidity and correctness to-day, by aid of divided labor, to make a watch, the perfection of which once the deepest study and the most painstaking artistic skill were not able to produce, the thinking mind will at once perceive the extraordinary technical development, and the assistance human labor has received at the hand of science. The watch is also an indicator of the science of our times. Its perfections, as it were, shows the progress of work, and also expresses its increase in value. Time, once so cheap, has become of much value. And as the hands of the clock, indispensable to-day in every house, accomplish their course in a mysterious manner, thus also courses civilized humanity, from progress to progress, higher and higher, to the ideal which draws it onward, upward.—*Jewelers' Circular.*

THE PITT OR REGENT.

III

JOHN LAW AND THE FRENCH PURCHASE.

“Even after refuting the calumnies of his enemies, Pitt knew little rest until he was quit of his costly jewel. He was constantly haunted by a morbid fear of losing or being robbed of it, so that it was with great difficulty he could ever be induced to exhibit it even to his most intimate friends. The German traveller, Offenbach, when visiting England in 1712, anxious to see all the sights of the metropolis, made several vain attempts to get a view of the gem, which had already become famous throughout the west. While it remained in his possession the ex-Governor never slept two nights running under the same roof. He moved about capriciously or in disguise,

and never gave previous notice of his arrival to, or departure from, town.

At last he was relieved of further anxiety by the negotiations, in consequence of which the Pitt became the Regent, passing from its English owner into the hands of the Duke of Orleans, Regent of France, in 1717. After being out in the form of an almost faultless brilliant, a model of the diamond was taken, which is now in the British Museum, and on the silver frame is engraved the legend: ‘This is the model of Gov. Pitt’s diamond, weight 180½ karats; was sold to Louis XV., of France, A.D. 1717.’ This model, or rather a duplicate without the frame, had been sent to Paris and submitted to the famous Scotch financier John Law, at that time at the height of his power in France. Law took the stone first to the Regent, and then to the Duc de Saint Simon, (Saint Simon, who seems to have known nothing of its early history, asserts it was stolen by a person employed in the Indian diamond fields, who brought it to Europe. After showing it to the King of England and several other English noblemen, he took it to Paris, where he submitted it to Law. Then followed the particulars of the negotiations with the French Regent, as stated in the text,) who gives a full account of the affair in his ‘Memoirs.’ Saint Simon agreed with Law that France ought to possess a gem which up to that time was incomparably the finest ever seen in Europe. Yielding to their combined efforts the Regent at last consented to purchase it for £185,000, (but on this point the authorities are at variance with each other. Board says the figure was 2,250,000f.; Jeffries, £125,000; others, £180,000,) including £5,000 for the negotiations, a euphistic expression, which, translated into plain language, meant a bribe for Law. Money, however, was just then so scarce that the interest alone was paid on the amount, jewels being given as security for the principal until it was paid off. This price, great as it may appear to be, was even then as much below its real value, and in the inventory of the French crown jewels, drawn up in 1791, it is valued at 12,000,000f., or £480,000.

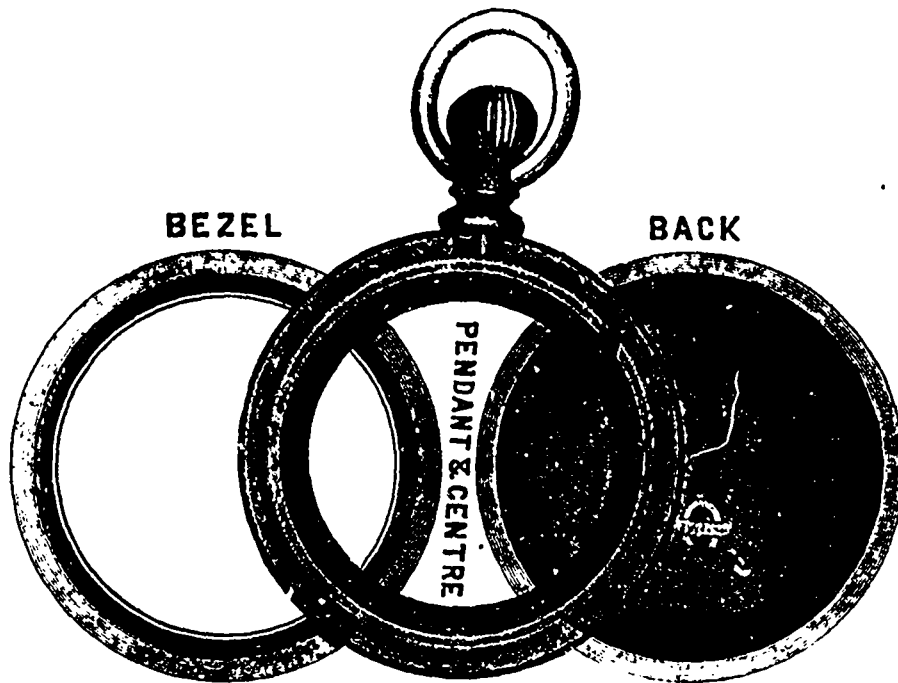
IV.

HELP IT GAVE NAPOLEON AFTER BRUMAIRE.

The year after the preparation of this inventory, which was made by a commission of the most experienced jewelers

THE BEST.

THE "EXCELSIOR."



What we Claim in the "Excelsior" Patent Dust-proof Case:

1. The Strongest Case made.
2. The only Case made hard, and left hard.
3. No solder or heat to soften the gold or silver.
4. No parts that wear out.
5. No joints to break off.
6. The most perfect-fitting case made.

TRADE



MARK.

Instructions to open the "Excelsior" Patent Dust-proof Case.

Press the Crown as in any ordinary case, turn bow to the right to open Bezel, and to the left to open back.

in Paris, the whole of the French Regalia disappeared, and with it the Pitt, now the Regent, which stood at the head of the list. The remarkable circumstances attending this famous robbery of the Garde-Meuble are thus related by M. Breton editor of the *Gazette des Tribunaux*:

'The inventory of the crown diamonds, made in 1791, in virtue of a decree of the Constituent Assembly, had scarcely been completed in the month of August, 1792, at the time of the last public exhibition, which took place on the first Tuesday of every month. After the sanguinary events of Aug. 10 to Sept. 2, this rich treasury was naturally closed to the public, and the Paris Commune, as representing the State property, put its seals on the cabinets in which had been placed the crown, the sceptre, and other ornaments of the coronation service. The golden bequeathed by Cardinal Richelieu to Louis VIII., with all the accompanying diamonds and rubies, and the famous golden vase, weighing 106 marks, besides a vast quantity of other vases in agate, amethyst, and rock crystal. On the morning of Sept. 17, Sergent and the two other Commissioners of the Commune perceived that during the night robbers had made their way in by scaling the colonnade from the side of the Place Louis XV., and through a window looking in that direction, having thus got access to the vast halls of the Garde-Meuble, they had broken the seals without forcing the locks, carried off the priceless treasures contained in the cabinets, and disappeared without leaving any other traces of their presence. Several persons were arrested, but released after a protracted inquiry. An anonymous letter, addressed to the Commune, stated that some of the objects were in a ditch in the Allee des Veuves, Champs Elysees. Sergent at once proceeded with his colleagues to the spot, which had been very carefully indicated. Here he found among other things, the famous Regent diamond and the no less famous agate-onyx cup, known by the name of the Abbe Suger's Chalice, which was afterwards placed in the cabinet of antiques in the National Library.

'Notwithstanding the investigations made at the time and subsequently, it remained uncertain whether this robbery had a political object, or whether it was simply the act of ord-

inary criminals, undertaken at a time when the guardians of the public security were in a state of complete disorganization. Some said that the proceeds of these treasures were intended to maintain the army of the emigrants. Others, on the contrary, pretended that Pothion and Manual had used them to obtain the evacuation of Champagne by giving up the whole to the King of Prussia. Some even went so far as to assert that the keepers themselves had broken open the cabinets, and Sergent, of whom we have above spoken, was nick-named Agate in consequence of the mysterious way in which he had found the agate-onyx cup. But none of these more or less absurd surmises ever received any judicial confirmation.

Nevertheless, there was one circumstance of which I was witness, jointly with the others present at the sitting of the special criminal court of Paris, when Bourgeois and others, accused of having forged notes on the Bank of France, were put upon their trial in 1804. One of the accused, who had assumed the name of Baba, had at first denied all the charges brought against him, but during the proceedings he made a complete confession, and explained the ingenious devices employed by the forgers. "It is not the first time," he added "that my revelations have been useful to society, and if I am now condemned I will implore the Emperor's pardon. But for me Napoleon would never have mounted the throne; to me alone is due the success of the Marengo campaign. I was one of the robbers of the Garde-Meuble. I had assisted my associates to bury in the Allee des Veuves the Regent and the other easily recognized objects, by which they might have been betrayed. On the promise of a free pardon—a promise that was faithfully kept—I disclosed the hiding place. Here the Regent was recovered, and you are aware, gentlemen, that this magnificent diamond was pledged by the First Consul to the Dutch Government, in order to raise the money of which he stood in the greatest need after the eighteenth Brumaire.'

"The criminals were all condemned to the galleys except Bourgeois and Baba, who were sent to the prison of Bicetre, where they died. I do not know whether Baba made any further revelations beyond what I have reported,

and which may also be read in the *Journal de Paris* of that date.'

"Since its recovery and redemption from the Dutch Government, the Regent seems to have remained in the French Treasury to the present time. The first Emperor is known to have worn it in the pommel of his sword, and Barbot tells us expressly that it was publicly shown among the crown jewelry at the Paris exhibition in 1855. Still, it is remarkable that this brilliant does not figure in the inventory of the State jewels drawn up by order of Napoleon in 1810, not apparently in any of the subsequent official reports on the crown jewels. This circumstance, however it is to be explained, had doubtless lent some coloring to the many conflicting statements regarding its subsequent vicissitudes. Kluge asserts that after its recovery in 1792 it was pledged, not to the Dutch Government, but to Troskoff, a merchant in Berlin. He also refers to the highly improbable report that after the battle of Waterloo, where the Prussians found it in the Emperor's State carriage, it was carried off to the Prussian Treasury. If it really was taken to Berlin on that occasion, it was subsequently restored to the French Government, for Ersch and Gruber, writing in 1833, distinctly state that at that time it was 'the first diamond in the French Treasury.' Barbot also justly regards it as the most conspicuous gem in the now disused crown of France. This crown, which also contains eight other diamonds, weighing from 19 to 28 karats, is thus by far the richest in the world.

"The form of the Regent is somewhat round, an inch broad, $1\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch long, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick. It was reduced in cutting from 410 to 186 $\frac{1}{2}$ karats, and has been estimated to be worth £480,000.

THE EUGENIE.

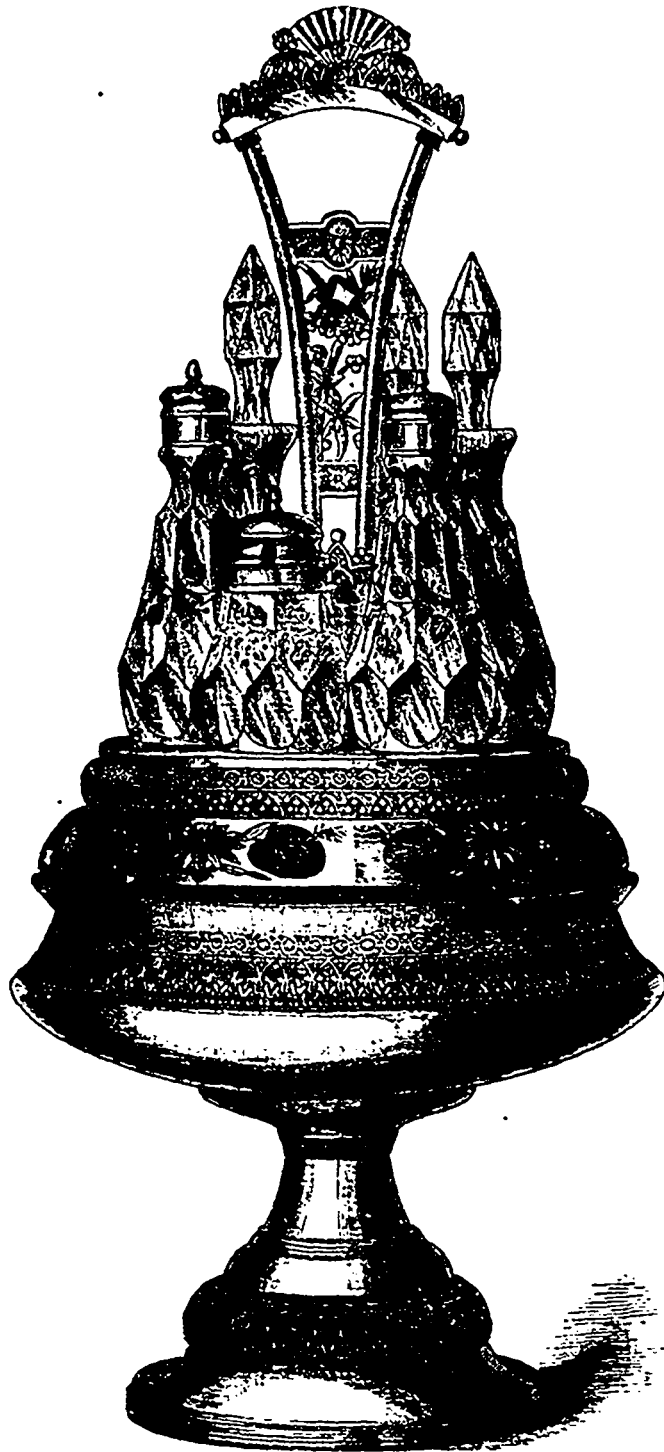
WORN IN A NECKLACE BY EUGENIE, IN A HAIRPIN BY CATHERINE.

"A perfect brilliant of 51 karats, of an oval shape, blunt at one end, and very beautifully cut, this diamond was set as the centre of a hair-pin belonging to the Empress Catherine II. of Russia. When Potemkin became her favorite, she made him a present of it as a proof of her esteem, and to reward him for the great services he had rendered to his country. This man unlike her other favorites, was

SIMPSON, HALL, MILLER & CO.,

MANUFACTURERS OF THE FINEST QUALITY OF

SILVER-PLATED, FLAT & HOLLOW WARE.



— FACTORIES : —

WALLINGFORD, U. S.
 — AND —
 MONTREAL, CANADA.

INCLUDING THE WM ROGERS'

SPOONS, † FORKS, † KNIVES, † ETC.,

MADE IN EXTRA, DOUBLE, TRIPLE; ALSO IN SECTIONAL PLATE.

EXTRA PLATED UPON ALL POINTS MOST EXPOSED TO WEAR.

STAMPED "WM. ROGERS X12."

The Wm Rogers' Goods sold by us are made under the supervision of Mr Wm Rogers, formerly of Hartford and West Meriden son of the old original Wm. Rogers, who died in 1873. Please do not associate us with goods made in Hartford, Ct., with which we have no connection. We make all the goods we sell, and have our own especial patterns.

SIMPSON, HALL, MILLER & CO.

endowed with more than mere personal attractions. He had great natural abilities and presence of mind. Catherine bestowed upon Potemkin for his services, both military and diplomatic, the surname of Taurisschesky. [This name was taken from the Kersonesus Taurica, (Crimea,) which was added by Potemkin to the Russian Empire.] It was at this time he received from Catherine a magnificent palace called (conformably to this name) the Taurin, together with the diamond now known as the Eugenie. The Emperor Napoleon III., on the occasion of his wedding, bought this stone from a grand-niece of Potemkin, the Princess Colorado (who was, at the same time, the heiress of all the jewels belonging to the Russian Prince,) and gave it to his wife.

"The Empress of the French renamed the stone Eugenie, and it is from her majesty's own lips that we received our information. During the whole of her reign the Empress wore this gem as a centre stone of a diamond necklace, which, after the Franco-German war, was sold to the notorious Gaikwar of Baroda for a lac and a half of rupees, (£15,000.) This was the man who attempted to destroy the British Resident, Col. Phayre, by administering diamond powder to him, for which he was tried by a jury of three Englishmen and three natives. He was defended by Sergeant Ballantyne. The judges could not agree, and the Gaikwar was discharged. He was, however, after the trial deposed for his misgovernment, and since then the Eugenie, together with many other large diamonds purchased by him, have disappeared. He is supposed to have hidden them away, in the hope of raising money on them for the purpose of an attempt to recover his possessions."

BUSINESS CHANGES FOR DECEMBER

W. J. Reid & Co., Wholesale Crockery and Plated Ware, dissolved, N. & W. J. Reid continue under the old style; C. F. Smith & Co., Belleville, Ont., Hardware, damaged by fire; W. A. Boughner, Ridgeway, Ont., Hardware, has sold out and trying to compromise; A. J. Winchell, Tilsonburg, Jeweler, assigned in trust; J. L. Levy, Toronto, Jeweler, giving up business; T. J. Carrol & Co., Hamilton, Ont., Jobbing Jewelers, stock seized by customs' authorities; Dale & Kemp, Beeton, Ont., Hardware, called a meeting of their creditors; T. W. Gibbs, Oshawa, Ont., Hardware, sheriff in possession; Whetter & Lawrie, Forest, Ont., Hardware, dissolved, and A. Lawrie continues alone; Loe & Edsell, Bowmanville, Ont., Hardware, dissolved, Edsell continues alone.

BUSINESS NOTES.

CHRISTMAS TRADE has generally been good this season, and most of our friends throughout the country report good sales and fair prices. As usual those who bought for cash on hand, had an inside track on their competitors.

THE many friends of Mr. John Zimmerman throughout Canada, will regret to learn that he has been so ill for a month past as to be compelled to keep to his bed. We are glad to be able to say that he is now rapidly recovering from his illness, and his medical adviser expects that he will shortly be able to attend to his business as usual.

IN our November issue, by some oversight of our printer of course, a strange error crept into the advertisement of Hagstoz & Thorpe, manufacturers of the Boss Case. It was there stated that 15,000 of their cases had been sold to the public, whereas it should have read 150,000—just one little 0 left out, but it made a difference of 135,000 in the number of cases sold by the Company. As a matter of fact, these Boss gold stiffened cases are a "big thing" not only to the manufacturers themselves but to the man that buys them; and those who have used them say that they are first-class value for the money. We think them without doubt the best stiffened gold case in the world, and the immense sales made by the manufacturers in this country and Great Britain, seems to indicate pretty conclusively that the general public think so also.

IT seems that the Customs department are beginning to open their eyes to the fact that jewelry is extensively smuggled across the border, and in many places this is accomplished by regularly organized gangs got together for the purpose. The detectives have again succeeded in making a capture, this time at Sarnia, or rather Point Edward, the crossing point of the Grand Trunk Railway. About two weeks ago a well known American Doctor and an American Jeweler were caught by Customs detective, having in their possession over \$1,000 of jewelry. The jewelry was confiscated and the culprits fined \$200, and it is said that the end is not yet, but that other arrests are about to be made. We think some of these detectives might employ their time with equal profit farther east, as it is a well known fact that large quantities of smuggled goods are constantly being offered in Toronto at prices which defy competition from any honest dealer. If the department won't reduce the duty they should at least see that it is collected from all.

TALKING of Customs seizures, reminds us that it is only a few days ago since the Customs authorities seized the entire stock of a small jobbing jewelry firm in Hamilton, for smuggling goods, and as a consequence the firm has since suspended operations. Well we should say that if they could not do business honestly, the sooner they go by the board the better, and if the charge is fairly sustained, we trust that their creditors will allow no false delicacy to prevent them from putting the "coup de grace" to such a concern. "Honesty is the best policy" is an old adage and a true one, and if people will persistently run their heads into danger they must eventually expect to be caught. It is said that the detectives will after the examination of the firm's books

make a good many seizures amongst the dealers who purchased from this firm. If so it will serve as a point to illustrate our remarks in last number in reference to the danger retail dealers run in buying from small and irresponsible houses with small capital but a big reputation for selling cheap.

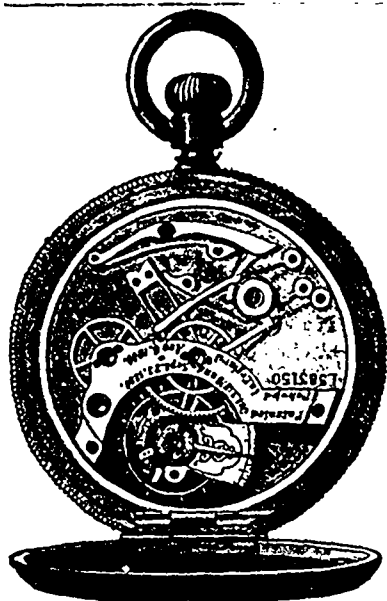
THE selection of some one standard meridian, so as to have the same minute and second simultaneously throughout the world, will become more inevitable as travel and communication increases. The clumsiness of the present system is evident when it is considered that in the United States alone there are seventy standards. The revolution will be gradual, but is sure to come sooner or later. On Thursday last, in the Section of Economical Science and Statistics, the President of the Section, Prof. E. B. Elliott, of Washington, read a paper on "International Standard Time," Mr. Saurford Fleming, C. E., in the chair. As to the selection of a standard meridian, he proposed Behring's Straits for two reasons—first, because the time differs but little from Greenwich, being but forty-four minutes faster than at the sub-meridian of Greenwich; and secondly, because the line for zero would be situated entirely in the water, and the inconvenience avoided of having it Monday to people living on one side and Tuesday to those on the other. As to numbering the meridian from the standard, twelve on the dial would mark midnight as well as noon, while on a 24 hour watch zero would mark midnight and twelve noon, the meridians moving as usual from west to east. According to this standard, dividing the 360° of the circumference of the earth by 24, the number of hours in a day meridian A 15° from zero would be first hour, meridian B 30° from zero the second hour, and so on. The American Congress has authorized the appointment of three commissioners to unite in an International Conference for the purpose of deciding on a common meridian.

WORKSHOP NOTES.

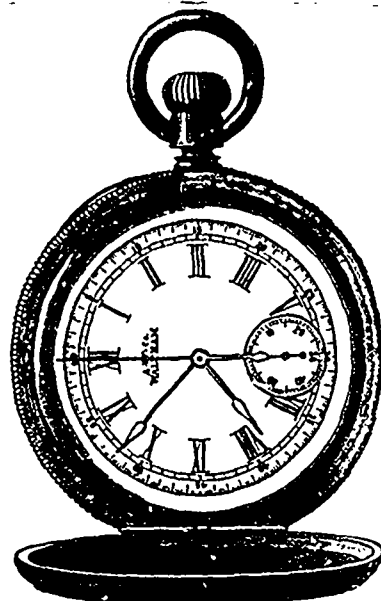
SILVERING COPPER AND BRASS.—Mix 3 parts of chloride of silver with 20 parts finely pulverized cream of tartar, and 15 parts culinary salt. Add water in sufficient quantity, and stir until the mixture forms a paste, with which cover the surface to be silvered by means of blotting paper. The surface is then rubbed with a rag and powdered lime, washed, and rubbed with a piece of soft cloth. The deposited film is extremely thin.

LEVER PALLETS.—The clear space between the pallets should correspond with the outside measure, on the points of three teeth of the scape wheel. The usual mode of measuring for new pallets is to set the wheel as close as possible to free itself when in motion. It can be arranged in the depthing tool, after which the measurement between the pivot holes of the two pieces, on the pillar plate, will show you exactly what is required.

GOLD DIALS.—In order to restore the color to a gold or gilt dial, dip it for a few seconds in the following mixture: Half an ounce of cyanide of potassium is dissolved in a quart of hot water, and two ounces of strong ammonia, mixed with half an ounce of spirits of wine, are



THE NEW
WALTHAM
WATCH
CHRONOGRAPH.



**The Best Watch now in the Market for
 General Use.**

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 †—SOLD IN GOLD CASES ONLY.—†

**Fourteen and Eighteen Carat Fine. Quality Stamped and
 GUARANTEED by the Company.**

This watch is of medium size, and made to indicate and register the fifth second.

By new inventions and the application of American Machinery, THE AMERICAN WATCH CO. has so simplified the manufacture of these Watches as to greatly reduce their cost, and they can now be obtained at prices which make them the MOST DESIRABLE time-piece for all classes of watch wearers.

FOR † SALE † BY † ALL † FIRST-CLASS † JEWELLERS

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General Agents,

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added to the solution. On removal from this bath, the dial is immediately immersed in warm water; then brush with soap rinse, and dry in hot boxwood dust. Or it may be simply immersed in dilute nitric acid, but in this case any painted figures will be entirely destroyed.

GALVANIC GILDING.—A correspondent inquires how to obtain a pure ground and color on articles gilt by galvanism, to which H. Bush, responds: The gold solution, effected by the nitromuriatic acid, after all the gold has dissolved in the glass retort, is poured into a porcelain evaporating dish, and evaporated above an alcohol or benzine flame; to render the acid entirely harmless, however, a little distilled water is added to the residue, after completed evaporation, and the operation repeated. The residue is chloride of gold, which, together with a quantity of cyanide of potassium (about four-fold the weight of the gold employed), is dissolved in boiling water, and filtered after cooling; the gilding fluid is ready.

WATCH CLEANING.—A few watchmakers clean by what is called the chemical process, to remove discoloration from watch movements. It is as follows: Remove the screws and all steel parts, then dampen with a solution of oxalic acid and water. Let it remain a few minutes, after which immerse in a solution made of one pound cyanuret potassia to one gallon of rain-water. Let remain a few minutes, and then rinse well with clean water, after which you may dry in sawdust, or with a brush and prepared chalk, as it suits your convenience. It gives the work an excellent appearance.

NON-CORROSIVE SOLDERING FLUID.—A non-corrosive soldering fluid is prepared in the following manner: Small pieces of zinc are immersed into muriatic acid to saturation, which can be known by the cessation of the ebullition; the zinc, also, being added after this point remains undissolved; add about one-third the volume of spirits of ammonia, and dilute with a like quantity of rain water. If the acid is gently heated at the time of adding the zinc, the dissolving will progress much more rapidly. This fluid causes no rust on iron or steel, and is even excellent for tinning.

HARDENING PINIONS.—“Which is the best way to temper pinions and other steel parts?” I wish to inform the interrogator that I have used petroleum for several years with the most excellent results. The steel parts to be tempered are first heated upon charcoal, in the customary manner, then anointed with ordinary washing soap, heated cherry red, and quickly immersed in petroleum, without anticipating that the latter might ignite. Steel articles heated in this manner do not warp whatever, no matter how thin, and remain almost entirely white.—B. Morjossy. *Deutsche Uhrm. Ztg.*

TEMPERING CASE SPRINGS.—Draw the temper from the spring, and fit it properly in its place in the watch; then take it out and temper it hard in rain-water, (the addition of a little table salt to the water will be an improvement); after which place it in a small sheet iron ladle or cup, and barely cover it with linseed oil, then hold the ladle over a lighted lamp until the oil ignites; let it burn until the oil is nearly, not quite, consumed; then re-cover with oil, and burn as before; and so a third time, at the end of which

plunge it again into water. Main and balance springs may in like manner be tempered by the same process; first draw the temper, and properly coil and clamp to keep it in position, and then proceed the same as with case springs.

TO PREPARE CHALK.—Pulverize your chalk thoroughly, and then mix it with clean rain water in the proportion of two pounds to the gallon. Stir well, and then let it stand about two minutes. In this time the gritty matter will have settled to the bottom. Pour the water into another vessel slowly, so as not to stir up the settlings. Let stand until entirely settled, and then pour off as before. The settlings in the second vessel will be the prepared chalk, ready for use as soon as dried. Spanish whiting, treated in the same way, makes a very good cleaning or polishing powder. Some operatives and a little crocus, and we think it an improvement; it gives the powder a nice color at least, and therefore adds to its importance in the eyes of the uninitiated.

In order to obtain a clear ground and color of the gilding, cleanliness in the process of preparing the fluid, as well as of the article to be operated upon, is unconditionally necessary; the zinc strip, also, must be kept very clean. The mat ground of the gilding is changed into a lustrous one by scratch-brushing the article after removing it from the bath, with a brush consisting of brass or German silver wire, or glass fibers, using beer. The article is next rinsed in warm water, and dried in sawdust.

Another one answers to be same question: After having evaporated the dissolved gold to a proper consistency, add the point of a knife full of bicarbonate of soda, and a clear and handsome gilding will be obtained.

The employment of essences in cleaning watches is rapidly growing in favor among watchmakers. They are to be obtained at many of the material dealers, together with full instructions in regard to their use. The objects are left in the solution for a few minutes, in order to allow all adhering matter to dissolve; but they must not remain too long, as certain quantities of benzine, etc., are apt to leave stains. Dry the pieces on removing them, and finish by passing over a fine brush that has been charged with chalk, and subsequently rubbed on a hard crust of burnt bone. This will produce a brilliant surface on either gilding or polishing brass. The following composition, the ingredients of which can be obtained at any drug store, has been strongly recommended: 90 parts by weight of refined petroleum, and 25 parts by weight of sulphuric ether. The objects are immersed for several minutes; indeed, they may remain for a much longer period without danger, and on removal from the bath are found to be clean and bright. It must not be forgotten that many of these essences are liable to ignite with the mere proximity of a lamp.

—We give a few condensed rules to be remembered by the workman when regulating a watch to positions commensurate to its motion, or the experience or estimation of the workman:

1. Make the balance pivots flatter or rounder.
2. Let the balance jewel holes have only the necessary thickness of the hole
3. Make the balance pivots weaker, according

to circumstances, and insert now and smaller jewel holes in the place of the old ones.

4. Centro the balance spring truly, or, according to circumstances, fasten and lay it thus that by the banding of the watch, the spring operates in such a manner upon the balance as to raise it, whereby the friction within the jewel holes is lessened.

5. Change the balance spring with another one of the same strength, but with more or less coils.

6. Change the fastening point of both, so that the balance spring is lengthened or shortened, and the points of fastening stand at a different angle to each coil.

7. In a watch with Biéguet spring, make the outer curve longer or shorter.

8. Put in another balance of a larger or smaller diameter or weight.

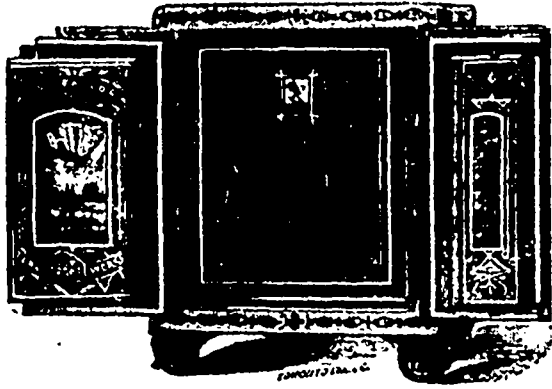
9. In a cylinder watch, give the balance a point of gravity.

Keep these rules uppermost in your mind, when engaged in regulating, and always remember at the same time that the operation offers many difficulties, only to be conquered by a prolonged experience, observation, and a careful study.

SCIENCE NOTES.

DAINTY JEWEL WORK.—They used to do some very dainty work in olden times in the way of jewelry, if one can take the historian's word for it. In Elizabethian times one Mark Scalliot constructed a lock of eleven pieces of iron, steel and brass, and a chain of forty-three golden links was attached to the same, and this being placed around a flea's neck, lock and chain and flea weighed only a grain and a half of gold. Surely such a miracle of skill was worth preserving for posterity. Oswald Nothinger once turned 1,600 d.ches of ivory which all went into a peppercorn, if, indeed, we may believe contemporary writers. They were shown to Pope Paul V., who counted and verified them himself, by the aid of a magnifying glass. Father Ferrarius, a Jesuit, would not be outdone, and he made twenty-five wooden cannons, which went into the same compass.

REMARKABLE DISCOVERY.—A remarkable discovery, the result of which may be of importance, has been made by Mr. Spring. In 1850, Faraday discovered that two pieces of ice, strongly pressed together, very quickly adhered and formed a homogenous mass, although he considered this property as a peculiarity simply belonging to ice, and his theory is still explained thus in mathematical and philosophical classes. But Mr. Spring has found out recently that the most diverse bodies behave in a similar manner, when submitted to the same process. He took fine powders and submitted them, in a steel mould, to pressures varying from 2,000 to 7,000 atmospheres; under these conditions, the iron filing was transformed into a solid block, not showing the least traces of granular structure when examined by the microscope. At 5,000 atmospheres, lead became fluid, and zinc gave blocks of a crystalline structure. This discovery may perhaps be used for molding metal without reducing it to fusion,



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XMAS GOODS! XMAS GOODS!
JUST ARRIVED.

A Large Consignment of
GEM RINGS, GEM RINGS.

These are undoubtedly the best value Rings in the Market. Write for samples on appro.

COLORED GOLD SETS, DROPS & PINS,
A. C. Anderson & Co., Hamilton, Ont.

“EXCELSIOR”

PATENT DUST PROOF CASE.

TRADE  MARK.

Zimmerman, McNaught & Lowe

Desire to inform the Trade that they have on hand a Large Stock of this new Dust-Proof Case, which is
UNQUESTIONABLY THE BEST AND CHEAPEST DUST PROOF CASE IN THE MARKET.

ALSO A COMPLETE STOCK OF

Boss' Patent Stiffened Gold Cases.

THE BEST GOLD-STIFFENED CASE MANUFACTURED, BOTH IN KEY & STEM-WINDERS.

The wife of the great French naturalist, M. Geoffroy Ste. Hilaire, once lost a handsome diamond necklace, and the house was in an uproar in consequence of the vanished bauble. Incidentally the naturalist mentioned that a favorite baboon, which he kept upstairs, had been playing for some days past with a necklace precisely similar to the one described. He was indignantly asked why he had not taken the necklace from the animal. "I thought that it belonged to him," calmly made answer M. Geoffroy Ste Hilaire. The naturalist had lived so long with animals, he had become so thoroughly absorbed in their habits and idiosyncracies, that he could see no kind of incongruity in a monkey possessing a diamond necklace. Thus Fraussham, the Norwich polytheist, when somebody left him a legacy of £25, proposed to buy a pony with the money. It was notorious that he could not ride, and he was asked what he wanted a horse for. "To walk about with and talk to," was his reply.

There are in use between Albany and New York thirteen electric clocks, two of the number being placed in the waiting rooms, and one in the dispatcher's office at the Grand Central Depot, New York. The time on the clock at the depot at East Albany corresponds exactly with the time in New York. Each one of the clocks is connected with the general superintendent's office in New York, in which the railroad time is kept on what is called the "big clock." Conductors, train men, and others, are compelled to keep their watches in strict conformity with the superintendent's clock. It is set by standard time, and connected with the time service department of the gold and stock telegraph. The time is distributed all over the line each weekday, as follows: At 10 o'clock 58 minutes and 3 seconds A. M., the word "time" is sent by the main office to the telegraph stations between New York and Albany. This word is repeated for 28 seconds, during which time operators must see that their instruments are adjusted. At 10 o'clock 28 minutes and 50 seconds, seconds commence beating, and continue for 50 seconds. The word "switch" is then sent over the wire, and operators having electric clocks connect them immediately with the circuit known as No. 9 wire. Ten seconds are allowed in which to make the connection. At 11 A. M., with one touch of the New York key, the hands on the different clocks are set to 11 o'clock.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Jewelers' Circular* in Louisville, Ky., writes that he has in his possession a curious ring, which formerly belonged to his great-grandmother, who lived in Germany, and that he is inclined to think it was Martin Luther's wedding or engagement ring. On the inner surface is engraved, "D. Martino Luthero—Catharina W Boun, 13 Juni, 1525." The owner describes his treasure as follows: "On one side of the ring is carved a representation of the Crucifixion; the cross is carved through the gold, and the outlines of the figure stretched upon it are very fine. In the centre of the cross-piece of the cross is a fine ruby, around which are carved these letters, I. N. R. I. Just at the foot of the cross on the right is carved a head with a Bishop's hat on it, and on the left side of the cross is a palm; on the other side of the ring are carved a ladder and spear, and between these is an anchor around which is twisted a rope. The gold in the ring is very fine

and of a pale hue, and has not the appearance of being so old. I can trace it back about 150 years. How the ring was obtained by my great-grandmother I do not know, but the family were ardent Lutherans, and I think may have gotten possession of the ring in this manner." Martin Luther was undoubtedly married on the 13th of June, 1525, but his wife's name was Katharina von Born, not Catharina W. Boun, and the present owner of the heirloom will probably do well to take a reasonable pride in possessing a ring which once belonged to his great-grandmother, without attempting to identify it with the hero of the German reformation.

IN LIGHTER VEIN,

QUIEN SABE?

If the dance is most terribly hot,
And the stairs have not one vacant spot;
If we happen to go
Where the cool breezes blow,
Who will know?

If the moon most discreetly doth hide,
And the path it is not very wide;
What if closely we walk,
The better to talk,
Who will know?

If the light is so very obscure,
And the rose is so hard to procure,
If one gently doth bend
Assistance to lend,
Who will know?

If young toads gambol wild in the shade,
Then what marvel that one grows afraid;
If for safety from harm
One leans on an arm,
Who will know?

If "bangs" are a little bit crushed,
And cheeks are a trifle more flushed;
Well—and if it is false,
The cause was the waltz,
Who will know?

W. G. THEVISTON in "Our Continent."

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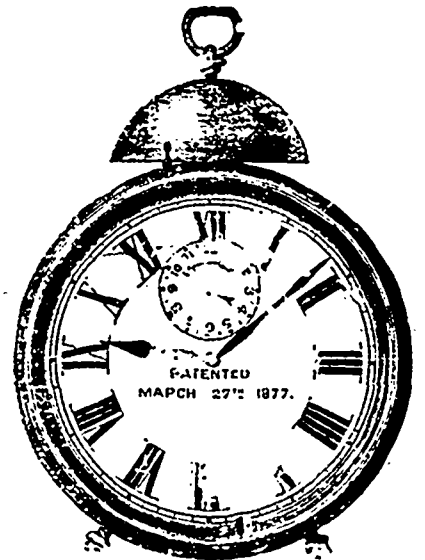
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