









## The General State of Business.

The most absorbing topic of conversation among mercantile men just now, is the General Condition and Prospects of Trade. Our present condition has been brought about by the usual combination of a number of circumstances, any one of which would have been sufficient to have created trouble in commercial circles. Thus we had a short crop of grain, which realizes low prices;—we had a small export of sawn lumber with a loss to shippers, and a "leak up" of capital in a stock of timber and lumber more than sufficient for an entire year's export. In the face of these misfortunes, indicating a great degree in the "debt-paying power" of the people, we had unusually heavy imports, implying a largely increased liability, which the country was totally unable to stand. Is it any wonder, under the circumstances, that commercial depression and anxiety followed, that, with a declining market for imported goods and a general pressure for money, failures occurred, and that what was rotten and wicked in the trade of the country should have become manifest?

But now all the circumstances to which we may attribute our misfortunes are being reversed. Gloomy as the first few months have been, stringent as the pressure is at present, anxious as a month or two may be,—the future is full of promise. A grain crop, which last year was a great failure, this year promises to be most abundant. Never before has Winter Wheat throughout Canada West presented such an appearance, and in most sections quite as much, if not more than the usual quantity has been sown. Not only is this the case, but the early Spring has enabled farmers to commence work nearly three weeks before they commenced last year; and we have the best reason to know that, not only will Spring Grains be got into the ground under the most favorable circumstances, but to an unusual extent. We should not be surprised, rapid as has been the increase of the berry crop, if the coming autumn should witness an increase in the yield by at least one-half over last year. Spring Wheat, Peas, Oats, and root crops will also be abundantly sown; and in the faith that a kind Providence will vouchsafe good weather and a protection from insects, we may confidently hope for a very abundant harvest. The necessities of farmers and the contemplated repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty next Spring, will cause very large deliveries early in the Autumn; for practically the close of navigation will close the American market to us, unless negotiations are successful for a renewal of the Treaty in the meantime. We are certain therefore of a large produce movement in the Autumn, the result of which must be to restore ease and prosperity at any rate for the time being.

But we have another cause for hope or relief, and that too which will be more immediate and effective. The large amount of sawn lumber held by Canadian dealers, will find a very ready and profitable market among our friends on the other side of the line. The great bulk of the stock of lumber could have been shipped last year with a profit, with gold at 180, but when it reached 250 and even 280, shipments implied a loss. But now with gold at 150, there is every probability of a very active demand for Canadian lumber, and we may with every certainty expect an early return of the large amount of capital locked up in lumber. Early shipments to Britain from the large stocks of Timber wintered over in Quebec and up the Ottawa, cannot fail to bring about the same result.

Again, another month will witness the circulation of at least two million dollars for the purchase of the Wool-pid, which will be ready for market during the latter part of May. This staple has increased with great rapidity in the last year or two, unless the prospect of speedy peace, and the consequent rise in prices, our farmers may expect to realize a good return from this source. In the meantime the fall in gold has had the effect of largely increasing the transaction between the United States and Canada; and the quantity of money which comes into the country in the past few weeks for cattle, sheep, horses, and other things, has been very large. We know of one sale of cattle in Toronto alone amounting to \$25,000; and both the Great Western and Grand Trunk Railways report an unusual movement of Canadian live-stock to American markets.

Now all these circumstances cannot fail to speedily restore ease, but especially so in view of the vastly decreased importations of the present Spring. The returns from the Custom-house show a decline of nearly one-half for the first three months of the year, and though the future looks bright, there is still a disposition on every hand to practice a large economy in this respect. The requirements for duty and charges have been much less than in several previous years,—a circumstance greatly in the hands of importers, who have employed the half million usually thrashed up in aiding their customers to carry forward their payments. The purchases by retailers in this and other markets have been most sparing, and have been mainly confined to staples, and the absolute necessities of life. Thus from every point of view there are indications that the misfortunes and follies which will make the first part of 1865 memorable for commercial depression, are being replaced by a better and happier condition of things.—*Trade Review.*

## Singular Circumstances.

Within the memory of some of the oldest inhabitants of this city, a "leak up" of capital in the business in Sussex street, on the site where Frederick's new building is in process of erection. Thirty years ago he was a Marguier or Church Warden in the present Cathedral parish. He died a few years after, and his widow, Madame Henriette, and her sister, Mademoiselle Angeline Tailleur have ever since maintained themselves by keeping lodgers, and latterly have received assistance from old friends of the family. Madame Dupuis had reached her 64th year, and Mademoiselle Tailleur, her 66th year. For thirty five years this aged pair had not been separated, and an unbroken sisterly affection always prevailed between them. Their last residence was in Sussex Street, over the store of Alderman Traversy. A few days since Madame Dupuis was attacked by a severe cold in the right foot, and in two hours thereafter Mademoiselle Tailleur was attacked by the same disease in the right foot also.—Dr. Beaubien and his wife made efforts to learn to baffle the disease, but both ladies succumbed to its effects, and within twelve hours of each other, their spirits had departed. It may be hoped, to a brighter sphere where misery, care and sorrows are unknown. Their lives, all who knew them say, were well spent—good, pious and gentle, they have passed away amid the regrets of their neighbors. The circumstances are singular enough to warrant this special record.—*Ottawa Union.*

A man named Calcutt in Peterboro' returns thanks to his numerous Beer customers, and informs them that he is now prepared to supply them with "Temperance Ale" to be called "Dimple Ale," to be kept in barrels and bottles. "Wonder if it is good to take!"—*Dumfries Reformer.*

## AMERICAN NEWS.

### Lee's Officers in a bad Flight. GENERAL GRANT IN RALEIGH. THE TRUCE WITH JOHNSTON TERMINATED.

Philadelphia, April 25. A special dispatch to the Bulletin from Washington today says:—Attorney Gen. Speed has made a highly important decision on the terms of the capitulation of Lee. In reply to a letter of the Secretary of War relating to these points, he decides—First, that the rebel officers who surrendered to the Union, have no right to return to the States, and have no right to come to places where their homes were in the loyal States prior to going into the rebellion. Second, that persons in the civil service of the rebellion, or who have otherwise given it support, comfort and aid, and were residents of rebel territory, have no right to return to Washington under that stipulation.

Gen. Sheridan routed Early at Waynesboro about the middle of March, and put him individually upon the most tremendous race, which concluded by bringing up in Richmond attended by one of his staff, and cost, but almost everything.

When Sheridan's column had swept by Richmond, Early was ordered back to Staunton, and was there at the evacuation of this city.

Upon hearing of this event he hastened to Lynchburg and thence to Southwestern Virginia, where he was met by General Banks, who commanded the forces that were retreating before Stoneman and Thomas. When last heard from, being unable to withstand the forces in his front, and afraid of Gen. Grant in his rear, he had deflected to the right, and was apparently making for the Kanawha Valley. It is doubtful whether he has yet become aware of the surrender of Gen. Lee. We look with interest for tidings of him and his command.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 25.—J. F. Duncan, a reliable citizen of Pittsburg, just returned from Washington, mentions a singular circumstance in connection with Booth's assassination of the President. While stopping at the McHenry House, in Meadville, on the 4th June last, Booth wrote on a pane of glass with his diamond ring the following inscription:—"Abe Lincoln departed this life April 13, 1864 by the effects of poison." Booth's name was written on the hotel register in the same handwriting. Several of his friends at different times occupied the same room. A complete register has been kept of all the names of the occupants of that room since June last.

New York, April 25.—1515.

War Department. Washington, April 25, 10:25 p.m. To Major General Dix: A despatch has just been received by this Department from Gen. Grant, dated Raleigh 9 p.m., April 24, which says:—

I reached here this morning, and delivered to Gen. Sherman the reply to his negotiations with Johnston, terminating the truce, and information that civil matters could not be entertained in any convention between army commanders.

Signed, EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

### The Death of Booth.

War Department, Washington 27, 9:20 a.m.—To Maj. Gen. Dix.—J. Wilkes Booth and Harold were chased from the swamp in St. Mary's county (Md.) to Garrett's Farm, near Port Royal, on the Rappahannock, by Col. Baker's forces. The barn in which they took refuge was fired. Booth was shot and killed, and Harold captured. Booth's body and Harold are now here.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Washington, April 27.—Yesterday morning a squad of twelve New York Cavalry troops, under the command of Lieut. Col. John J. Harbord, were sent on a reconnoissance to the farm near Port Royal, near Fredericksburg, Va. The barn was surrounded and a demand made for their surrender, which Harold was in favor of doing, but upon Booth calling him a coward, he refused to do so. The barn was then set on fire, and upon getting too hot, Harold again presented himself, and put his hands through the door to be handcuffed. While this was going on Booth fired upon the soldiers, upon which a sergeant fired at him; the ball of the sergeant took effect in the head of Booth, killing him.

Harbord was taken alive, and he and Booth's body were brought to the Washington Navy Yard last night. When Booth was discovered by the cavalry, he declared his intention never to surrender, and said he would fight the whole squad, consisting of 25 men, if they would permit him to place himself 20 yards distant. The other party was under command of Lieut. Edwin Dougherty. Booth was on a crutch, and was lame. He lived two hours after he was shot, while the cavalry were in the neighborhood. He presented himself, and put his hands through the door to be handcuffed. While this was going on Booth fired upon the soldiers, upon which a sergeant fired at him; the ball of the sergeant took effect in the head of Booth, killing him.

Johnston's army, probably 35,000 strong, is better supplied with food and horses than any army the Confederacy ever had. Many of the rank and file, however, are leaving for their homes.

The World's Raleigh correspondent says: A commission, consisting of ex-Governor Graham, ex-Governor Swaine, Surgeon-General Warren, and Colonel Barr, were sent by Governor Vance to see what could be done to ascertain what was the status of the State Government and the officers under the new regime. The commission had been sent by General Harbord to the Governor, and Johnston not being at hand, but Wade Hampton intercepted them, and sent them back. Kilpatrick being in the rear, captured them, and Hampton having retreated again, sent them on their mission. They had an interview with Sherman, who gave them a protesting paper for the Governor and State officers so long as no hostilities were shown by them. Sherman told them he had no information as to how the status of the State Government was affected; that the question did not come within his province; that he did not consider North Carolina out of the Union, as the question of secession had not been submitted to the people; that he would respect every man that was not an original secessionist, and treat him with every consideration. Still he must march through the State, and the people must necessarily suffer by that march. Johnston's army was inferior to his, and every man slain in the future was an unnecessary sacrifice. Johnston, and himself, would be responsible for this sacrifice and the suffering entailed on the people of North Carolina. The civilized world would pronounce Johnston's course inhuman and illegitimate.

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The statement hereafter made that Booth had been proved to be correct. After he was shot it was discovered that one of his legs was badly injured, and that he was compelled to wear an old shoe, and use crutches, which he had with him in the barn.

Booth was shot about four o'clock in the morning, and died about seven o'clock. Booth had upon his person some bills of exchange, but only \$175 in treasury notes. It appears that Booth and Harold left Washington together on the night of the 19th of April, and passed through Leonardtown, Md., concealing themselves in the vicinity until an opportunity was afforded them to cross the river at Swan Point, which they did as above stated.

The man who hired Booth and his accomplice the boat in which he crossed the river was captured by the authorities, and afterwards made his escape.

New York, April 29.—The Times' Washington special says, Senator Sumner was shot at last night by some person who fled, and was not recognized. Mr. Sumner received a wound on the arm, saying, "It was a coward shot for you that my arm was not good."

The Herald's despatch says that Harold had made a full confession, and pointed out all parties known by him to have been implicated in the plot.

Intelligence of the arrival of Jeff. Davis and his accompanying fugitives at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, was received by Washington, and the news of the escape of the rebels was intercepted before reaching the Mississippi River.

ARREST OF LARRY MACDON



