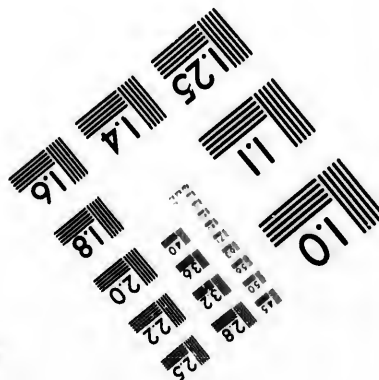
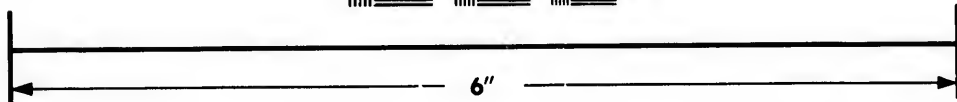
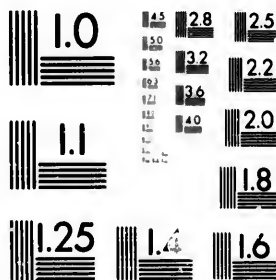


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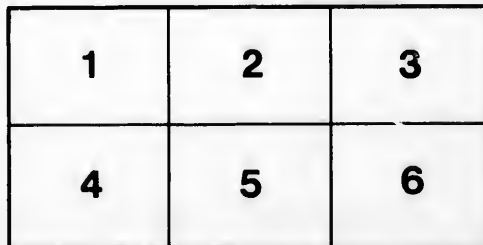
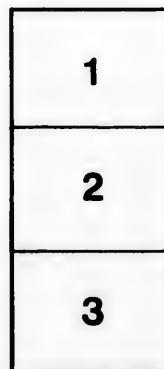
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In Our Country - Canada

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SCRAPS FROM CANADA

TO

Old Country Friends.

BY A HAMILTONIAN. pseud.

HAMILTON, ONT.:

TIMES PRINTING COMPANY, HUGHSON STREET.

1877.

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PREFACE.

SCRAPS FROM CANADA were scribbled off at odd moments and sent in "the rough" to a Scottish Journal, to fulfil a promise made Old Country friends before I left in 1874.

Being "Scraps" in homely letters, they appear in pamphlet form unaltered.

The object in publishing them in this style is for distribution among my acquaintances and friends during my contemplated visit to Scotland this summer.

WILLIAM HOPE.

92 MERRICK STREET,
HAMILTON, CANADA, *May, 1877.*



GRAPS FROM CANADA.

To the Editor "Clydesdale News," Wishaw, Scotland.

DEAR EDITOR, —

SEVEN days on board the good ship "Canadian," with a clear sky, a warm sun, a fine, calm, and a placid sea, brought us into the Straits of Belle Isle, and within sight of eight gigantic icebergs. One in shape and size very much resembled your Dumbarton Castle. On the eighth morning our hearts were cheered by the sight of land. To the south we discerned Newfoundland — British possessions. Under the patronage of Henry VII. of England, Sir John Cabot, along with his son, in 1497 discovered the land on which we gazed. I sighed as I thought of the eight years' war between the French and English, but rejoiced that peace was now reigning, under the banner with the significant and familiar motto "*nemo me impune lacessit.*"

From north to south the island measures about 350 miles, having an average breadth of 130, equaling about 25,800,000 acres. Not so insignificant, is it? Its lakes and woods are numerous, but the island as a whole is uneven and hilly; some of the peaks rising a thousand feet in height. To the north was the extensive territory of Labrador, dotted here and there by neat little villages, raised by the industrious settlers and the hardy fishermen. Our next great rejoicing was our sighting the island of Anticosti. A French company had the control of the division and sub-division of this island, and held out great inducements to emigrants to settle on it.

The British Government's representative reported last autumn that the condition of those who had been induced to settle on it was very serious. The inhabitants were mostly settlers from Newfoundland, who bitterly complained of the company having acted unjustly towards them. They had only got over *last* winter by breaking in upon the Government stores kept on the island for shipwrecked mariners. This year, their prospects were not improved, and will only tide over the winter by the help rendered by our Government. We saw the hull of a ship that had been wrecked and driven to the island by a storm. Part of the crew were saved, and passed six months on the island. When the captain returned to Glasgow, he found his wife the spouse of another. Before long we had land on both sides, and derived great enjoyment from the variegated scenery. At eight o'clock on Sabbath morning, we reached "Father Point," and cabled our arrival to Scotland. At half-past ten we assembled for worship. I preached from the words "Prepare to meet thy God." On Monday morning at seven we drew alongside the harbor at Quebec. How changed the whole scene! How different from past experiences. How altered from our anticipations. The sky was cloudless, the sun hot, and the thermometer standing at 80 degrees in the shade as we left the ship and made for the Grand Trunk Railway Station. We walked on wood, sat on wood, and was shaded from the sun by wood. Almost every thing *wood*. The Canadians smiled, and set us down as "awful green," and laughed outright at some of our Scottiscisms. We got our luggage transferred in good time to take "stock" of our surroundings. The houses, one, two, and three stories, were nearly all built of wood, and seemed neat and comfortable. The inhabitants generally spoke French, and could only converse in broken English, while our *Scotch* entirely *wandered* them. We were much pleased with the emigration officers here, and can cordially testify to their utility and wonderful efficiency in all that pertains to this department. Our money next took up our attention. We were led to believe that in Canada our half-penny was equal to their cent. We found that at Quebec at least, our sixpence would only go for ten cents, and our shilling for twenty. We profited by the infor-

mation, and put a double band on our purse and an extra button on our pocket; and from experience would advise every passenger to do the same. We were not favourably impressed with the conduct of the railway officials. To all our enquiries we could get little more than a polite "don't know," or was shown a doggish silence. We refused a warm invitation to tea made by numerous apparently very interested parties. We learned from those who accepted the invitation that "the tea" cost them 50 cents (about 2s. 6d.) The system of "checking" the passengers' luggage, is a decided improvement over the "old country." A check with a number is attached to your luggage, and you get another check with the same number upon it, which you retain until you receive your luggage at your destination. Our train for Hamilton, Ont., *via* Montreal, was timed for nine o'clock, and it left at a quarter from eleven; so much for punctuality. During the delay we amused ourselves watching the strange customs of the Canadians. The carriages are called "cars." We looked into the third-class. They were open right through from end to end. Dirty looking in the extreme; and the W. C.'s at each end, with the intensely warm weather, smelled terribly. The first-class was "first-class." At a quarter from eleven we were all ordered "on board," as the cars were soon to "move off." To our surprise they did "move off," and with a violence that was more startling than pleasant. Leaving the city, we slowly passed some of the finest self-contained cottages we had ever seen either in pen or pencil sketch, or reality. There was a sweet pleasure in gazing on the ingenious architecture displayed, and the cheerful appearance of the people as they gazed upon us from the open window (not shot up or down, but thrown open like a door.) We were 2,700 miles from home, and 500 miles yet to ride, as we threw ourselves back and closed our eyes to think over the varied phenomena we had witnessed since we stepped on board the "Canadian" at Mavisbank Quay, Glasgow. How we fared in our ride to Montreal, what we saw at Toronto, when we reached Hamilton, &c., will form the subject of next letter; after which we shall carefully record the sayings and doings of the Canadian people, and shall from time to time faithfully

chronicle the state of the weather, the rate of wages, the price of provisions, and the educational advantages and religious opportunities that prevail in this distant British territory.

II.

FROM the brief and meagre report which we gave of our experiences and impressions of Quebec, some of your readers may imagine that it is quite an insignificant place—a small outlandish village—partially inhabited, and the uncivilized residents living in imminent danger of being devoured by wild beasts. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is an ancient and important city, with a population of about 65,000.

Its history is pregnant with interesting facts. The town, called by the Indians Kepec, was founded in 1608 by the much respected French explorer Samuel de Champlain (Shaum-plain.) In 1629 this New France capitulated to the English. Three years after, Charles I. restored it and other parts, by treaty, to Louis XIII. of France. In 1690 Sir Wm. Phipps acting for the English attacked the city by sea. The battle raged in all its fury, but the beleagured city at last echoed with the loud hurrahs of triumph. The French were victorious and their exultant leader Frontenac was awarded by the French Monarch with a medal bearing the inscription, "*Francia, in Novo Orbe, Victrix : Kebecca Liberata, A.D., MDCXC,*" which in English is, "France, Victress in the New World ; Quebec free, A.D., 1690." A church which is still standing was also erected to commemorate the event. From this date till 1720 her defences were twice strengthened and her forts increased. The most notable and decisive campaign took place in 1759 ; when, on the 13th of July, General Wolfe opened the batteries on the French citadel. His success was small. On the 3d September he encamped at Point Levi (where we landed.) On the evening of the 13th, 8000 British soldiers scaled the heights. Wolfe was twice wounded. At last the cry, "They run ! they run !" fell on the dull ear of the dying Wolfe. Turning himself,

he said, "Now, God be praised, I die in peace." Thus died the heroic James Wolfe. The old monument erected to his memory has been replaced by a fine new structure on the very same spot where he fell victorious. Since then the defences of the city have been greatly strengthened, and now the emigrant and visitor tread her streets in peace and safety, each interested in the mighty contrast with his own city and country.

We here remembered that we had forgot to write or telegraph. The guard (conductor they call him), who at intervals walks through the carriages (cars), informed us that we could despatch it at the next depot (station), at 25 cents for ten words. We thought our British shilling and one cent would be equivalent. Let emigrants and others note that it was four cents short. The railroad (the Grand Trunk), was *terribly rough*, else we would have enjoyed ourselves immensely. The blue sky (not a cloud to be seen), clear, warm sun, verdant fields, magnificent forests and shining lakes, all contribute to our increasing pleasure. We are now in the heart of *Lower Canada* (not *America U. S.* remember.) Scotland boasts of a territory of 30,686 square miles, while Canada alone has 400,000. Thirteen Scotlands! All along the railway track the industrious settlers were busy on their own farms clearing off the remaining portions of the once mighty forest. They at least feared no "wreck renter," and stood in awe of no "term day." It was close upon nine p. m., and dark, when we neared the "Garden City"—Montreal. It has a population of about 105,000, and is finely situated. Its buildings took us by surprise. The Roman Catholic Church alone seats 10,000 people. We were delighted with the "Victoria Bridge" of 25 spans—an iron box, 20 feet deep, 16 wide, and 7,000 long. It is here where they never bury their dead in winter. The frost is so intense they cannot open the graves. The corpses are all laid in vaults till spring. It was with great difficulty we ascertained from the disobliging railway officials that we had to change "cars." At last, we got reseated; 180 miles from Quebec—the Gibraltar of America—and 333 miles from Toronto, the next change. It was a clear, calm night—warm, and when not overcome by sleep, we had unspeakable pleasure in gazing upon the numerous

orchards, richly laden with luscious fruits, and watching the moonbeams glancing in the large fresh water lakes. The railroad is here wonderfully improved. By-and-by daylight dawned. Then we saw somewhat of the grandeur and glory of Canada. Long stretches of rich alluvial soil (thinly populated), dotted with numerous lakes, relieved at intervals by long rows of tempting vines. About noon we reached the "Queen City of the West"—Toronto. Greatly fatigued, we were in bad trim to enjoy the grand sight of her magnificent buildings. This city was founded in 1784, and then called York. It is laid out with singular regularity, in the form of a geometrical parallelogram. The fine Lake Ontario waters its eastern side. Here the scenery is inexpressibly delightful. Population about 70,000. New for Hamilton, our future home. We dined before starting. We paid 2s 6d each, or 60 cents. Money is better value here. Your half-sovereign is worth 240 cents, *i. e.*, two dollars and forty cents, or a cent equals a half-penny. Thirty-nine miles, and our journey ends. My old Scottish friends would deem it "bouncing" if I were to speak of this tract of country as I found it. Skirting the shores of a vast lake (Ontario), and cutting through fine gardens and delightful orchards, we steamed into the depot (station). A telegram from Toronto had brought kind friends to welcome us to our new home in the New World. More surprises and additional wonders were in store for us. As we whirled along the shaded streets of the "Ambitious City" (such they call it,) we reflected on the contrast. How changed the whole scene! Two hours after, and while enjoying Canadian cheer, we thought of "Auld Scotland"—3100 miles away, and the many kind friends we had left. When we retired for the evening we could not help repeating.

"This is no my hoose,
I ken by the biggin' o't."

III.

THE summer of 1874 had been exceptionally dry in Canada. In Hamilton the luxurious trees that shade the streets had begun to change their colour, and the pasture everywhere to lose

its verdure. The thermometer, in the shade, indicated 98° as we sauntered out to see the city. We directed our steps southward towards "the mountain." On the rising ground approaching it are a number of elegant mansions, having tastefully ornamented gardens, and neatly laid out grounds. A stair of 134 steps brings the traveller up, on to the level highland. From here we have a magnificent view of the entire city and surrounding country. To the north-east the eye rests upon the far-famed Burlington Bay, a large and beautiful basin of water, navigable in all its parts. A few miles further away, and connected to this bay by canal is the beautiful lake Ontario, a sheet of water containing an area of 760 miles. Five miles westward, connected by canal and railroad, is the thriving town of Dundas, and 43 miles eastward is the celebrated Niagara Falls and International Suspension Bridge. No dull haze or thick unwholesome smoke hovers over the city obscuring the view. Every point is clearly unfolded. The city does not present a huge pile of rough masonwork like the closely built and irregularly laid out city of Glasgow. The streets here are laid out at right angles, running north and south from the bay to the mountain, and are crossed by others running east and west. The garden trees, and those lining the sides of each street, taller than the houses, and waving their shady branches in the sun, relieves the vision. The Ontario Directory says, "Hamilton, the 'Ambitious City,' has superior facilities for becoming a large manufacturing city, being accessible from all points by railway and lake navigation, and being situated in the very centre of the finest grain producing country in the dominion."

We have now descended from the mountain. Here is a large hole—probably 36 feet long, 24 broad, and twelve deep. What is it for? See! Eight or ten or twelve large wooden posts equal distant are set in it, nearly level with the ground. Now they are securely bound together by a strap of wood. By-and-by, the whole is lined with the same material. A wood house is in course of erection (not a log one), and this hole is the summer and winter kitchen. Their provisions will be stored in it during the extremely warm weather, while in the intense frost of winter they will be safe. Board after board, and rafter after rafter are

nailed together, until within the short period of two days or so a fine superstructure has been completed, with ample accommodation for a large family. Its appearance to us three days after was novel, but neat and charming. Further down the city a large wooden house is pointed out to us, two stories. Three months before it had been standing a mile further down, and had been brought along one street and up another with the whole furniture and family in it until it was safely placed where we saw it. We smiled at our informant, but thought at the time that he joked us. The streets are not causewayed, not even metaled, but are smooth, dry, and hard. The footpaths are mainly wooded—some are flagged with stone. The shady trees that skirt the streets and pathways appeared strange, but pleasant. On the right is a large brick building. It is surrounded by a tasteful lane and pleasure ground. The late owner of it came to this city as a "tinker," with all the tools he had on his back, and now his widow (no family) has an ample income, and enjoys a princely residence. To the left is a larger and more attractive edifice still, built of stone (each are larger than any building in your burgh or vicinity.) The owner has risen from the position of a small druggist to independence. Our "merchant princes," I learn, have nearly all had such beginnings. The banks and public buildings will be noticed in detail. By-and-by we made the circuit of the city. The heat and dust had fatigued us. We purposed retiring early, but a chorus of bells wakened us up. It is fire. A wooden barn is in flames. It is spreading. Dwelling-houses are in a blaze. The fire brigade is seen hurrying to the scene. What a contrast. No horse. No steam. Men, volunteers, drag it along. The fire is extinguished, but the desolation is awful, and the loss heavy. Such fires often occur, and we wondered that the manning of the brigade depended upon volunteers instead of hired, well-trained, and ever-ready firemen. No doubt these hardy sons do a great work, but still there is at times a great loss. During the day we were immensely amused with the people's "Canadianisms" (they won't let you say Americanisms), which we will notice by-and-by. Of course our broad, Scottish dialect (we are not ashamed of it), afforded them counter fun, and seemed equally strange.

IV.

THE day mentioned in our last scrap was the warmest we felt since our arrival. Old residents assured us that the thermometer rarely rises higher than 80° in the shade. We had five weeks of the most pleasant weather we ever experienced. Quite an "Indian Summer." A clear sky, warm sun, and a pure atmosphere. In the end of October we had slight frost in the mornings for about a couple of weeks, which was regularly dispelled by the cheering beams of a genial sun. Early in November we received numerous letters from the old country tenderly pitying us, because in Scotland it was "awfu' cauld," and they were sure it would be terrible in America—not Canada. How different in actual fact. Recent evening showers had clothed Nature in her richest garments. On 13th November the thermometer suddenly fell, and we had frost, and a slight fall of snow; not enough for sleighing, which caused a general disappointment. The snow quickly disappeared, but a slight frost continued. On the quieter streets the leaves which had fallen from the frost-nipped trees, were literally knee-deep, and the school boys enjoyed themselves as if on a hay stack in the month of July. Only once before Christmas were the sleigh-bells heard. This "Sleighing business" was new to us. There was not more than half an inch of snow on the ground, but the lorries, waggons, &c. were laid aside, and sleighs—"cutters" as they are called—of every conceivable description were pressed into the service. Some were rude and primitive enough in their construction, and dragged by sturdy hack horses, while others were silver-mounted and comfortable, drawn by fine spirited animals. It is Christmas, and the fine mild weather continues. It is a general holiday in the city; thousands are on the ice, which now covers the large and beautiful bay. New Year's day is also observed as a holiday. General grumbling and regretting because there is no snow. Early in January we have a good fall of snow, seven inches deep. The "cutter" is now the favourite. The warm atmosphere gradually reduces the snow until it barely covers the ground; still people won't give up the sleighing. On 16th January the wind rises and

the thermometer falls to 6 or 8° below zero. How intensely cold it is; we have two days of it. Extra fuel is heaped into the stove, but John Frost stops or bursts the water pipes. The bread in the cupboard is as hard as a rock. Every one you meet is running as hard as they can to keep themselves in warmth. The heaviest big coats are donned. Furs cover heads and hands, and all are agreed that the air is cold. Since then, till this evening, we have had clear frosty weather, but exceedingly mild and pleasant. Three inches of snow covers hill and dale. Sleighing is good, and all are delighted with the mild season, and insisting that it is the most pleasant winter ever they experienced. Personally I have enjoyed the Canadian weather, but it is predicted that every year my blood will become thinner, and I will not be so very comfortable. All my remarks apply to what I have experienced, and witnessed in Hamilton, Canada West, only—not America in an indefinite sense. America, even Canada, is such a vast territory that climate changes remarkably. For instance, here the thermometer never was lower than 8° below zero; while in some parts of the United States, also in some parts of the Dominion (Grey and Bruce Counties), it has been as low as 24° below zero. We once had 7 or 8 inches of snow here, but 50 miles off they have had it 7 or 8 feet. They have it so still. When I write about climate, customs, people, or wages, I must be understood as meaning Hamilton, Ontario. Your contemporary's correspondent—F. Lambie, Esq., Detroit,—is only about two hundred miles west from here, and if he were writing to-night about the climate as he finds it in Detroit, our statements would agree, but still both would be correct.

V.

BEFORE we left Scotland we had become so familiar with the British £ s. d. that we fancied the Canadian currency would be a perpetual annoyance to us. We had heard in a crude way about greenbacks, dollars, cents, quarters, dimes, half-dimes, &c., that we concluded it would take an immense time to cor-

rectly understand their relative values. We have had six months' trial now, and have never experienced the slightest difficulty in this respect. Our money division is simply dollars and cents (nothing more) as yours is pounds, shillings, pence, and farthings. A dollar is one hundred cents, and it takes four hundred and eighty-seven of them (that is four dollars and eighty-seven cents) to make a pound sterling. Of course, we have our copper, silver, and paper money as well as you. Our one and two cent pieces are copper—equal to your half-penny and penny. Our silver pieces are, five, ten, twenty, twenty-five, and fifty cents—equal to your twopence half-penny, fivepence, one shilling and one half-penny, and two shillings and one penny, respectively. Our paper money is, twenty-five cents, sometimes called a "shinplaster," one, two, four, five, ten, twenty, fifty, and one hundred dollar bills. Greenbacks, dimes, half-dimes, &c., belong to the United States, and are at present $14\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. discount here. At first, we could not help feeling that their silver pieces were "lead," or, as the Canadians would say, "no good." We soon got used to it all, but when we changed a "sovereign" we imagined that we got quite a "pile" (that is a lot) of money for it. With all our attachment to "Auld Scotland" and her time-honoured customs, we are already fully persuaded that the dollar and cent—that is the decimal currency—is by far the most simple and best. We often see an old face, in the shape of a British half-penny, sixpence, shilling, and half crown. They are quite good here, and by your correspondent, warmly welcomed.

The Hamilton people are, in some respects, very much the same in habits and appearance as in the "old country," and in other respects widely different. Very frequently you meet with a real type of a "canny" Scotchman. He has probably spent forty years of his life here, and has not lost one spark of his individuality. He will gravely tell you that a man—and a woman too, we suppose—dies twice a year here. He is frozen to death in the winter, and perfectly roasted alive in the summer. There is the Englishman, too. Just turned a trifle "Canadian." Just "what you would know." He has lost none of his corpulence, and still

insisting upon calling heart 'art, and art heart. He likes Canada. Well, so he may. He has property for sale, and money loaned at 8 per cent. interest. The native of the "Green Isle"—the hearty, persevering Irishman—is no stranger here. By dint of close application, he has gradually raised himself to a position of trust or post of honour. Physiognomists—professors or amateurs—have here grand opportunities for exercising their skill on all sorts of faces, and under all sorts of circumstances. Black, yellow, and white, all mingle and co-mingle in keen competition to make their mark in the record page of this great dominion.

The Canadians are reckoned, or they reckon themselves, "sharpers." Some of them are doubtless smart, and could teach the Briton more lessons than one. Still the Scotchman, Englishman, and Irishman are prominent in all leading business.

Here the citizens are, as a rule, tall and slender. It is rarely you meet a "bouncing hissy." The idiom of their language strikes us as peculiar, while their pronunciation of some words seem ridiculous. By-and-by we will notice some of their peculiar phrases. A correspondent asks "what kind o' claes dae ye wear?" Personally, those we purchased in Glasgow; but there is little uniformity in clothing here. Every one suits himself, and you will scarcely find two suits or three dresses alike. We have not seen the inhabitants in their summer garment yet. In the "fall" (autumn), the most common hat worn was straw, six times broader in the rim than any seen in Scotland, while their garments were mostly linen of the lightest make. Just now it is of the heaviest tweed. Boots, Wellingtons, come right up over their "pants"—trousers are unknown here. Gauntlets coming comfortably over their hands and coat-sleeves, and fur caps made to come snugly over their ears. A visit to church produces the impression that the "girls" here fairly eclipse the ladies of the "old country" in dress and deportment.

How the opinions of people change. Six days ago every body was singing about the mild season; they never had experienced such a delightful winter. These few days past the thermometer has steadily indicated 18° to 24° below zero, in some

places it has fallen to 43° below the balancing point ; and now every one you meet shiveringly affirms it is the most severe and protracted storm they ever witnessed. Wages in our next scrap.

VI.

I N a previous scrap we spoke about our fire-brigade. Your readers must bear in mind that it is manned by "volunteers," who receive no pecuniary remuneration for their hard and dangerous work. On Friday evening last they were installing their "chief" and retired from the "Social" about one o'clock. At two the fire-bells rang the alarm. It so happened that the greatest fire known in Hamilton for years had broken out in a three-flat brick-block near the market. We visited the ruins about seven o'clock. What a scene ! The night had been intensely cold, the thermometer at that hour stood at 15° below zero. The fire had been mastered and confined to one tenement. The whole gutted block hung in one immense coating of ice. The gallant firemen who laboured so effectively in extinguishing the flames were literally sheathed in ice, while their beards resembled so many snow drifts. Poor fellows ! It was terrible work for them. How unlike the old country scenes.

Now about wages. I am reminded that general statements covering the whole field of trades, etc. is seldom satisfactory, and liable to be disputed. We take a different course, and hope it will be commendable. We give one instance only, and leave the reader to form his opinion about other trades.

Hurd & Roberts are the proprietors of the Provincial Steam Marble Works of this city. They execute all kinds of mantel, marble, and Scotch granite work, embracing monuments of every description, headstones of all kinds, counter and table tops of every pattern, and mantels of numerous designs. Mr. Hurd, the senior partner, is principally engaged in extending their Scotch granite trade in the United States. He also annually visits the Aberdeen granite works of Scotland, and the marble quarries of

Italy. This firm in 1874 purchased from the granite works in Aberdeen, and had delivered to them on this side of the Atlantic, over £5,000 sterling worth of polished granite. Don't say Canada does "auld Scotia" no good. This year their purchases in this department will be more than doubled. We learn that they have at present over 300 Scotch granite monuments being made for them in Aberdeen and Peterhead alone, which are to be received here this year.

The granite is mostly polished in Scotland, as wages are much lower. They employ here from 35 to 44 men. The following is their wages as taken from their pay book (they pay all their men weekly) on 2nd Dec., 1874 :—

Working Foreman per week of 59 hours.....	\$18.00—£3 17 0
1st Class Journeyman " "	15.00— 3 2 6
2nd " " " "	12.00— 2 10 0
3rd " " " "	10.50— 2 3 9
1st " Laborers " "	7.50— 1 11 3
2nd " " " "	6.60— 1 7 6
3rd " " " "	6.00— 1 5 0
Old Men " "	5.10— 1 1 3
1st Year Apprentice " "	2.00— 0 8 4
2nd " " " "	3.00— 0 12 6
3rd " " " "	4.00— 0 16 8

Having stated the facts as taken from the books of the firm, we offer no comments, leaving your readers and our friends to compare notions and form judgments. Prices of provisions in our next.

VII.

THE storm is over and gone, but the singing of birds has not yet come. We have had two days of real "old country" (Glasgow or Greenock) weather. While the Canadians were all grumbingly picking their steps, we turned up the feet of our trousers, or pants, just as we used to do at home, tramped right through the heavy snow broth, inwardly rejoicing that in the dull

damp, foggy spell, and slushy streets we had seen old familiar faces. The sky is again cloudless, the sun bright and pleasant, and the atmosphere as pure and bracing as ever.

In our last scrap we intended to have said that of the forty men employed by Hurd & Roberts seven or eight of them have neat cottages of their own, and about as many more have each a considerable sum of money, loaned or invested, at seven or eight per cent. interest. How does this compare with experiences in Scotland? We might also remark in passing that this old-established and enterprising firm have recently purchased about four acres of ground from the city and county, and will in a short time erect buildings and machinery at a cost of about \$30,000. This will give a mighty impetus to the increasing prosperity of this ambitious city.

Now about provisions as previously promised. What shall I say, and how shall it be said? To state a fact, and say that they are both plenty, good and cheap, is a general statement that does not carry much weight with it. The majority of your readers, in these hard times, do not, as a rule, purchase their flour in barrels, their potatoes in bags, their beef in stones, their cheese in hundredweights, or their butter in firkins; so to copy them from the usual wholesale printed price list would be both uninteresting and unintelligible. Lesser quantities and smaller figures will be better understood. Perhaps something like the following:—

Oatmeal, very best, 1s 2d per peck; flour, do., 5½d per peck; loaf bread, not quite so good as yours, 5d per 4 lbs.; potatoes, very best, 1s per peck; butter, very best, 1s 2d per lb.; cheese, very best, 8½d per lb.; beef steak, very best, 6d per lb.; roasting beef, very best, 5d per lb.; boiling meat, very best, 3½d per lb.; mutton, very best, 5d per lb.; pork ham, very best, 8d per lb.; tea, very best, 4s 2d per lb.; loaf sugar, very best, 6½d per lb.; other kinds, but not so white as yours, 6d. The above prices are what any one can buy at, either for cash or credit; but if there is any truth at all in statistics, they are far higher than the last ten years' average. By taking 4s 2d worth of goods at one time, and paying cash, you get 2½d off; that is 3s 11½d you

pay instead of 4s 2d, and so on for every 4s 2d worth you purchase. Economical house-wives do not always buy the best article, but often select a nice piece of steak at 5d per lb., and an excellent piece of boiling beef at 2d, and so with all the other articles.

I must not forget to speak about the fruit. We have abundance of all kinds in their seasons. We purchased (or rather was made a present of) a basket of the finest and most luscious grapes we ever tasted at 5 cents ($2\frac{1}{2}$ d) per lb. The apples are the great favourite; two dollars (8s 4d) per barrel (price of barrel included) for the best qualities. Of course, apples such as we used to get in Glasgow can at all times be purchased in any quantities for 4d or 5d a peck. Being much cheaper than potatoes, they are extensively used as an article of diet in every family. Personally, though never fond of "rare dishes," I would now miss my daily apple pie very much. Clothing and house rents in our next.

VIII.

THE "sunny blink" of last week has been short lived. King Frost again reigns supreme, and hill and dale are covered with about two feet of "the beautiful snow." Intelligence of "blockades" by road and rail reach us from all points of the compass. The old story about the oldest residenter never having seen such a severe storm is eclipsed by the farmer who declared the other day that he had seen a *thousand* Canadian winters, but this one "caps" them all. Do you believe him? We don't. In the midst of the so-called extreme weather we have felt very comfortable, and have been physically benefited by the clear, bracing atmosphere. . . . And so some of the leading philanthropists of the second city of the empire—dear old Glasgow—are seriously contemplating the speedy improvement of the dwellings of the hard toiling populace. The promoters of such a great and God-honouring work have our most fervent "God speed." Hamilton is quite a city also, and although house rents are somewhat higher

than in the old country cities, there is little real cause for complaint. We have no "Bridgegate" as in Glasgow or "Cowgate" as in Edinburgh. The houses are mainly owned—well in some instances not *really* owned—by the dwellers. For instance, a good tradesman arrives in Canada, as many have. His family is with him. Without difficulty he obtains employment and rents a house. For £12 per annum he can have kitchen, dining-room, parlour, two bedrooms, and a commodious cellar, or summer kitchen. If careful, in a couple of years he has saved sufficient money to purchase an eligible building lot. He borrows £100, or he waits two more years and builds upon his previous purchase. In either case, in three, four or five years after his arrival, he is owner of a fine house and large garden, which no tyrant factor, landlord, or master, can touch. We have made careful enquiries, and are glad to report that a large percentage of the self-contained cottages, with their tastefully laid out gardens, belong to honest, hard toiling settlers. This explains in some measure why those who are obliged to rent houses have to pay a pretty high figure. Of course we have quite enough of hardy immigrants who declare they cannot afford to pay a rent or build a house; and so set to, and in a day or so, erect a "shanty"—a small wooden house—for themselves. We have quite a number of these handy, useful citizens—hardly *citizens*, for they are, as a rule, outside the town line. . . . About fuel. You don't quite understand our circumstances in this respect. It is only *gentlemen* (?) who have fire places, mantels, grates, or ranges. Even aristocrats confine these to their best rooms. The "stove" is the great cooking and heating apparatus with us. Everybody has one. It effectually keeps away "Jack Frost." We have all kinds of them and as many qualities. From 10s and upwards every person can be suited. They are now made to burn either wood or coal. Wood is being bought to-day for 18s per cord—128 cubic feet. This will keep a large stove going for about six or eight weeks in the dead of winter. Best screened soft coal is 23s per ton. This kind is only used in grates—old country style. Best Scranton Stove Coal is much higher, and costs 29s per ton. This is an extremely hard coal, broken or cut into small pieces about an inch

square, and is exclusively used in the stove. A ton will keep a stove going about two or three months.

Wearing apparel can be purchased as cheap here as in Scotland, but it will pay to get fine clothes from the old country.

We had a lecture last night on "A summer Holiday in Scotland." The Canadian part of the audience would think Scotchmen and Scotland *Scotch* enough. How really strange your dialect and customs appear when faithfully represented on this side of the Atlantic. Hints to emigrants in our next scrap. We are pleased to have private inquiries on particular subjects, and shall do our best to cover all the points mentioned, but cannot promise to do it "right away," that is "at once," as some of our friends would say; or *instantly* as our would-be classic writers prefer. These private correspondents must not forget that we have laid it down as an unalterable rule that we will write about nothing but what actually comes under our observation. We don't impugn the testimony of others, but desire only to write our own experiences. Your readers generally won't blame us for this.

IX.

IMMIGRATION is a subject of immense importance, and universal interest throughout the vast dominion of Canada. It is a thousand pities that this great question should excite so little attention and create so little interest in the minds of the subjects of Great Britain. We, however, predict that the time is not far distant in which the many hundred miles of broad navigable rivers, beautiful lakes, and fine fresh water bays, together with the magnificent forests, and vast territory of rich alluvial soil, so prolific in animal and vegetable life, of Her Majesty's distant province—Canada—shall be better known, and their claims better understood by the toiling millions of the over-crowded cities of the great Western Empire.

Who the people are that *should* emigrate we cannot pretend to say. But those who are comfortable at home, and who, with

their families around them, are passing their lives easily and indolently, heedless of their future welfare, and regardless of the ultimate prosperity and comfort of their family are likely to feel disappointed by a change. This "far distant country" requires the best energies and mightiest efforts of all her immigrants, so that by honest persevering industry a comfortable home may be founded for their own enjoyment, and afterwards be left as a rich legacy to their kindred.

Canada, at least, has no need of those individuals who seem so constituted—more from habit than nature—that they are willing to "knock out life to keep life in," any way or every way, rather than by close application to lawful business for an honest livelihood. People who are restless in disposition, quarrelling with everybody, and grumbling at all things, would be for ever miserable and unhappy, and are not wanted in this great country. The proud Scribe—the fancy clerk—who considers it degrading to soil his hands, and who has never been accustomed to the "hard and rough" in life, and who would scorn in an emergency to turn his hand to any kind of work that presents itself, is recommended to stay where he is.

To the faithful labourer and skilled mechanic who are turned to hard work, anxious to do well, eager to make their rank in the world (if they had only a chance), who are nobly struggling to supply the wants of those near and dear to them, but who are cruelly oppressed, and grievously wronged by an unjust lord or tyrant employer; a thousand warm hearts send a fervent greeting, and affectionately invite such to a land and country where they shall, at least, have fair-play, and where their labour will be suitably rewarded. Farm servants of good character and steady habits are in great demand. Their work, however, is no "child's play." Don't let such emigrate with the view to an easier life or they will be sadly mistaken. Their work will be plenty, their wages good, and their opportunities for rising in the world numerous. * * * There are so many regions now eager to secure the services of competent workmen for the development of their vast resources, that intending

emigrants have often difficulty in deciding which country they will make the land of their adoption. It is beyond our power to sit in judgment on their relative claims and advantages. We can only "speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen." In Canada alone we have, under British law, a land territory of 186,000,000 acres, the surface produce of which has, in years past, taken the foremost place at the great International Exhibitions held in Europe. At present her immense mineral wealth cannot even be approximately estimated. Her mines of gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, lime, cement, mica, petroleum, slate, plumbago, peat and sandstone are already giving remunerative employment to large numbers, and making ample fortunes for the lucky capitalists. In addition to this we have an inland water area of about 8,000,000 acres, which, apart from its value as a medium of transportation of merchandise from point to point, is particularly rich in the numerous and valuable species of fish. This immense territory of land and water, 194,000,000 acres has only a population of 500,000 families of which 1,424,631 are males, and 1,387,732 females. It will be seen at a glance that there is ample room for additional population to assist by their labour and capital in the further development of the vast resources of this new country. Her population has been considerably augmented during the past few years by a strong and steady stream of emigration. Last year fully 40,000 settled in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The dominion itself spent about \$150,000 in helping these settlers to find comfortable homes. This year a special effort and a still greater expenditure is being made to secure skilled labour to do the great work yet unaccomplished. If this is a fair field for the sale of manual labour, how much more should it entice the emigration of capitalists? Men with small capital would find special advantages, and safe investments yielding satisfactory profits.

In our next scrap we will advise where to apply to for full information, and will give suitable instructions as to passage, &c.

X.

WE hope that all intending emigrants, especially those who have others dependent upon them, will make this subject a matter of serious consideration. There need be no unnecessary hurry. Do nothing rashly, and, above all, let an intelligent survey of the whole case be made before action is taken. This may prevent dissatisfaction and regret afterwards. A country may be rich in its resources, advantageous to its settlers, and a land fair to look upon; still gold is not to be had for the mere lifting, pleasure is not obtained gratuitously, and real comfort and joy never come to the indolent. Let each emigrant have a distinct object and purpose in view, and, if possible, have a friend in the place he intends making a home, or a situation awaiting him. But let none be cowards. Though you may have no friends or situation *in futuris*, strike heroically out in humble trust in the Great Master, who rules all provinces, is Prince of all countries, and Monarch of all lands.

In the daily and weekly journals of your own country you will find numerous advertisements relative to the advantages and inducements offered to emigrants. Send to the emigrant agent for particulars of the country you intend making your future home. He will furnish you with tracts, pamphlets, etc., containing minute and valuable information, and, at the same time, give you personal instruction as to your best method of procedure. You will find them kind and obliging in all that pertains to this department. It is of course very desirable that you are in a position to pay your ocean passage, as well as bear all travelling expenses to your destination. However, should your circumstances be such that renders this impossible, the agent will so arrange that you have a free passage to your destination, as well as food and clothing on your journey, and shall use every effort to find you suitable employment when you arrive. Having finally decided to come to Canada, either as an assisted or independent emigrant, or as a gentleman on a holiday tour, the questions naturally occur, "Which 'line' will I go by? What vessel will I sail in? Which is

the best, safest, etc." Such questions must in a great measure be settled by the parties themselves. Knowing the "Anchor Line," which will bring you into Canada *via* New York, and the "Allan Line," which will set you down in this distant territory without touching upon the United States, we can cordially recommend both lines for comfort, speed, and safety. Having come by the "Allan Line" ourselves we have a "warm side" for this route. In our selection of these two "lines," we by no means seek to disparage others. Having at last fixed upon the "line," drop down to the Glasgow shipping office and you will get a list of all the sailings. Choose the ship, agreeing with your time, secure your berth by making the necessary deposit, and learn when she is expected in. When she has arrived, try to run down to see her. You will find those in charge kind and obliging. Look her all through, and if you are a first-class passenger select your berth. Let it be as near the centre of the vessel as possible. Go back to the office and pay the balance of your passage money, and secure a through ticket to your destination. The day before you sail have all your heavy luggage alongside the vessel. Put them in charge of those appointed to take care of them. Give yourself no further care or trouble in the matter. Call at the quay on the day and hour named for sailing. You may find them busy loading and not prepared for sailing for a couple of hours or so. Notice if your luggage is all safe, and take care of your small parcels yourselves. Don't fret and flurry yourself. Don't add to the noise and confusion around, caused by the uncalled for and unnecessary anxiety of the other passengers about their luggage. Those in charge will make and keep it safe. All being ready you will be safely conducted on board. If your berth was secured, quietly seek it, and wait the anchor being "weighed." If not previously secured, patiently wait until it is pointed out to you. The box or small chest which you had marked, "For use on the passage," will be taken to your berth, and while you are steaming smoothly down the Clyde, you will be getting yourself made as comfortable as the circumstances will allow. With the setting sun you will be rung to supper, which, if you are an emigrant, will consist of abundance of coffee, bread, and butter.

After dark, you will retire probably in sight of Greenock. At eight in the morning the breakfast bell will call you to a sumptuous repast, consisting of everything required to fit you for a hard day's toil. Dinner at twelve, but you have not been working, and cannot well enjoy the rich rounds of beef and potatoes, etc., that have been abundantly provided. On the third day you are a trifle sick. In the evening you cannot enjoy your coffee. You then turn to your own little store of jellies, land biscuits, etc., etc. By-and-by the sickness leaves you, and you enjoy your fellow passengers' society again, and get chief with the sailors. In due time you land. Take things calmly. Your luggage being properly labelled there is no danger of its going astray. Emigrants will obey the instructions given them by the agent in Glasgow, and will call upon the Government officers at port of landing. All information will be given, and every possible care will be taken of them, and will be duly forwarded to the place fixed upon. For additional instruction from this point we refer the reader to scraps Nos. I and II, which appeared in your issue of 30th January, and 6th February, 1875. Everything will be strange, and you will be very tired, but no doubt the day will come when you will be able to look back with pleasure upon the days of your emigration. In our next scrap we intend speaking of the educational advantages of Ontario, with special reference to the Public Schools of Hamilton.

XI.

THE census of 1870 gives to Hamilton, Ontario, a population of nearly 27,000. A. Macallum, Esq., M. A., Inspector of Public Schools, in his report for 1873, estimates the population of the city at 32,000. Doubtless he is within the truth. A fair deduction from this estimate is, that there are over 7,200 children between the ages of five and sixteen years. These children should be—*must* be educated. Every intelligent member of society, every parent worthy of the name, acknowledges the necessity of a liberal education for the rising generation. I know that in the

"Old Country" many parents make the education of their family a noble ambition. But it must be confessed that the hardy sons of toil, in order to secure this, find the difficulties great and the trials severe; labouring from "early morn till dewy eve" in order to 'save the needful pence—nay, pounds—requisite to procure this blessing to their family. Education, although plenty and first-class in Scotland, is indisputably high-priced. How these 7,200 children are cared for and educated is our task to explain to our old friends in Scotland.

Our esteemed townsman, A. Macallum, Esq., M.A., Inspector of Public Schools, has our public thanks for his personal information. By the way, he is a fine type of a "canny" Scotchman. He is a native of Greenock, and if we mistake not his good lady—Mrs. Macallum—comes from Biggar. It is only fair to inform your readers that I have stolen—well, not exactly stolen, for I have his kind permission—largely from his elaborate reports.

The number of separate or distinct buildings used in this city for public school purposes is fifteen. The Central is a magnificent stone building, two stories high. It is the largest and best building for public school work in Ontario, probably in our Great Dominion. It is pleasantly situated on the slope of what is called Edge Hill. The buildings and yards occupy a full square of two acres in extent. It stands about 90 feet above the beautiful Lake Ontario, and 325 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. In this institution the pupils receive a good, plain English education—embracing reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, physiology, bookkeeping, natural history, music, drawing, and the natural sciences. From it the pupils are promoted, on passing the necessary examination, to the Collegiate Institute. It is supplied with all necessary apparatus, maps, globes, a skeleton, &c., and a fine library. Besides the library it has twenty-four rooms, and as many divisions properly graded and classified, embracing a range of nine of the twelve grades, viz.—the 12th or highest, the 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, and 4. These divisions are instructed by four male and twenty female teachers. The Primaric

Schools form what may be designated a "cordon" (this is what they would call a hard word in Canada, but as the Inspector uses it, and as I have no better, I retain it.)

Bold Street School stands near the Central. It was erected in 1855 at a cost of \$3,000. It affords accommodation for 150 pupils. The lot measures 9,600 square feet. This, like all the other schools, has a full equipment of everything necessary in the shape of maps, globes, lesson cards, black-boards, &c.

The Hunter Street School is nearly a mile from the Central. It was also erected in 1855 at a cost of \$3,000. It was re-built in 1868, having been burnt by an incendiary. It has a cubic capacity of 34,292 feet, and affords accommodation for 200 pupils. The lot is twice the size of the former school.

The Wellington Street School stands on a lot measuring about one-third of an acre. It was built in 1869 at a cost of \$4,000. It has five rooms, five divisions, and five teachers, and accommodates 250 pupils. The total cubic capacity is 34,000 feet.

The Mary Street School is about half a mile from the Wellington Street one. The lot measures 100 feet by 144 feet. The building is brick. It has four rooms, four divisions and four teachers. The grades are 1st, 2d, and 4th. The divisions 12th, 11th, and 9th. The total capacity of its rooms is 30,640 cubic feet, which allows 150 cubic feet for each child in average attendance. Like all the other schools it has everything necessary in the shape of maps, &c. The cost of erection was \$4,000.

The Cannon Street School is not such a handsome and commodious edifice. It stands on an irregular lot, 132 feet by 60 feet on the one side, but a little deeper on the other, containing about 1-5 of an acre. When it was built I have been unable to learn. The foundation only is stone, the rest of the superstructure being wood. It was leased by the School Board up to the year 1867, at which time it was purchased at the cost of \$3,135. It consists of two buildings, very poorly adapted for school purposes, and much below the standard required by law. In 1827 there

were six rooms used, having six teachers and six divisions. The cubic capacity is 33,943 feet, being only 70 feet of breathing space to each pupil that year.

[Since the above was written, a large, handsome, brick building has taken its place, erected at a cost of about \$15,000.]

The Hughson Street School is a fine stone structure, gothic style; erected in 1854 at a cost of \$6,800. The lot measures 145 feet by 100 feet. The School has three rooms, giving a cubic capacity of 18,950 feet. It accommodates 150 pupils in average attendance.

The Murray Street School stands on a lot measuring 150 feet by 160 feet. It is a pleasant brick structure, two stories in height. It has eight rooms, eight teachers and eight divisions. It was erected in 1872, at a cost of \$10,000. This school-house is a credit to the Board, a blessing to the community, and an ornament to the City. It comfortably accommodates 400 scholars.

The Market Street School is also a fine brick edifice standing on a lot 66 feet by 269 feet. It was erected in 1855 at a cost of \$5,000. It has three rooms giving a cubic capacity of 26,770 feet. It affords accommodation for 200 pupils. There are four teachers and four divisions in this primary.

The Pearl Street School was erected in 1868 at a cost of \$3,000. The material is brick and stands on a lot measuring 100 feet by 132 feet. It has four rooms, Teachers and divisions. The cubic capacity is 26,000 feet, being 130 feet to each pupil in average attendance.

The Queen Street School is situated in one of the best localities in the City. It was erected in 1871 at a cost of \$5,000. It stands on a lot occupying nearly 1-3 of an acre. It affords accommodation for 200 pupils, and has four rooms, four teachers one paid monitor, and four divisions. The total cubic capacity is 36,292 feet. There are other two we might have noticed, but they are so near the Central School and two other buildings, and used for one primary, that we may regard them as included in one Central, and so have only ten primaries.

The Victoria School, recently built, is such a fine edifice that a description of it is left over. In next scrap we will endeavour to describe it, and give some idea of the course of instruction pursued, and as all the education is *free*, will explain how the revenue necessary to carry on such an efficient system of instruction is obtained.

XII.

THE Victoria School was erected in 1873. With the exception of the Central School, it is the finest school-house in our "Ambitious City." It was built with the view of accommodating the children living in the eastern part of the town. Where a few years ago there was a large tenantless common, we now find a dense population, in the midst of which stands the magnificent structure—Victoria School. The building is red brick, with cut-stone facing, two stories high, surmounted by a tower, on which is a vane, and in which we trust we shall soon have a bell and a clock. Nine divisions can be accommodated, there being nine rooms. Heating apparatus, at a cost of \$700, has been provided for the inclement weather. The very best facilities possible are provided for ingress and egress. The ventilation is excellent. Galleries have been dispensed with, which permits the pupils occupying the same room during the whole session. The school stands on a lot containing about 2,000 square yards. Outhouses, planking around the building, fences, &c., encloses and completes the whole. The internal fittings and furniture reflects credit on the contractors, who are citizens of Hamilton.

These schools have 70 teachers, and 5 paid monitors—that is, persons engaged in aiding teachers whose divisions are too numerous for one person to attend to them thoroughly—and 70 divisions and sub-classes. The Canadians believe, and prominent among them the Hamiltonians, that school-houses are cheaper than jails, teachers than officers of justice, and that they stand towards each other in an inverse ratio. They think by

employing more good teachers, and giving them sufficient remuneration for their services, and by bringing the educational facilities as near perfection as possible, they will materially reduce the percentage of crime.

It is not deemed enough to supply the pupils with instruction in the ordinary branches of education. The development of the moral nature is considered of so much importance to the individual, and to society, that its culture receives careful attention. They are taught by the example of their teachers to love and practice kindness, politeness, neatness, punctuality and truthfulness. The development of character, the formation of right habits, the inculcation of correct principles, and showing the scholar *how* to learn and practice these virtues is not overlooked in the carrying on of our great educational work. For the benefit of teachers in the "old country" we must give a minute notice of the classing and grading adopted by the public schools, and their respective work. There are 12 classes, 12 grades and 12 divisions. The first class, first grade and twelfth division spends in reading 7 hours, spelling 3, writing $2\frac{1}{2}$, arithmetic 5, object lessons 1, music 30 minutes, and lessons for next day 1, geography $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, Christian morals and drawing 50 minutes, making a total time of 22 hours and 20 minutes instruction per week. This does not include five minutes for opening in the morning, ten minutes for recess in the afternoon, and five minutes for closing at 4 p.m. Before any pupil is promoted from this class they must be able to read readily any passage in the first part of the First Book of lessons; to spell any word in the reading lesson and to give its meaning in familiar terms; to be able to form letters and Arabic numerals on the slate; to know the Multiplication Table as far as four times twelve; to be able to add together any one of the first five simple digits to, or subtract it from, another; exercise on the calculator, also counting on other objects; exhibit the compass, show its working, and ascertain by means of it the geography of the school-room; understand what a map is, and be able to point out on a skeleton map of the county, the city they live in, the townships (your parishes), the bay, marsh, beach and mountain; on a skeleton map of the city, point out the principal streets, the wards,

the schools, the place where he lives and his road to school. In this class there are no lessons prescribed for preparation at home.

XIII.

I OWE you, and through you, your numerous readers, a sincere apology for so abruptly terminating "Scraps from Canada." While writing the last one that appeared in your journal, I was suffering very severely from what is best known in Scotland as "rose in the face." This was succeeded by a bilious fever which confined me to bed. On this being mastered, inflammation, first on the left, and subsequently on the right lung, took a serious hold of me. At one time it had so far reduced me that there were grave fears of my recovery. I am now strong again, and by consent of my medical attendant at liberty to resume "Scraps from Canada." Doubtless much interesting matter has been lost, but *Deo Volente*, will do my best to make future notes as interesting as the subjects permit.

XIV.

THE winter weather continued far into the spring months. At last the transition came, and it was rapid. The warm south wind with clear sky and hot sun soon chased away all traces of the severe winter. During my late illness, when I became unconscious to the outer-world, there was not a bud upon the tall bare trees that line our well laid out streets. Ten days after, when I was able to look out upon fair Nature, the fruit trees in the orchard opposite our residence were in bloom. This is so unlike old country experiences that some may be disposed to doubt its truth.

Times have been very hard throughout Canada this season. Why, is not rightly known. Doubtless the dull trade of the

United States has had something to do with it. Things are in a very bad condition there. Perhaps the severe winter and backward spring tended to cause the uncomfortable depression. The fine weather of late is brightening the prospects of the farmer, and it is anticipated that harvest time will give things a favourable turn. The money market has been exceedingly "tight." It is estimated that 75 per cent. of our merchants have been, and are still, at the mercy of the banks. Our Dominion is not so much of a "cash" country as Scotland. Being young, the credit system is carried on to an extent almost incredible. Merchants this season find that in order to keep the machinery moving they must sell "on time"—that is, give credit by taking their bill for three, four, or twelve months. And often when those notes or bills—which have been discounted at the bank from not less than 9% to 15%—come due, the parties instead of paying them, as is done in Scotland, send another bill for renewal. So the merchants have to pay the bank cash for what was discounted, and can only raise the money by discounting again at the enormous rate of 9 to 15%. In some cases 17% is exacted, and in others they are cut off altogether by the bank. Labour on this account is a little cheaper, and good steady situations difficult to secure. We have had quite a sensation here for some time about a hundred men who were induced to leave Scotland last spring—principally stone-cutters—masons—from Aberdeen. They were to have three dollars per day (12s 6d), but on their arrival they were offered piece work, and refused the 12s 6d per day. The matter will not be allowed to rest until it is discovered who is at fault—whether the firms here or their representative in Scotland. Every one is indignant, Canada is a vast territory much in want of skilled labourers; and the Government, the people, the journals are all interested in the question of emigration, and are sensible it can only be promoted and accomplished by upright, honest dealing.

We have had no real warm weather yet. The highest degree indicated was 95 in the shade. We have lately had some fine showers, and everything is fresh and pleasant.

XV.

MANY of your readers (even the business portion of them), are not aware that the United States money (or currency) is not fixed in value like the £ s. d. of Great Britain, or the dollar and cent in Canada. For instance, for a long time during last winter and up to ten days ago, the United States dollar (that is one hundred cents), was only worth about $83\frac{1}{2}$ cents, being 3s 5½d, instead of 4s 2d, or in other words, at $16\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount. This increase or reduction of value sometimes affects the standing of Canadian manufacturers and banks very materially. Two weeks ago "gold came down," or as will be better understood in Scotland, the value of the United States dollar rose to 90 cents, instead of $83\frac{1}{2}$ ($6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. rise). Banks therefore lost $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on all the capital they held that has changed hands. This is one cause of the suspension of one or two banks here. I have quoted these facts to show that while emigrants may hear of large wages in the States, they must mind that the dollar and cent does not represent the real value. We are still suffering from "hard times," but the fine weather of late is bringing in favourable reports from all parts, which will in some measure tend to brighten prospects.

We notice with regret a cable dispatch announcing the destruction by fire of Grant's Cotton Mills in Glasgow, yesterday. We are also discouraged to learn that there are 12,000 persons thrown idle at "Bonnie Dundee." This country takes a deep, interest in the prosperity of the "Mother Country." This leads me to speak of our loyalty as subjects to her gracious Majesty the Queen. Her birthday was a universal holiday; not by one sect or party, class, or division, but by everyone, and on the same day; not as you have, Glasgow 19th, Wishaw 24th, Carluke 28th, and so on. We can put you to shame in this respect. The strawberry season has just closed, and cherries are all the go just now. We used to have fine luscious strawberries at 6d the quart. This is market day, and I had a turn through it ;

but I must withhold what I heard and saw until next week. Thanks for *Daily Mail*, *Glasgow News*, *Daily Herald*, *Hamilton Advertiser*, *Weekly News*, *Weekly Mail*, *Christian News*, and other papers received from unknown friends.

XVI.

TUESDAY, Thursday, and Saturday are market days in the ambitious city of Hamilton. Summer and winter, three times a week, the Market Square—a place corresponding in size to Carluke Market Square—teems with all kinds of mineral, vegetable, and animal life. The square itself is pleasantly situated in a central part of the town, completely level, and laid out with straight rows of wooden pavements, after the form of an immense draught board.

From four to eight o'clock on these mornings it is delightful and romantic to watch the great influx from every point of the compass. To the west, one, two, three, six, ten, twelve, or more horses and "spring carts"—we call them waggons here, but don't suppose that they resemble railroad trucks—come trotting briskly along. Some are richly laden with large assortments of the luscious fruits of the season. Others packed with every description of farm produce, in boxes, baskets, bundles, and bales. Next comes a "double team"—it is a great place this for "pairs"—wearily dragging a heavy load of what was once "live grumphies." Further away still, comes a few monster loads of new and old hay made up to suit the capricious—I hope they won't be offended—Canadian marketers. The occupants are more interesting to the stranger than even the contents of the waggons. Generally, there are three, father, daughter, and servant, or mother, son and servant, poor, slaving, hard-toiling mortals. Two o'clock a. m., does not find them in their beds three times a week. Still they are cheerful and healthy. This is only *one* approach to the little center of activity and interest. What has been pouring in from

other quarters can only be known to us by calculation from the now densely-packed square. As the hour of seven chimes from the large town clock there does not seem to be a spare inch of ground, still they come trooping in, quietly, earnestly, and interestingly. The smart men of the world, men thoroughly up in business, have been "all round." Merchants, more indolent, continue to straggle in. Thrifty house-wives are busy picking out their two days' supplies. Business has begun in earnest now. Flour and oat meal of the best quality are offered to the "good wives" at 1s 2d per peck, but they beat them down to 1s. It's a great country this for cutting close. Potatoes are bargained for and carried off at 10d per peck. Butter brings 10½d per lb., and cheese, very finest, 7½d. Beef is so remarkably cheap, your readers would hardly believe the actual figures. Vegetables of all kinds, and fruits of every sort are carried off at satisfactory prices. Delf, china, and glass wares are also offered and enquired after. Why need I try to enumerate. It would be an endless task. Everything almost, machines of every description, good and bad, patented and unpatented, luring the needful in the various "lines" to speedy purchases. Nothing you will name in the products of the country for twenty miles around but what is to be found here at prices, being competitive in open market, very reasonable.

There are some of our working citizens, good, active, useful citizens, who do not attend market. Well, they perhaps can afford to purchase "second hand," and it is no business of ours. There is some hawking, "peddling" they call it here; but it is not allowed until after 12 noon. By this time the best of the market is past, and the goods then vended are not quite first-class in quality or price. Our marketing is one of the advantages which the thrifty, honest, and intelligent workmen enjoy. Such a gathering only requires to be seen to be enjoyed, and its workings understood to be approved of. The fine weather continues, and agricultural reports are still cheering.

XVII.

TO save your humble servant, and to lay the responsibility on some one else we copy *verbatim et literatim* an article from the "HAMILTON EVENING TIMES" of July 9th, which will give your readers some idea of how the Canadians here persevere and get on :

"In these times of considerable commercial depression it is a pleasure to be able to make allusion to one branch of Canadian industry which is progressing in a most satisfactory manner—an industry which, though it has its headquarters in this city, has ramifications throughout the entire Western Dominion as well as the Eastern and Western States. We refer to the very extensive wholesale and retail marble business, and its connections, of Messrs. Hurd & Roberts, of Hamilton, to which, at some little length, we propose to refer to-day. We might say, however, that in a very short time the retail branch will be disposed of, and every attention paid to the wholesale portion. For that purpose the agents are already being called in and preparations made to sell out the present business on Merrick street. A retrospect of a few years will not be out of place in this sketch, in order to afford some idea of the humble commencement of the business, which has now reached its present great proportions, being, we can safely say, the most flourishing in Canada. Twenty-seven years ago Mr. H. H. Hurd arrived in Wellington Square and opened a shop, we may believe, under no very cheerful auspices, for in addition to the natural dullness of the trade he was assured by an old resident that he could not hope to dispose of his large stock of marble in this country—his "large stock" consisting of no more than two horses could draw and not exceeding in value the sum of \$200. In that somewhat remote day, the demand for handsome monuments and tombstones was very slender ; people were contented with the most modest memorial tablets and headstones, and, often, with none at all. In the face of this, one may imagine that the prospects were not of the brightest kind. However, Mr. Hurd went boldly and assiduously to work, with

Mr. D. C. Yale, who at the start was taken into partnership, and left nothing undone to work up the business, the result being the *nucleus* of the present one. In 1850, he bought out Mr. Yale's interest and after two years by himself, was joined by his brother, Mr. M. Hurd, with whom, in 1853, he came here, establishing the business in the building on the corner of Bay and York streets now used by Messrs. Brierly & Graham, which has been so favorably known to our citizens during a period of 22 years. In 1854 the brothers, as H. H. & M. Hurd, opened a branch in Toronto to which in 1855 Mr. M. Hurd removed; but his health failing he sold out and began business in Minnesota, in which Mr. H. H. Hu. retained an interest until a few years ago, when Mr. M. Hurd also relinquished that which he still held in the works here. In 1856 Mr. D. E. Roberts, of this city, became a partner with the Messrs. Hurd, a relationship which has existed to the present time. These gentlemen, by their thrift, business foresight, and valuable practical experience, conducted their business by regular gradations from what it was in 1856 to what we find it in 1875. Their retail trade was by far the largest in the Dominion. Their chief field for the sale of marbles has been Canada, but in Scotch granite, of which they are very extensive importers, their sales are not only large in the Dominion, but also throughout the States of New York, Ohio, Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa, Vermont, and Pennsylvania. During the past twenty years the firm has witnessed a complete change in the market. At the commencement there was but a slight call for elaborate and expensive tombstones, but within the past few years this has not been the case. Now the most costly monuments are asked for, and we are assured that of no country more than Canada is this true, even exceeding the wealthy Eastern States. Last year, though in the retail line, the firm made sales amounting to nearly \$100,000.

In order to accommodate the increasing demand from the dealers throughout the country, for marble and granite, Messrs. Hurd & Roberts have decided, as we have said, to dispose of the

retail business and confine themselves exclusively to the wholesale branch. In order to carry out their plans, they, last year, purchased, on the south side of the junction of the Great Western and Hamilton & Lake Erie Railways and contiguous thereto, $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, forming a most eligible site for their business and mills. From the road a switch will be run alongside the property, and so close that blocks of marble, weighing fifteen tons, can be hoisted by an immense steam crane, with a boom 60 feet long, from the very cars to the doors of the mills, about which will stand the gangs of saws which will cut them up. So admirable are the arrangements, in this regard, that cargoes of marble shipped from Leghorn, Italy, or granite, from Glasgow, Scotland, can be put in the mills with but one transshipment, at the ports of Montreal, Boston, or New York, where the ship loads will be transferred to the cars and be sent directly through. The mills, which will be by far the most extensive in Canada, will form a high two-storey brick building, in two parts. The main portion will be 160 feet in length by 60 in breadth, and, on the ground floor, will be used for sawing, cutting, turning and polishing the stone. There will be eight gangs, capable of running any number from one to sixty saws each. The upper storey will be used for cutting and polishing marble and marbleized slate mantels, for which there is a growing demand. At the north end of the building will stand the engine and boiler house, 30x40 feet in size, containing two boilers of 45 horse-power each, and two engines 35 horse-power each. Mr. Thomas Northey is manufacturing seven of the saw gangs, and the engines and boilers, and Mr. Hinchcliffe, the pulleys and shaftings. The mason work is being done by Mr. Isaiah Beer; the carpentering by Mr. Butcher, and the painting by Mr. Matthews. The cost of the building will reach about \$20,000 and that of the engines and machinery \$18,000 more.

While Messrs. Hurd & Roberts will use American marble, their chief supply will be brought from the Carrara quarries, Italy, whence it is shipped *via* Leghorn, where the best qualities in the world are obtained. One hundred and fifty tons of blocks and slabs are now *en route via* Boston. Though vast quantities of

marbles will be imported and supplied to the trade, one great feature in the new business will be the direct importation of the beautiful red and grey Scotch granite monuments ranging in value from \$200 to \$5,000 each. One firm in Scotland is turning out 106 monuments for them; altogether, 250 of these monuments are being made for them under the supervision of a representative of theirs located in Aberdeen. Four hundred tons of Ohio freestone are being imported for tombs and architectural purposes, a large business being done in that line. The firm expect to have their mills in active operation by the 1st of October, by which time the capacious yard will be stocked with valuable marbles and granite, a handsome building added to the northeast portion of the town, which will be much improved, and Messrs. Hurd & Roberts fully launched in their new wholesale trade—doing a business in cutting marble slabs from the rough blocks, as imported from the quarries, which was formerly done in foreign countries and by but one firm in Canada. By this, a heavy duty is saved and the price lowered to Canadian retailers."

XVIII.

SINCE I wrote you last week, we have had our "civic" holiday. Business of every kind was suspended. We go into these holidays right jolly. We have quite a lot of them during the year. There is Christmas; No work that day; Skating, sleighing &c. only prevail. New Year's Day shares the same fate. May 24—notable day—her Majesty's birthday, is universally celebrated with great *eclat*. We are not like Mother land—Carlisle holding it on 19th, Wishaw on 24th, Glasgow 28th, and somewhere else in June or July. You make the day to suit your arrangements, we make our arrangements to suit the day. Then comes "Dominion Day," held by all Canadians with great reverence and much rejoicing, in memory of the amalgamation of the Provinces on 1st July, 1867. Thanksgiving Day comes on in October. Well, this day should not be held as a holiday; neither should the Glasgow sacramental fast; but what can you

do if it is so kept? we have opportunities of worship during the day, but the bells are poorly obeyed. Road and Rail are better patronized by far.

We have been here almost a year now. We have, therefore, had a round of Canadian weather, and so can speak of what we have seen and felt: Yes, felt. There *is* feeling when the thermometer is 10 degrees below zero, or indicating, 100 above. We have seen it standing at these figures, but they are exceptional. Then we have "spring" and "fall"—three months at least—in which we have a real Indian summer. Climate is not against our great country; not at all. Our produce has taken a first place in our own markets, and our merchant princes are having inducements offered whereby we will be able to find a market in India. Great pleasure is felt here at the sentiments expressed by the present Prime Minister at the Lord Mayor's Dinner, where he repeated what he had previously said, that the mother country ought to consider the claims and condition of her colonies, as they would by-and-by become sources of great wealth and strength to Great Britain. Referring to Canada he never uttered a greater truth. Taking the same words of the same great statesman, which he applied in connection with O'Connell, on a certain occasion, we might in a sense apply them to Canada, and say, "We have been mocked and laughed at to-day, but the day will come when you will be proud to listen to us." We are very jealous of our power, and very *loyal*. The United States would fain "curry favour" with us, but we are not yet to be seduced. We entertain the *kindest feeling* towards poor Jonathan, but *marriage* is quite another thing.

XIX.

AT last we decided to spend our "Civic" holiday at the far-famed Wellington Square. We can calculate upon the weather here, and so were sure of a fine day. Fine, not in an old country fashion, but splendid in a real Canadian sense, A sky innocent of clouds, and no dull haze intervening to mar the view of the delightful scenery we had to pass

through and enjoy. Eight a. m. found a select party of nine—an odd number—fully equipped *en route* for the Great Western Railway Depot—they cannot say station here, and if you do it for them the one-half would not understand you. The living stream of the merry pleasure-seekers, pouring in from all quarters, was not bad for the "Ambitious City." As we waited for our car (train you say in Scotland), I could not help remarking to an old country friend that it brought me in mind of Carstairs Junction on a Lanark race day. Two stone-casts off the fine steamer "Florence" was taking in her unusually large, living cargo. The railway platform we thought pretty much crowded, but the wharf seemed even more so. We had only seen this station once since we landed here a year ago. We thought it very pretty, compared with Motherwell, Wishaw and Carstairs Station at home; but our guide informed us that the large brick building in course of erection close by was to more adequately meet the wants of the rapidly increasing city, Hamilton.

The railroad track for about two miles from Hamilton towards Wellington Square skirts the beautiful Burlington Bay, which is connected by canal with the great fresh water lake Ontario.

It was very pleasant to recline on the easy seats of the well-cushioned, comfortable cars, and look out upon the glassy surface of still water, upon which numerous small boats were seen, filled with pleasure-seeking parties. As we lost sight of the bay, with its small craft, schooners and steamers, we awoke to the fact that the bright king of day was far up over the eastern hills, and in all its effulgent splendour casting a sweet halo and golden glory over the ever-varying and delightful scenery, which is altogether unknown in the dear old country. The cars, you must not forget, are totally different in construction from those in Scotland. You enter and leave at the end, and you can walk from car to car, just as the conductor (guard) does, calling the stations, collecting the tickets, and giving the passengers all the information they may want. Being informed that the next station was our purposed destination—Wellington Square—on the stoppage of the train we merrily sprang upon the commodious platform, and hailed a 'bus

that plied between the station and the village. We had only time to observe that the station and its connections were neatly fitted up with all the latest American improvements. The surrounding country was one unbroken undulating holm, relieved only by the homely farm-stead and variegated plantations.

The village occupies a delightful position on a plateau of slightly elevated ground, winding along the waters of the great Lake Ontario, and seems to have, by its connection with the railroad on one side, and the lake upon the other, superior facilities for becoming a large manufacturing town. Situated in the very centre of the finest grain-producing country in the Dominion, it seems destined, at no great distance of time, to develop into incredible colossal proportions. The streets are laid-out, generally, at right angles, and the principal buildings are chiefly of brick, some of which, with their ingenious architecture and pretty verandahs, present a very imposing appearance. On the rising ground near the Lake are a number of elegant residences, having tastefully ornamented and well laid-out grounds. Nearer the station than the village proper is the pleasant and highly-cultivated farm owned by H. H. Hurd, Esq., of Hamilton, and worked under the superintendence and management of that highly-esteemed gentleman. Adjoining the farm, and forming a part of it, are the extensive and widely-known Halton Nurseries. These are now under the efficient care and personal management of Mr. Hurd and his son. The farm with its vast resources and numerous improvements; the nurseries, with their formidable crops of healthy young fruit trees and many other things interesting to note, are left over till next week.

XX.

FARMING is not quite the same here as in the dear old country. Indeed, it is altogether different. Your readers must, therefore, try to forget the pleasant little holms by the Clyde, and the wild unbroken heathland so common at home. The farm we visited at Wellington Square, a place about

seven or eight miles from Hamilton, is somewhere about 85 acres in extent. It is part of the great basin, valley, plain, or holm, 75 miles in length and about four miles in average breadth, which has its beginning at the celebrated Niagara, and terminates at Nassagaweya, in the county of Halton. These 85 acres, as well as the surrounding country, was once like memorable Scotland, in the days long, long gone by; in the days when the hardy, invincible Britons took shelter in the dense woods, and watched their opportunity to repulse the invading Romans. Yes, this neat, little farm was once part of a mighty forest, and in some parts a little inclined to a treacherous morass, or unwholesome swamp. Even in 1862, when purchased by the present owner, part of the dense wood was standing, with a good part cleared, but the stumps and roots still remaining, and the swamp still undried. At enormous cost, it has now been thoroughly "stumped," the roots taken out, and all efficiently underdrained. Eight acres is set apart or leased to H. H. Hurd & Son (formerly S. M. Durkee & Co.), to be used as a nursery for the raising of fruit trees of every description, to supply the large and still increasing demand of the surrounding fertile country, the ground being deemed too valuable for the raising of root or grain crops. Other parts of it were planted with the choicest apple and pear trees, then all heavily laden with rich and luscious fruit, of which we had full permission from those in charge to "taste and try." Other parts we observed were devoted to the raising of oats, barley, &c. A fine barley crop had just been harvested, which was estimated to yield not less than 70 bushels to the acre. The oats were yellow as gold, fully ripened unto harvest. Not a green stalk to be seen in the whole field. The men were in the field, orchard rather, just beginning to cut them. Fired with the memory of earlier days, I took a great interest in the work, and ardently longed to try the harvesting in Canada. About six acres grew in the large open spaces between the fruit trees, and it was thought that the reaping machine could not be worked to great advantage. Three men were, therefore, set to "cradle" it. That is, they were to mow it. We eyed the "cradle" with suspicious wonder. It had a long blade, in every respect shaped

like a scythe, and a "sned" a little like the old-fashioned "long sned," but much shorter, and with only one handle. It has an immense bow or rake, with teeth the full length of the long blade. Instead of cutting the oats to the "face," and being lifted and bound as we do at home, they are cut out from it like hay, and left to win or dry for a few days, and then bound up into sheaves and "stocked." I cannot explain, but you can fancy the position the man must be in the whole day, and how he must handle the cradle so as to prevent the great bow stripping the standing grain. Imagine my surprise to see them taking little more than the tops off the grain, leaving the rest standing. I got permission to try my hand, but got "paid off" for cutting too low, and taking too much straw with the grain. It seemed to us terrible work, the tops were not even all taken off. Cutting oats like hay! Who ever heard of such a thing in the Motherland? This explained how and why people here can cut from four to six acres per day. Having lifted and bound a sheaf of the golden grain—just to be able to say we did it—our harvest operations came to an end. A plough and team were busy in the next field. I was eager to get a "haud." It was a wheeled plough, and the only thing I had to do was to watch the width. The wheel regulated the depth. I think I satisfied the man in charge that I could "haud" —even wide enough to suit the Canadians. I could not help contrasting the work done in that field with the field near Lesmahagow, where, before I was fifteen, I was a successful competitor in the ploughing match. Where was the barley that had grown upon the field now being ploughed? Harvested, we are informed; but where were the stacks, then? There are no stacks—neither hay nor grain—in Canada or America. We were then shown the "barn" into which all the crops are garnered. It is an immense new building, after the American style of architecture. We found on enquiry and examination that it was not only capable of containing under cover the entire products of the farm, but was also adapted for a stable, byre, hennery (hen-house), &c. It contained all the modern improvements, and must have been erected with a view to economy and comfort. We could hardly estimate—even approximately—the immense

cost of this great building, and so leave the figure blank. Everything in and around the farm is in commendable order. The cattle are of the best breed obtainable, and are expected to carry away the prizes at the great Provincial Exhibition—open to the world—to be held in Hamilton about the end of this month. We do not remember the number of the fruit-trees bearing or the average yield. The number seemed to be “legion.” The Hamilton and North Western Railway, which is only projected, but to which the citizens of Hamilton have, by a sweeping majority, voted a bonus of a hundred thousand dollars, will run through a small corner of this farm, after which the ground will be too valuable even to make orchards of, and will probably be laid off into suitable building lots, and sold. The Halton Nurseries seemed one great forest of young fruit trees of all kinds and progressive years. The present firm, H. H. Hurd and his son, have only recently purchased the entire interest of the far-famed nursery, and have thrown considerable energy into the work, which, we understand, is prospering in their skilful hands. The raising of strawberries is a remarkable feature, and a source of great profit. Montreal, Hamilton, &c., is the market for this kind of fruit. We were to see the root-house and to have the grafting process explained to us, but we found we had only time to retire to the hotel and have tea preparatory to catching the train for Hamilton. A sumptuous tea only cost us 24 cents—11½d each. In high spirits, we reached our own dwellings, loud in the praises of that part of “Fair Canada.”

We have had three days pretty hot. At noon to-day, the thermometer stood at 103° in the shade. While I write, it is darkening down, the air is cooling, fire is seen, thunder is heard, and we are sure to have a fine rain. A correspondent writes me, wishing to have the notes on our Public Schools continued. I anticipate seeing the Inspector soon, and will by-and-by attend to the matter. The objections urged by the minister referred to against our education is a foul libel, so far as Canada is concerned. You will have full facts in course of time. Other matter by other correspondents will be worked into “Scraps” so far as they have come under my observation.

XXI.

WE have just received from our Canadian contributor, Mr. Wm. Hope, of Hamilton, Ontario, a prize list of what is termed a Great Central Fair to be held in the city of Hamilton there, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next. Competition open to the world—the latter, a telling hit surely—and at the same time, showing the tendencies of our Canadian brethren to do things on a gigantic scale, a tendency or desire which is more fully developed on reference being made to the prize list, which occupies thirty-six large pages closely printed. On visiting the great Highland and Agricultural Show, lately, we were greatly exercised at the number and multitudinous variety of the exhibits, but this Show or Fair beats us all to sticks. It seems to us to be a Cattle and Agricultural show, a Horticultural Show, an Industrial Exhibition and an Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures all knocked into one. On referring to the list we find there are forty-nine classes, all of these classes are exhaustive in their various departments, and which, amongst other things, include the following: Horses, all manner of cattle, pigs, poultry, roots, fruits, flowers and vegetables, which include sorts quite strange in the majority of our gardens. The same may be said of the fruit class, which would do the heart of some of our local pomologists good to see. In apples, there are no less than 34 sorts; pears, 20; grapes, 19; and so on *ad lib.* We would direct the attention of our farmers' wives, to the variety of items which here appear under the head of dairy products, viz.: cheese, butter, preserves, canned fruit, honey, maple sugar, pickles, loaf bread, wine, (three sorts), sugar-cured ham and bacon, and spiced beef. There are some items there which would tax the capabilities of our local dairy-maids, we imagine. Next in order come all manner of agricultural implements, cabinet ware, carriages and sleighs; then the fine arts, oil paintings, water color drawings, photographs, crayon drawings, groceries and provisions, ladies' fancy work, domestic manufactures, machinery, metal work, stoves, musical instruments, natural history, including birds

fishes, insects, mammalian and reptiles ; minerals, plants, stuffed birds and animals, woollen, flax, and cotton goods ; furs and wearing apparel of every imaginable description. The items in this class numbering 43—all of which are to be entered for competition for prizes, varying from one to twenty-five dollars, besides a large number of special prizes, in kind, valued from five to sixty dollars. With such a formidable list as we have just given, we think the most fastidious visitor will find something to suit his taste and his pocket also, if inclined to invest, as we presume it will also be a selling fair.—*Clydesdale News, Wishaw, Scotland, Sept. 25th, 1875.*

XXII.

REMARKABLE progress has been made by the business men of our Dominion during the last few years in emancipating themselves from the thralldom, vexation, and misery of the long-winded credit system so prevalent here. I find that a good many prospering houses are conducted on the cash principle, while nearly all the first-class establishments have adopted a system of commendable short credits. Many thousands, however, particularly in the retail trade, are still "dragging their weary length along" through the fatal slough of long credits, with all its losses and perpetual annoyances, and in too many cases only get extricated through the uncovetous pathway of insolvency. Hundreds are ruined annually from this cause, who might otherwise have been rich, and yet the vicious system continues with unabated vigor in numerous localities, with all its baneful results.

In the early settlement of the country long credits were of course, unavoidable. These were pre-eminently the days when there was little wealth in the country, when no railroads and but few good roads of any kind existed, when there were but few markets, and cash very rarely paid for produce. During these memorable days and years the hardy settlers saw very little money, and unless they bought upon long time, very few of them could purchase at all. These conditions have long since

passed away. Wealth has become abundant. Railways have brought markets within a few miles of every farmer's door. Cash can be obtained now for every article produced. There can, therefore, be no valid excuse for continuing the ruinous system of twelve or fifteen months' credit, which still obtains in some localities.

I have no desire to preach a sermon on morality, but I wish to plainly state that the evils of the long credit system are severely felt by all classes of society. There are many men throughout Canada to-day who are in a serious sense "hard up"—who find it difficult to keep the sheriff from the door; but who have their business books well filled with notes and accounts. Many of these unfortunates, who daily take advantage of the bankrupt laws, hand over to the assignee book debts and notes, which if they were worth 75% would far more than meet all their engagements. But, alas! in nearly all cases these debts and notes are found to be the worthless dregs left of the wretched credit system. The articles which they represent may have been sold at exorbitant prices; but what of that if the persons owing are worthless, if they have removed to parts unknown, or the claim has become "Outlawed," from having stood too long.

Although this season has been very trying, still the country is generally prosperous throughout, and there should not be so many businesses found in all parts in imminent danger of shipwreck from the owners foolishly giving too extended credits. Many of these persons do a large trade, they sell at good prices, and outwardly appear to be amassing money; but they are only puddling away in the vile mud of the old credit system. They have in a sense made money; but it is sunk in old doubtful or bad notes of hand, and long winded accounts, which should have been settled long before. The sad result is that there is a constant drag from month to month to raise enough of cash to meet bank engagements, which not unfrequently ends in a "collapse." To commence a complete system of cash payments through the whole Dominion is probably impracticable at present, except in particular trades; but there can be no doubt but that the short credit

system would work with great advantage. The Americans—we are Canadians—ever since the war have largely carried on their business transactions on a cash basis, and but for this wise policy, what would have become of their business men, with values hourly slipping up and down as gold rose or fell? There must long ere this have been a great commercial upheaval, compared to which that of the present year would be a mere trifle. I may be blamed by Canadians for speaking so plainly of their business doings to residents of the mother country; but the only answer and apology I shall make is, that my aim in these scraps has been and shall continue to be, to speak the truth, suffer who may.

Many—might I not say all—merchants would do well to begin 1876 by cutting down the length of their credit at least one half, and offer special inducements to cash customers. They might loose a customer or two at first by this course; but they will speedily attract others, and come out far richer and more respected in the long run. The business of our Dominion is now ripe for the adoption of the significant motto “cash or short credit,” and the sooner it is acted upon universally by all classes the better for our country.

The excessive heat is past again. Fine, mild, pleasant weather prevails, and will probably continue for six weeks or so.

XXIII.

WE expected to have written you a long letter about how we spent our New Year's day, but there has been so much “dining out,” attending “socials,” making “presents,” drinking tea, &c., that old country friends have in a sense been lost sight of. The Canadians have been bitterly mourning since before Christmas that there has been little sleighing and less skating. Such an open winter has never been heard of. One Savan (how old he was we did not hear), once, only once, saw such warm, genial weather in the winter season, and that was forty-five years ago, just (as he says) before the cholera broke

out and decimated this our ambitious city. Ergo, therefore, we are on the eve of a terrible pestilential scourge. We hope that he has made a mistake for once. To-day the weather is so mild and warm that we are reminded of a June day in dear old Scotland. Such open, fine weather is bad for the country. The felled trees that lie waiting for the frost, snow, and sleigh, cannot be touched, and if things don't "freeze up" firewood will go up terribly in price next year.

One of your Glasgow worthies has been "kicking up a row" in our peaceful city. A man—may we call him such—named McConnell, kept a butcher's stall in the Market Square. He owed his landlord a month's rent, and would not pay it because there was a dispute about some garden fence. The landlord sent down the bailiff to make a seizure of the furniture. McConnell's wife ran down to the market and told her husband of the fact. He deliberately sharpened his butcher's knife, and accompanied by his wife, walked away to the landlord's residence. He did not find him in, but as he came out he met him, drew his knife, and without speaking, struck him several times on the face. Not satisfied, he plunged the knife three or four times into the body of the prostrate man, piercing the lungs, after which he walked quietly home. He was soon arrested, and Monday next he is to be tried for the brutal murder. This is rather like the "back woods of America." Is it not? Had it been in Belfontaine, Ohio, instead of Hamilton, the populace would assuredly have lynched him. We, however, believe in British law, and suppose justice will be done, although the defence are already talking about something being wrong with his head or brain. He came from Glasgow about eight years ago.

We had the pleasure of hearing the renowned orator, John B. Gough, last night. His subject was "Eloquence and orators." Dr. Chalmers, Candlish, and a few others of our Scottish clergy were very faithfully imitated. He kept us for over an hour and a half in the best of humour. The tickets were 2s 2d each, still he drew a bumper house. It is the best lecture we ever heard. He is getting grey in the service, and many of his Scottish friends would not know him now.

I have got matter for a very nice scrap, which will interest your Aberdeen friends specially, and will in some measure show that the colonies do help the trade of the mother country.

XXIV.

WE are frequently twitted by residents in Great Britain about our comparative insignificance. Being young, and withal very loyal, we bear and grin, but at the same time are fully aware that our four thousand miles direct from Ocean to Ocean—from the Atlantic to the Pacific—are not to be laughed at; and are confident that this vast, rich territory will some day afford hearths and homes to the offspring of many who at present despise us. Indeed, who dare say that this immense territory—through which a railway is being projected 4,000 miles in length—may not some day be considered the head and centre of far-famed Great Britain. Even now Canadian enterprise is giving hundreds in the "Old Country" work who would otherwise be idle and perhaps starving. From the wide field of commerce we furnish you with one example of industry, which will, in some measure, open the eyes and soften the hearts of our ungenerous critics. Some years ago, Messrs. Hurd & Roberts of this city—Hamilton, Canada—added to their extensive marble business the importing and furnishing of the celebrated Scotch granite monuments from Aberdeen, Peterhead, Craginair, and Dalbeattie. The increasing demand for such work and material soon spread to their neighbors in the United States, and we find, from the books of that firm, that they are now supplying the different kinds of Scotch granite to the principal marble dealers in the States of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. In New York State alone, they are at present supplying about thirty different firms.

A little more than a year ago, Mr. Hurd—senior partner of the firm—in order to purchase more largely, to supply the in-

creasing demand and to secure lower prices, made a fourth trip to Scotland. From one manufacturer he contracted for 106 monuments, from another 70, from a third 50, and so on until the purchases had reached over 250 monuments of various designs and sizes, raring in price from £25 to £250 sterling each, the whole to be finished within one year.

A considerable number of these handsome Obelisks were brought into the Canadian market—eighty of which may be seen set up in their yard here—but a great many of them were regularly imported to customers into the United States as fast as manufactured.

A short time since this firm sent ten cases from Glasgow, containing monuments, to a firm in the United States, for entry at the port of Chicago, Illinois. This shipment was accompanied by the usual Scotch invoice and American Consul's certificate from Aberdeen. *Note*—This certificate is an oath made by the manufacturer before the United States' representatives resident in Aberdeen that the attached invoice contains a full and true statement of the transaction between the manufacturer and the firm, and that the prices mentioned are the exact prices at which the goods were sold to the firm, neither more nor less.

XXV.

IT was our intention to give you a description of some of the principal buildings and manufacturing establishments in Hamilton, but a correspondent is very anxious to know the rate of interest upon money in Canada and the United States, so we must postpone that department for another week.

The rate of interest, so far as Canada is concerned is easily stated. Six per centum per annum is all that can be collected by law, where no definite rate has been stipulated. But it is legal to charge any amount or rate of interest that may be agreed upon. Hence, as money is pretty scarce with us, it is no unusual thing to

exact from 9 to 14 per cent. for dis-honoured bills or over-due accounts.

Upon good security, about which there is no manner of risk—such as good mortgages, &c.—you can borrow any amount of cash at from 8 to 10 per cent.

It would be a long, tedious and uninteresting process to give in detail the legal rates of interest in the United States, as every section or State has a law regulating the interest that can be charged. If you are doing business in the State of New York, it would be illegal to charge *more* than 7 per cent. The law on this point is so stringent that all contracts or engagements that include more interest than 7 per cent. are void, and cannot be held against them. More than 7 per cent., therefore, vitiates all contracts in the State of New York. In the state of Ohio it is different. The legal rate of interest is 6 per cent., but, on written agreement any rate as high as 10 per cent. may be charged. If more be reserved, the excess is void. Were we residents in Pennsylvania, 6 per cent. is all that the law would allow us. Usurious interest cannot be recovered, and, if paid, may be sued and collected; but usury does not render the entire contract void. In the State of Delaware, the interest is also 6 per cent. Whoever exacts more is liable to forfeit the whole debt—one half of which goes to the State and one half to the prosecutor.

These States will be sufficient to show the necessity for caution in the charge of interest, and proves that no one State can be taken as a criterion for another. The laws regulating "exemptions," mechanics' liens, chattel mortgages, contracts, limitation of actions, collection of debts, rights of married women, framing of deeds, making of wills, &c., all differ in many respects in different States. You don't know much about "exemptions" in Scotland. We suppose when a poor fellow gets in debt with you and cannot pay his way, you sell him out "bag and baggage."

Not so in America and here. Take the State of New York for instance, a State having a territory of about forty-seven thousand square miles, and a population of nearly four millions.

There is exempt from execution, and the law nor any man can touch for debt the following property :—All spinning wheels, weaving looms, and stoves kept for use in any dwelling-house. The family Bible, family pictures, and school books used in the family, and a family library not exceeding in value \$50 (£10). Church pew, ten sheep and three fleeces, and the yarn or cloth manufactured from the same, one cow, two swine, and necessary food for them. All necessary pork, beef, fish, flour and vegetables, actually provided for family use, and necessary fuel for the use of the family for 60 days. All necessary wearing apparel, beds, bedsteads and bedding for such person and his family. Arms and accoutrements required by law to be kept. Necessary cooking utensils ; one table, six chairs, six knives and forks, six plates, six teacups and saucers, one sugar dish, one milkpot, one teapot, and six spoons, one crane and appendages, one pair of hand irons, and a shovel and tongs. The tools and implements of any mechanic, necessary to the carrying on of his trade, not exceeding \$25 (£5) in value. In addition to the foregoing, there is exempt necessary household furniture, and working tools, and a team of horses owned by a person being a householder, or having a family for which he provides to the value of \$150 (£30.)

XXVI.

SO you have got your School Board election fracas over! You have been wonderfully quiet over the bone of contention—the Bible and Catechism in the school—this year. We suppose Scotland will be the better of the new Education Act by-and-by. We Canadians will be glad to see you upsides with us, meantime, we believe—perhaps you don't—that we are head and shoulders taller than you.

In answer to enquiries, I may tell you that Hamilton, Ont., is about 42 miles S. E. from the celebrated Falls of Niagara. Fare, by cars—that is by rail—first-class, 1½d per mile. From Toronto, the “Queen City of the West,” and capital of the Pro-

vince, we are distant 39 miles southward. Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, and the seat of Parliament, is eastward from us about 256 miles. From Woodstock, the chief town of the county of Oxford, we are distant 48 miles. Montreal, to which we have previously referred, is eastward from Hamilton 372 miles, and more easterly still from Quebec about 500 miles. Some suppose that we are quite near to the great city of New York. Well, we do not think that we are very far away, but still we are over 500 miles north-west from it, and from Boston, United States, about 600 miles. We are about 450 miles from Philadelphia, where the great centennial exhibition is to be held. Hamilton is approachable by rail from all the places I have named, and also by water from Montreal and Quebec. We can sail from Glasgow (Broomielaw), to within a half mile from where our cottage stands. In our next "Scrap" we will give you the rise and progress of Hamilton itself, meantime we must tell you about wages, fuel, and provisions.

The depressed state of business having thrown a large number of common labourers out of employment, the city had, out of compassion, and for humanity's sake, to find them work at the "sewers"—cutting drains—for which there were 75 cents—3s sterling—per day. This is very low, when you bear in mind that common boarding-houses charge 12s sterling per week. Any number of good, strong, hardy, skilful workmen can be got for \$1—4s 2d sterling—per diem. Clerks—good smart, conceited chaps—command from \$300 to \$500 (£60 to £100) per annum. A really handy, good book-keeper, who is thoroughly up in all the branches of business can command £150 to £250. If you were a *paterfamilias* you would require to go a-shopping—it did not matter whether you were the invisible "we" of the "Clydesdale News," or a very rev. servant of God—Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday (these are the market days), and if you did not look pretty sharp the Canadians would steal a march upon you, and think it *smart*. If you wanted butter this week they would ask you 34 cents (1s 5d) tell them 1s 1d is the real market price to-day, and it will be knocked down to you. The price of the

4 lb loaf is 6d; eggs, the very finest, 8½d per dozen; butcher's meat, your choice, 4½d per lb; potatoes much the same as in Carluke or Wishaw; tea is cheaper, and sugar a little higher, making the two balance.

If you had been farming inclined we could have suited you to fine very letter. We can let you have 100 acres for yourself, and an additional hundred for each of your family, over 15 years of age, with a house on each of the 100 acres, and 20 acres of each lot cleared, all for £8 for every 100 acres. This would be about four or five hundred miles from here.

We looked at a farm 15 miles from here, containing 100 acres all cleared and "stumped," except about 15 acres of fine wood. It was well fenced, had a good orchard, an excellent supply of water, and fine farm steading. They asked \$5,500 (£1,100) for it, payable half cash and balance in five years. We offered \$4,500 (£900) cash. They did not come to our terms, so it is in the market yet, and may be purchased to-day for £1,000 sterling. A really fine home for some one who has a couple of thousand pounds, and who would like to settle down in a fine part of "Fair Canada." Who will buy?

XXVII.

AFTER a commendable silence, here we are again. Once more an effort shall be made to record the queer sayings and "queerer" doings of the wonderful people of Canada. We have been waiting and waiting until our literary patience is tired out, for the dull trade, hard times and tight money market to pass away, but, sorry to say, the end is not yet. Beginning in the autumn of 1874, our "Scraps," up till early in 1876, were a gradual development of a coming commercial crisis. During the last twelve months every department of business, from the smallest to the greatest, has undergone a cropping and cutting which has thrown an immense number of hands out of employment. But with all the care, prudence, and business economy possible,

it is lamentable to enumerate, and heart-rending to recall, the exceedingly large number of businesses that have been forced into bankruptcy, and which have paid little more than 25 cents on the dollar—or, speaking more intelligibly to your readers—five shillings in the pound sterling. Political jobbers (pardon the Canadianism), savans of various hues, and wiseacres of different shades of opinions, have all a fine theory as to the cause, and a never-failing panacea for these commercial ills. Some unmercifully lay all the blame upon Her Majesty's Liberal Government—poor dears!—and others come down pell-mell upon our banks for being too easy in their advances to upstart firms or rotten business houses. All these theories, however, don't explain away the stern fact that to-day there is little or no work for the toiling millions, no bread for the starving children, and no money to carry on in full blast the many silent factories. Of course, there are some firms not feeling it at all, and these are the loudest in the sickening cry of "hard times." This is the way they work it: They are wholesale dealers, say. Their retail customers have sold a long time without interest. The wholesale man says he can only take a 4-months' bill. At the end of four months the retail customer can't meet his bank bill, and so renews for other four months at 10, 11, 12 or 15 per cent. The wholesale man has not much more money than the retail, but he has plenty of credit at the bank, and so gets his customer's bills discounted, and sometimes his own paper, at 7 per cent. So, while he is crying out "hard times," he is making 5 or 8 per cent. off his helpless customers. But the end does come. Sometimes these renewals total up to a good few thousands, and then an announcement of a failure and a compromise of 15 cents on the dollar is the next part of the programme. That is the way we are living. Not very creditable, is it? But what can we do? We are working, waiting, hoping, trusting, for the good time coming. Ungrateful and sinister partizans were inwardly rejoicing at the prospects of an immediate Eastern or Russian war. But while such a calamity would help us here, you must not suppose that we are as a whole so selfish as to wish prosperity at such a terrible cost. The best and only opening here just now is for your well-to-do farmers,

men with a little capital. Land is so cheap that it can be laid hold of by a numerous class of unskilled laborers, who are as destitute of agricultural knowledge as they are of money, and the once rich and fertile soil is beginning to be worn out, and has begun to withhold her natural products. There are, of course, many old country farmers here already, doing a great and good work, and getting fat and rich over it. But there are thousands of acres crying out for proper culture and management. Twenty miles from Toronto, the "Queen of the West," in the heart of the finest grain-producing country in the Dominion, the writer bought last summer 160 acres of land, well watered and good steadings, for \$7,000 (£1,400). The land is good, the soil deep, but very poor. He astonished the villagers by hauling and spreading about 1,000 bushels of lime, 12 tons of common land salt (we are far from salt water), 10 tons of land plaster, 5 tons of Peruvian guano, and over 200 cubic yards of stable and byre manure. Their astonishment was intensified when they saw us ploughing with three horses, turning up the new soil; and the whole neighborhood set us down as mad. The fact is, they are in the habit of taking from ten to thirty crops off without applying an ounce of manure. We want the skilled and practical farmer to increase our exports, and draw out and expand the natural resources of this great farming country. Butter is selling at 1s. per lb; oats at 2s. 1d. per bushel; wheat at 4s. 6d. per bushel; hay at £2 15s. per ton; straw about the half; eggs at 1s. per dozen; beef at 16s. per cwt. Everything is encouraging for the farmer who has a little money laid past and a large family growing up around him. Should any of your readers wish to learn more about this matter, I will have great pleasure in answering any and every question they may propose.

XXVIII.

[FROM THE HAMILTON WEEKLY TIMES.]

*OUR MARBLE TRADE,—Items Concerning Hamilton's
Marble Trade—the Leading Firms Engaged in it—
Something Relative to Hurd, Hope & Roberts.*

WE daresay that a large number even of our own citizens are unaware of the fact (or if they are, have given it little attention), that Hamilton is the leading city in the Dominion as regards the extent of its marble trade. This is the "head centre"—our jobbers supply dealers throughout Canada and ship very largely to the United States, and the writer has been at pains to gather such items relating to the leading firms engaged in this business as will prove of interest. At the head of the list stands the firm of Hurd, Hope & Roberts. The enterprise had its origin at the hands of Mr. H. H. Hurd, and a brother, Mr. M. Hurd, in about 1858. Subsequently the firm became Hurd & Roberts, and remained such until the 1st of March this year, when Mr. William Hope, who, for some years had been associated with the house, became a co-partner, and the present firm style was assumed.

The business originally had no more prominence than is accorded most marble yards in growing cities. Its transactions were at retail and necessarily largely local in their nature. By degrees a jobbing trade was entered upon. Direct importations of marble and granite became a distinctive feature of the enterprise; its affairs were ably managed, and as the years passed by the operations of the house extended to every part of the country, until now the firm holds a commanding position as manufacturers and dealers. It is a place in the trade circles of the country that has been attained by honorable dealing, by developing a liberal and progressive business policy, and not only has the firm but the city been benefited by the results that have flowed therefrom.

The works now occupied by the firm were built in 1874, and comprise, beside outbuildings, a main building, of brick, three

stories, 16x59 feet and an engine house 6x40. The force employed usually numbers 25. As nearly as possible the work is done by machinery. Great blocks of Italian and American marble are received direct from the quarries, and in the workrooms of the firm are cut up to such sizes as are required. Seven gangs of saws are used, each gang containing from half a dozen to twenty or more saws, according to the desired thickness of the slabs. These saws are operated by steam power, and day after day the process of sawing marble is carried forward. The saws are so thin that there is but little kerf, and the huge blocks and monuments are easily handled by means of powerful cranes. Two lines of railway skirt the premises owned by the firm—the Great Western and the Canada Southern—so that receipts and shipments are effected at little trouble, and the entire business appears to be perfectly systematized.

The trade of the firm in Scotch granite is simply immense. At least \$80,000 worth is exported by them to the United States each year, and in the yard we notice a great many magnificent specimens of this beautiful stone. In Scotland a large stock ready for exportation is also carried, and the resources of the firm are such that they can fill any order at almost a moment's notice. This completeness of stock is unequalled in the Dominion and not even surpassed in the States. The entire business is at wholesale, and though it is an enterprise that makes little display, yet in its aggregate transactions it is one of which the people of Hamilton may take pride.

All of the co-partners give personal attention to the business, Mr. Hurd attending to the outside matters, Mr. Hope presiding over the office, while Mr. Roberts manages the shipping department. All are workers, and need not be ashamed of the results of their work.

XXIX.

[FROM THE HAMILTON WEEKLY TIMES.]

*THE RETAIL MARBLE TRADE,—In Importance it
Compares Favorably with the Wholesale,—what
Hope, Furniss & Son are doing.*

WHILE the wholesale marble trade of the city is of such large proportions, the retail trade is equally important, and we are in possession of some items concerning the firm of Hope, Furniss & Son, who are to be considered as representatives of this interest. The works and yards of the firm occupy a central location at the corner of Merrick and Bay streets, and are well worth visiting by those who take any interest in this branch of business—combining, as it does, much that is artistic with the higher type of mechanics.

The works are the largest of the kind in the Dominion, and are the results of a consolidation of two large establishments at the time the present firm was formed—in January last. Previous to that time Messrs. Furniss & Son had been carrying on the business. Both of them are thoroughly practical men, fully understanding all the details of the business—indeed Mr. E. M. Furniss had, for eighteen or twenty years been foreman for Hurd & Roberts, while his son Mr. Spencer Furniss, learned his trade here.

The premises occupied comprise nearly one-half an entire block, upon which are two separate shops, two large yards, dwelling houses, &c. The force of workmen employed is usually thirty or more, and eight experienced canvassers are kept out, taking orders from photographs and lithographs of finished work. A large business is thus attracted from all the surrounding country, and specimens of exquisite work emanating from their shops may be found in almost countless cemeteries. Not only is work finished to order, in any style and after any design, but a large quantity of finished work is also carried—of Scotch granite alone about \$10,000

of monuments are kept in stock, and this work, being imported direct, is sold at rates extremely favorable.

In a conversation with Mr. Hope, we learn that the tendencies of the times are for a better grade of work, and to that end the firm employs the best workmen and purchases the best material it can secure, and it is gratifying to us to be enabled to state that the business now reaches about \$80,000 per annum, with every prospect of a substantial increase during the present year.

Not marble monuments and slabs alone constitute the entire business. During a recent visit to the Works we were shown into one department wholly devoted to marbles and marbleized mantels. More beautiful work cannot be found anywhere, and the firm is prepared to give customers extraordinary bargains in this class of goods. Indeed, in the entire establishment nothing is omitted that would render it complete.

Mr. Wm. Hope, the senior member of the firm, is a young man—a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and one of the wholesale marble firm of Hurd, Hope & Roberts. His time is largely occupied with his duties in the last named house, still he exercises general supervisory management of the business, and its rapid and substantial development is owing, in no small degree, to the business-like energy he has infused into it. We can certainly extend our congratulations to the firm for what it is accomplishing, and hope its prosperity may never be less than now.

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