

The following communication, which appeared in the *Morning News* of Wednesday last, we cheerfully transfer to the columns of the *Albion*. The information which it conveys in a tabular form is of a most useful character, and will, we trust, be the means of placing a branch of trade to which it adverts, more prominently under the notice of our mercantile community:

MR. EDITOR:

Sir—I have taken some pains to acquire information about the lumber trade of the City and I now transmit to you, for the information of your readers the result of my enquiries on that subject. The Table which follows will answer as a guide to your manufacturers of lumber, and may be relied upon as correct, as the information it contains has been furnished direct from dealers of long experience and good standing in the trade.

It is highly important that lumber intended for New York should have great attention paid to its appearance. Unless it be bright, clear, and free from stains, it does not sell well; even although it may be cut never so accurate. It is also important to have it cut true to size, in both thickness and breadth; Pine and Spruce boards, and Scantling, the ends should be sawed off. Shaky and defective lumber would be more loss than gain to the shipper; and black knots, particularly in flooring should be carefully avoided.

If clear pine boards of say 20 feet long and as much longer as possible, and as wide as they can be made, so as to be of equal width at both ends, could be brought into New York, in a dry and clean state, they would command a price far above my quotation, and would sell readily in any quantity that could be obtained. In the course of my acquaintance with the Timber trade of St. John I have seen large quantities of Pine timber that squared from 28 to 32 inches; I cannot now remember how long it might have been, entirely free from knots, but suppose from 16 to 20 feet not unusual. Out of a tree therefore, that will square thirty inches, there might certainly be cut some boards of a much greater breadth, say as high as 34 inches, and from that down to 24 in. Boards of this description, more than 16 feet in length, up to 25 if possible, is I am assured a desideratum not often to be met with in New York, and, unless that I am mistaken, the forests of the upper St. John would furnish always a supply of this description.

Another point in the manufacture of clear pine boards, must be had in remembrance, that to prevent stain, or mildew it must be wholly, or partly seasoned before it is shipped, for stains would destroy its quality in the estimation of the New York carpenters. It should be turned out as bright, if possible, as when it came from the saw. There is a process in use in the United States, by which lumber seasoned by means of artificial heat that consumes a very short time, and does not cost much; at present I am unacquainted with the process, but will endeavour to obtain information and inform your readers. I am under the impression that it is extensively used in Maine, and suppose therefore that some of your manufacturers may be acquainted with it.

The largest demand would be for that article described in the table as "Common or Knotty lumber" and "Flooring." The first is substantially that article known amongst you as "Merchantable boards," which instead of being cut as with you, of such lengths and widths as the log will permit, must be made into certain dimensions, as for example, the lengths must not be less than 12 feet or more than 16 feet, but they may be cut 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 feet long.—The widths must not be less than 10 inches, to as wide as the tree will permit. The thickness must be full one inch; and there must not be any taper, the board must be as wide at one end as the other. As the range of dimensions here embraces so large a variety, I should suppose where proper judgement was exercised, there could not be much of the tree wasted. These remarks must be understood as applying equally to Hemlock as well as Pine boards.

"Boxing stuff" as the lumber just described is generally called in New York, is used for all purposes about houses that common boards are wanted for, packing cases, outside fences and so forth. The consumption therefore is very large, for packing cases alone several millions of feet are consumed annually.

For "Flooring" also the consumption is large, it must be cut true and of full thickness, and equal widths at both ends. A large quantity of this lumber is now imported into New York from Upper Canada, under a duty of about 60 cents per M. It comes by way of Lake Ontario to Oswego thence through the Erie Canal to the Hudson River.

The consumption of Scantling is also large in New York; the quantity used in the construction of buildings is greater now than formerly. The moderate built houses are of a costly and durable kind, no timber is spared to render the edifice as complete as possible, hence the consumption of scantling is larger than in past times. Spruce will sell as well as Pine, and the demand for Hemlock scantling is limited.

It will be noticed that the price of Laths is altogether too low to pay at present. The reason is that last year the price was so high that the market is overstocked, but the consumption is large, and when the stock diminishes, the price will rise to a paying standard.

A TABLE

Showing the descriptions of Pine, Spruce, and Hemlock Lumber, and Cedar Shingles, suited for the New York Market.

	Length.	Width.	Thickness.	Present val per M. sup. feet.
WHITE PINE CLEAR BOARDS, should be partially seasoned to prevent mildew, and kept clean and bright. Clear boards upwards of 16 feet long, is worth more than the quoted rate,.....	12 feet to 16 feet,	full breadth of the tree, as wide as they can be cut,	1½ inches, 1½ " 2 "	\$27 to \$28.
WHITE PINE KNOTTY BOARDS OR BOXING STUFF; 16 feet lengths preferred, the wider the better, to be worth the price here quoted must average about 15 inches.—They should be bright and clean, and as free from knots as possible; sound knots are not objected to; black knots are not liked; dried will command a better price and more ready sale than green.....	12 feet to 16 feet,	10 inches to 20 inches, and up'w'ds,	1 " 1 " 1 "	\$12.
WHITE PINE FLOORING; sound knotty Pine, free from black knots, and kept bright and clean.....	12 feet to 13 feet,	4 inches, 9 " 11 "	1½ " 1½ " plump,	\$12 to \$14.
WHITE PINE SCANTLING; Bright and clear, ends sawed off; the most saleable is 3 inches thickness. A proper assortment for a cargo of say 100 M. feet would be, 70 M. 3 inches thick by 8, 9, and 10 inches wide; 17 M. 4 inches thick by 8, 9, and 10 inches wide; 13 M. 4 inches thick by 6 inches wide.....	25 ft. 25 ft. 15 to 25 ft. }	8 in. 9 in. 10 in. 6 inches,	3 inches, 4 " 4 "	\$11.
WHITE PINE SHINGLES; dressed, smooth surface and edges, jointed, in bright condition; none others would sell.....	18 in.	—	—	\$3.
WHITE PINE LATHS; are very low at present; the common price is from \$1.50 to \$1.62½ per M.; last year they rose to \$3.50.....	4 feet,	1½ inches,	½ "	\$1.25.
SPRUCE SCANTLING; Dimensions same as Pine, and proportions also the same.....	see pine,	see pine,	see pine,	\$10.
SPRUCE PLANKS; Free from knots,.....	20 feet,	10 to 15 in.	2 inches,	\$10.
SPRUCE RAILROAD TIMBER; used only as a temporary track during the construction of the road; a small quantity therefore would sell. The timber chiefly used on the Railroads in this quarter is Georgia White Pine.....	as long as it could be cut,	6 inches, 7 "	6 " 7 "	
HEMLOCK BOARDS; Bright and clean; perfectly sound and free from shakes.....	13 feet,	10 "	1 "	9cts & board
HEMLOCK SCANTLING; sound like boards. Dimensions same as Pine and Spruce,.....				\$8 to \$9.
CEDAR SHINGLES; Bright and clean, and pointed on one side of the thin end. (The price at present high.)	24 ins. 30 ins.	7 " 8 "	½ " ½ "	\$16. \$22.

REMARKS. The cost of measuring is 25 cents per M. feet, half of which is paid by the buyer, and half by the seller. Terms of payment are for as much of the sales as equals the freight, cash, the remainder three months credit.

The following calculation will show the rates that would be left to the Saint John Merchant after selling in New York at the quotations given in the table, and the expenses of shipment deducted:

	White Pine Clear Boards,	White Pine Knotty boards,	White Pine Flooring,	White Pine Scantling,	Spruce Scantling,	Hemlock boards,	Hemlock Scantling,	24 inch Cedar Shingles,	30 inch Cedar Shingles,
Gross sales in New York, per M. superficial feet.....	\$27 50	\$12 00	\$13 00	\$11 00	\$10 00	\$8 30	\$8 50	\$16 00	\$22 00
Freight,.....	\$3 00	\$3 00	\$3 00	\$3 00	\$3 00	\$3 00	\$3 00	\$3 00	\$3 00
Insurance, 1½ % ct.....	0 38	0 15	0 15	0 15	0 15	0 10	0 10	0 18	0 25
Com'n & Guar. 4pc.....	1 10	0 48	0 52	0 44	0 40	0 33	0 34	0 64	0 88
Measuring,.....	0 13	0 13	0 13	0 13	0 13	0 13	0 13	0 00	0 00
	\$4 61	\$3 76	\$3 80	\$3 72	\$3 68	\$3 56	\$3 57	\$3 82	\$4 13
Net sales,.....	\$22 89	\$8 24	\$9 20	\$7 28	\$6 32	\$4 74	\$4 93	\$12 18	\$17 87

This must of course be understood as under a system of Free Trade; so long as there are duties in the way there can be no trade. In this calculation I have allowed nothing for exchange, as the rate is in favor of the St. John shipper, it would add to the net proceeds; supposing that there might be a loss of interest, I have allowed the exchange to go against it. From the above estimate it will be seen that taking the current rates in New York at this time, there would be left to the St. John shipper, all expenses paid, as follows:

For White Pine Clear Boards,.....	£5 14 6	N. B. Currency.
" " Knotty Boards,.....	2 1 3	"
" " Flooring,.....	2 6 0	"
" " Scantling,.....	1 16 5	"
" Spruce Scantling,.....	1 11 7	"
" Hemlock Boards,.....	1 3 9	"
" " Scantling,.....	1 4 8	"
" Cedar Shingles, 24 inches,.....	3 0 10	"
" " " 30 inches,.....	4 9 4	"

I propose to furnish you some account of the Stave trade in this City, also some information about Cord Wood, both of which will be of interest and advantage to your readers. At some future day I will also lay before them some information on the subject of manufacturing lumber for other parts of the United States, where the shipment would be as easy from the Colonies as to New York.

ARRIVAL OF THE HIBERNIA.

The letters, by the Express, which arrived at Halifax by the Mail steamer Hibernia, reached this city about 10 A. M., on Friday last.

The accounts from home are of rather a gloomy character. The disease amongst the potatoes was unfortunately extending its ravages, and bread stuffs had risen accordingly. Lord John Russell was to proceed to Ireland in a few days after the 25th, in order to confer with Lord Clarendon upon the distracted and unsettled state of that unfortunate country. It is to be hoped that his mission may be received in the spirit which suggests it, and that the result may be profitable.

COMMERCIAL.

The European Times says:—All departments of trade and commerce have been in a very unsatisfactory position during the past week. The uncertainty which prevails respecting the harvest and the extent of the potato disease has acted most injuriously on the markets for foreign and colonial produce although holders have been anxious to realise, still from the causes above noted, buyers have manifested unusual caution in their operations, although tempted by lower prices. Money is in more demand, but the rate of discount is not higher at present.

The price of American Flour has advanced 2s to 2s. 6d. per brl., sellers being able to realise 34s. to 35s. per brl. for Western Canal and Richmond, 34s. to 35s. for Philadelphia and Baltimore, 33s. to 34s. for New Orleans and Ohio, and 34s. to 35s. for Canadian. Indian Meal is 17s. to 18s. per brl.

LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET.—Three cargoes of Quebec Pine have been sold at from 14d. to 13½d. per foot, red Pine 17d. to 18d. Oak 21d to 22d, Elm 13 14d, Deals £7 to £7 15s. per standard. A cargo of St. John's Pine, 18½ inches average, has been sold at 16½d per foot. The market is glutted with Spruce Deals, and sales are now effected with difficulty, even at the low prices.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Irish affairs have lost much of their interest, and now begin to be regarded with indifference, not only by the people, but by the Government. This is not as they should be. If there are political evils in existence, and that is not disputed, the Government should exhibit a desire to remedy them, and having evinced that desire, it should apply itself with energy to remove them. This must be done, or many months will not elapse before we shall have in Ireland a state of things analogous to what we have just witnessed. The Rebellion of 1849 is closed, and the Irish gaols are now filled to repletion, very few leaders being at large.

The state trials have so far resulted in the conviction of one only of the chief leaders. John Martin, proprietor of the *Felon* newspaper, was found guilty, and has been sentenced to ten years transportation. In the case of O'Doherty, the second jury were unable to agree upon a verdict. He is still confined, and at the next Commission the fate of trial will be again repeated. The Government, nothing daunted by the late untoward events, have determined upon issuing a special commission for the trial of Smith O'Brien, and the other captured insurgent leaders, at Tipperary.

Now that the rebellion is over, we hear a cry

of famine. From every part of Ireland the reports give but poor hopes of saving the great bulk of the potato crop, added to which, it is even reported that the grain crops will be below an average. We believe that the reports are much exaggerated, and further, that at present it is too early to ascertain, with any degree of exactness, what the ultimate yield will be. The reports of famine have, however attracted the attention of Government; measures have been adopted for ascertaining the real state of the case, and Lord John Russell has announced in the House of Commons that, should the fears now indulged in by a large portion of the population prove well founded, Parliament shall be at once called together to adopt such measures as may appear necessary for alleviating the evil.

The Chartists of England and Scotland have caused some uneasiness in the public mind for some time past, but the abortive attempt at revolution made at the close of the last week, has considerably mitigated the fear previously indulged in. Beyond the murder of a policeman at Ashton—noticed in our last—their movement has been ridiculously devoid of purpose or mischief; though the discovery of pikes, pistols loaded to the muzzle, daggers, and swords, balls, and lucifers proves the existence of a conspiracy wide-spread in its nature, and diabolical in its designs. These designs appear to have embraced extensive incendiarism in the metropolis and the chief towns in the manufacturing districts, coupled with which were to have been massacre, robbery, and the destruction of governmental authority; resolves truly ferocious in themselves, but fortunately so puerile in their conception, and so wholly powerless, as to be completely overthrown by the powers at the command of the law, with a comparatively trifling exercise of vigilance and precaution. They would-be rebels were anticipated; their manœuvres were foiled; and with not more difficulty than the capture of burglars, many of the leaders of the confederacy have been arrested, and are now in safe custody.

The proceedings in Parliament have continued to be of a routine nature, and characteristic with the close of the session. The proposed grant of Vancouver's Island to the Hudson's Bay Company has provoked considerable animadversion on the mistaken policy in which it has originated, and on the narrow selfishness of the company to be benefited. Vancouver's Island will one day become a place of much commercial importance, on account of its position and the extent to which it can furnish coal for the use of our steamers in that part of the world. An influential party in the Commons contend that this island ought to be retained by the Government for the purposes of colonization and commerce. On the part of the government it is asserted that the Hudson's Bay Company will promote both: an assertion quite at variance with the interests of that body as fur-traders, and diametrically opposed to their entire policy in that vast dominion over which they already rule with absolute sway. Originally incorporated to advance discovery and general trading intercourse, they have contrived to discourage both, and to keep their enormous tract of territory and its Indian population in something like their normal state of solitude and barbarism. This is not the time for confiding to such a body the guardianship, settlement, and improvement of Vancouver's Island.

The Continental news generally is pacific. In the early part of the week, there was a little uneasiness in regard to France.