

and did not depend on his pen for an income. Holmes was fairly rich by inheritance, and has lived on his profession. James Parton never took in more than 6,000 for any of his literary ventures, which is small pay for the outlay of work; his "Voltaire" occupied him the better part of twenty years. Stedman is not only poet and editor, but a stock-broker. Higginson, earns about 2,000 dols a year, and is one of the ablest and most successful of our journalistic writers. The list might be enlarged in every direction; and it would be found that the best workers are not to be envied from a merely financial standpoint. It would be criminal to advise a young person who had not had exceptional advantages and a special gift of expression to undertake to win fortune with a pen.

The real charm of authorship must lie in securing a moderate safe income to warrant devotion to favorite studies. If a man can feel that he is really doing that which is worth the while for others and himself he has compensation. But let no one imagine that he can secure any footing in journalism if he fails to do his best in whatever direction he turns. Of course his daily or weekly article cannot be a masterpiece, but it must at least be sincere, strong, vital. That literature is to be a paying profession is true only for those who give it a life of preparation and service. Too much emphasis cannot be laid on this point, for the most woe-begone failure is the literature hanger-on—the seedy creature—who has half starved in order to astonish the world; who believes he has got it in him, if some one else would only believe the same; whose returned articles he believes are never justly considered; devitalised and yet ambitious to the dregs; falling back at last on stimulants and narcotics, trying to prove himself a genius. The trouble is not that he lacks talent, in all probability, but he lacks drill, tact, culture, art. It is as foolish to advise young men in a general way to undertake authorship, as it would be to advise them to undertake music.—*Pilot*.

## Commercial.

MESSRS STRONACH BROS. AND MORRIS report as follows:—

**Fat Cattle**—There was a fair demand, but prices cannot be quoted any higher than last week.

**Fat Sheep**—There was a large attendance of the trade, but several held supplies from last week, and were not buyers. Consequently, although the supply was small, there was little or no improvement in prices.

**Pigs**—114 all sorts came forward. There was a fair demand at about last week's prices.

**Rabbitskins**—There was a large attendance of buyers at Monday's sale. There was a strong demand, and competition for every lot submitted was exceedingly keen, prices compared with those obtained last week showing an improvement of 1d to 2d per lb.

**Sheepskins**—The attendance of buyers was large and competition was keen, satisfactory prices being obtained for all classes of skins.

**Hides**—All coming to hand meet a good market, especially heavy and clean parcels, which command a ready sale at lately quoted prices.

**Tallow**—There is no alteration of any consequence in either the demand or values.

**Grain**—Wheat: The tone of the market is not by any means satisfactory, and gradually verging towards lower prices.—Oats: The tone of the market is very firm, and in some instances last week's quotations have been topped.—Barley: The market is quiet.

**Grass Seeds**—The market, as usual at this time of the year, presents no feature of any activity.

**Potatoes**—There is no improvement to report in the position of the market.

**Chaff**—Market has been fully supplied during the week and prices with difficulty upheld.

**Dairy Produce**—Prime potted butter is in short supply and in demand. The demand for cheese is less active, and late quotations not so readily obtained.

**Flax**—There is no new feature of any consequence in the position of the market.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED, report for week ending July 6, as follows:—

**Store Cattle**—A moderate business is passing in these, principally grown bullocks in forward condition, suitable for putting on turnips for finishing off without much delay. Low-conditioned and mixed sorts, although saleable, have less attention, and the sales effected are only to a small extent.

**Store Sheep**—There are buyers for all offering. Sound-mouthed, well-bred cross-bred wethers and young crossbred ewes command the most attention. At the same time there are purchasers for almost every description, and at full rates.

**Wool**—It will be somewhat more satisfactory to learn from late cablegrams to hand that at the wool sales now held in London prices are well maintained for good merino and fine crossbreds, that there is a more hopeful tone, and better prices are being obtained for lower sorts. Locally, only odd lots are offering, which, as a rule, are well competed for.

**Sheepskins**—These continue to have very good attention, but it is evident that buyers are less anxious to give prices lately obtaining, more particularly for green skins. A good demand exists for all coming forward. Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 1s 9d to 3s 2d; do do merino, 1s 8d to 3s; full-woolled crossbreds, 4s

6d to 5s 10s; do do merino, 3s 6d to 5s 2s 1; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 7d; butchers' green crossbreds, best, 4s to 4s 3d; choice, 4s 5d; medium to good, 2s 10d to 3s 11d; green merino skins, light, 2s 4d to 2s 8d; best, 2s 9d to 2s 11d each.

**Rabbitskins**—The market is firm, with a very active demand experienced. The auction rooms are well attended, and competition spirited, especially for latest secured and well-saved thin pelted greys; indeed, all sorts are in good request and briskly competed for. Best greys brought 1s 2½d to 1s 3¼d; medium, 11d to 1s 1d; autumn, 8d to 10¼d; summer, 5d to 7¼d; suckers and half-grown, 3½d to 5d per lb.

**Hides**—The market for these is in no way changed since we last reported. All coming to hand are freely taken up at prices on a par with those ruling for a considerable time past. We quote—heavy weights, 60lbs and over, 2½d to 3d; 50lbs to 60lbs, 2d to 2½d. Country hides range in price from 1½d to 2d; light, 1d to 1½d per lb.

**Tallow**—demand fairly active for local consumption and some inquiry for export, but there is no improvement in value, and while prices continue on so low a scale in the market at Home we can hardly look for much of an advance. Quotations for best rendered mutton, 19s to 20s; medium to good, 16s to 18s 6d; inferior to medium, 13s to 15s; best caul, fat 12s 6d to 13s; inferior to medium and good, 9s to 12s per cwt.

**Grain**—Wheat: Since our last report this market has not shown any signs of improvement, indeed the tendency seems to continue in sympathy with the Home market on the downward grade, and with the exception of really prime samples all other descriptions are more difficult to place as the season advances. Prime milling, 3s 6d to 3s 8d; extra choice on rare occasions, 1d to 2d more; good to best, 3s 2d to 3s 5d; medium to good, 2s 8d to 3s; inferior to good whole fowls' wheat, 2s 3d to 2s 6d; broken, 1s 9d to 2s 2d, ex store, sacks weighed in, terms.—Oats: The brisk demand noted last week has in consequence of large orders having been filled quietened somewhat. Best bright milling, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; best short feed, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; medium to good, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; inferior to medium, 1s 4d to 1s 7d; small lots for seed purposes, 1s 9d to 2s 1d, ex store, sacks extra, net.—Barley: There are no sales of any importance effected in malting descriptions, hardly any prime now arriving, and while maltsters are still open to purchase choice lots, their supply for the season is pretty nigh secured. Prime malting, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; medium, to good, 3s to 3s 4d; feed and milling, 2s to 2s 8d, ex store, sacks extra, terms.

MESSRS DONALD REID AND Co. report as follows for week ending July 6:—

**Rabbitskins**—Prime selected winters, 14¼d to 15½d; good, 12½d to 13¾d; medium, 11d to 12d; autumn, 8½d to 10¼d; black and fawn, 6½d to 9¼d; suckers, 3½d to 5¼d.

**Hides**—Prime heavies sold at 3¾d to 3d; medium, 2½d to 2½d; light, 1½d to 2d; inferior, slipper, 1¼d to 1½d per lb.

**Potatoes**—The market is well supplied, and prices are unaltered. We quote—best, L1 15s to L1 17s 6d; second rate, L1 7s 6d to L1 12s 6d.

**Chaff**—Only a moderate supply forward, and prices are firm at last quotations. We quote—Best oatshaff, L2 10s to L2 15s; medium, L2 2s 6d to L2 7s 6d; inferior, L1 15s to L2.

**Turnips**—A few trucks have been disposed of since last at for—prime small swedes, 15s to 16s; do large, 13s to 14s.

### RABBITSKIN MARKET.

J. H. KIRK AND Co., Bond street, reports for week ending July 6 as follows:—

During the week the number of skins coming forward has sensibly increased, and were it not for the long continuance of wet weather, and the comparative absence of frost, no doubt poisoned skins would ere now be arriving in considerable quantities. Prices have hardened still further since our last, and recently-taken well-saved skins now command most satisfactory figures. Our demand is practically unlimited, and we guarantee the very highest current values.

### DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

MESSRS. WRIGHT, STEPHENSON AND Co. report as follows:—The sale of horses on Saturday was distinguished for being the dullest we have had this year. There were very few buyers for draughts, and those that were present could not agree with vendors in their idea of values. The sales were principally of horses suitable for trams or spring carts, at from £8 to £10.

MR F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale price—Oats 1s 7d to 2s 1d (bags extra), demand good. Wheat (easier) milling, 3s 6d to 4s 0d; fowls', 2s 0d to 2s 9d, sacks included. Chaff: Market, bare supply—£1 10s 0d to £2 12s 6d; hay, oaten, £3 0s; ryegrass, £3. Bran, £3 10s. Pollard, £4 0s. Potatoes, kidneys, seed, £2; derwents, £1 10s to £2 0s 0d. Flour: roller, £10 10s to £11 5s; stone, value nominal, £9 0s to £9 15s. Fresh butter, 10d to 1s 2d; salt, prime, 11d. Eggs, 1s. Oatmeal, £9 10s in 25lbs; bulk, £9.

Messrs S. Kirkpatrick and Co.'s jams, made of last season's fruit, are of particular excellence. They are fresh and pure, of delicious flavour, and very wholesome.

The testimony borne by the Press to the efficacy of Paramo places its reputation as a medicine in the very highest rank.

The "New Zealand Post Office Directory," for 1892-93, which is now ready, contains the largest and most minute body of information to be found in any book of the kind. It is so arranged as to enable the busiest people to consult its pages without trouble or delay. The Directories for Canterbury and Wellington will also be found admirable in every respect.

The Elixir Vitæ is highly recommended as of the utmost benefit in cases of coughs and colds.

Mr William Quynne's Imperial Hotel, Normanby, is in every respect a comfortable and well conducted house.