

"Take care of your eyesight," was the advice of Mgr. Capel during his visit to the United States. He was much pleased with the abounding newspapers and schools, but thought that the small type so much used in the former was dangerous to the national eyesight, and that the arrangement of the school desks was often very trying to the eyes of the children. He thinks that the newspapers should use larger type, and that the upper surface of the desks should be arranged at such an angle that the rays of light would fall vertically from them upon the eye, so as neither to strain that organ nor necessitate bending the spinal column. Both points are well taken, and the importance of preserving the eyesight of both school children and newspaper readers, that is, of the whole people, cannot be overestimated.

According to the *Southern Trade Gazette* two additions have been recently made to the ever lengthening list of the economic uses of paper pulp. One is its manufacture, under compression, into very delicate watch wheels, which are said to be unaffected by variations in temperature. The other invention meets a still more imperative want. At the Health Exhibition paper water filters are shown connected directly with the main, the water passing through a disc of thick paper, made of pure vegetable pulp, with which is incorporated a certain proportion of animal charcoal deprived of phosphates. We were about to suggest that the inventor might find a hopeful field for the sale of the patent filter in connection with the water works system of Toronto, but the question arises how in that case the lively little fishes and sportive animalcules of various kinds could get through. Though not connected with the S. P. C. A., we are opposed to every form of heartlessness, and therefore withhold the recommendation.

The report of the Canadian Commission on the British Columbia Chinese question has been presented. This document is too lengthy for a synopsis or review in our columns, but the subject is one of great interest, and involves principles which should be studied by every intelligent citizen, and certainly by every teacher. The Commissioners seem to favour a middle course between the absolute exclusion for which a large minority are clamouring so hotly, and the absolute freedom favoured by those who think that the matter will regulate itself under the ordinary law of supply and demand. The exaggerated reports circulated so freely in regard to the immorality and degradation of the Chinese, are not sustained by evidence, though some special sanitary and police regulations may be deemed advisable. They have been of great service to the country in furnishing labour for railway building in quantity, and at rates which alone have rendered it possible. In view of the way in which British commerce and the infamous opium traffic have been forced upon China, international good faith, as well as all sound commercial and economical principles seem to forbid their exclusion from British territories.

The biography or, as it might almost be termed autobiography of George Eliot, which has been given to the world by her husband, Mr. Cross, is being eagerly criticised on all hands.

It consists almost exclusively of extracts from letters written from time to time by herself. Two points seem to astonish nearly all the critics. One is the inferiority of the letters in point of ability to the published works of the gifted authoress. They are in the main voted decidedly common-place, with the exception of a gem which sparkles here and there. The other disappointment is the apparent absence of depth and intensity of feeling. Those who knew, or thought they knew, something of George Eliot's personal history were prepared to find evidences of fierce and bitter conflict to mark the stages of faith and unfaith in her career. They expected to hear the outcries of a fervent soul crying out from the depths of anguish. Instead of this, so far as anything in her published letters indicates, she seems to have put off her religious belief as complacently as she would throw aside a worn out glove. But, of course, the critics do not know, and may probably never know, what the biographer may have suppressed.

The fact that Sir Stafford Northcote's vote of censure of the Gladstone ministry was defeated by the narrow majority of 14 makes it probable that the present administration is approaching the close of its career. That career has been one of the most remarkable in British history, and will well repay the study of every thoughtful reader, no matter to which side his sympathies may incline him. It is not simply that Mr. Gladstone is one of the most remarkable men, and one of the most powerful orators that the empire has ever produced. It is not that his personal history has been remarkable for consistent inconsistency, if we may use the expression in respect to the constant and gradual change of opinions which has carried him from the camp of Toryism to the headship of the great Liberal party. It is not simply that his whole career is marked by a series of great Legislative changes, each one of which has carried the nation farther and farther away from its old landmarks in the direction of liberalism and democracy. Over and above all this stands out the fact that the policy of the Government has from first to last been based on professedly new principles, that moral considerations have been given a prominence in Government never before accorded to them, that professedly at least, and most persons will admit with sincerity of purpose, he has aimed at building up the interests of the nation at home and abroad, on the broad foundations of *right*. Opinions will vary as to the success of the attempt, but the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland can never be again what it was before Gladstone arose. It must henceforth move on a higher or a lower plane.

At a college examination a professor asked: "Does my question embarrass you?" "Not at all, sir," replied the student. "Not at all. It is quite clear. It is the answer that bothers me."

*School committee* (examining scholars): "Where is the north pole?" "I don't know, sir." "Don't know! Are you not ashamed that you don't know where the north pole is?" "Why, sir, if Sir John Franklin, and Dr. Kane, and Captain De-Long couldn't find it, how should I know where it is?"

A widow, intending to succeed her husband in the management of a hotel, advertised that "the hotel will be kept by the widow or the former landlord, Mr. Brown, who died last summer on a new and improved plan."