

TRUTH.

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WHAT TRUTH SAYS

The Oka trouble which a few years ago created so much excitement throughout the country, shows signs of again taking on an acute form. Though quiescent of late years it has never been properly and really settled. The effort has been continuous on the part of the Seminary authorities to remove the Indians from their ancestral home. As will be remembered, the point in dispute is to whom does the land occupied by the Indians belong? to themselves or the Seminary authorities? The former claim it on the ground of original possession; the latter base their claim upon the grant made by the French King, before the conquest, to the Gentlemen of the Sulpice of Paris, who were to use the grant for the purpose of civilizing and converting the Indians. After the conquest the Parisian Sulpicians withdrew, and were succeeded by a Canadian order, who took up the work of their French brethren. No steps appear to have been taken by the new order to secure England's recognition of their claim to the property, which, be it remembered, had been occupied by the Indians continuously from before the coming of the French amongst them. In this way matters continued until about twenty years ago, when a number of Indians became Protestants. Naturally this change was not pleasant to the Seminary authorities, who it is charged have ever since made the position of the heretics very uncomfortable. Failing by oppressive measures to induce them to leave, the authorities have, since the outbreak of a few years ago, had recourse to milder means. Through the Government a settlement has been found for them at Gibson, in Muskoka, and they have been urged to move there. Some have yielded to the proposition; but others, on the ground that the new location is remote from a market, and in the belief that they should not be forced to desert the home of their ancestors, have remained behind. To these latter a better offer was made a short time ago. They were asked to accept one hundred acres in Muskoka per family, \$10 per acre for the land they occupy in Oka, their removal expenses, \$10,000 to be spent in their new homes, and \$300 as their share of the value of a common which all the Oka Indians use.

The Indians have refused to accept this proposition, alleging that their land is worth more than \$10 per acre, and that when once rid of their presence the Seminary authorities will have no trouble in securing \$30 or \$40 per acre. Moreover, they express a preference for having the respective claims to the land in Oka tested in the courts, a trial which the Seminary authorities seem anxious to avoid. And here the matter might have rested had it not been for the fact that within the last few days Minister Dewdney has addressed a letter to the Indians at Oka assuring them that henceforth the Government will not grant any assistance to "Protestant Indians." The letter says nothing concerning Catholic Indians, who may be dealt with in whatever manner the Government shall choose. This evidently looks like an attempt to intimidate and coerce the recalcitrants. That it will succeed in accomplishing the purpose intended is not very probable. The sense of justice is too strong throughout the country to permit these unimportant and politically weak

follow-citizens to suffer in the way hinted at in the letter should they stand up for their rights. For surely, the Indians, as parties to the dispute, are entitled to an opinion with regard to the terms of the settlement. Mr. Dewdney may yet learn that he has made a tremendous mistake in making such an unjust discrimination.

Were it not that so many of the big schemes set on foot by Frenchmen turn out such miserable failures the public might begin to hope that Paris would ere long realize her ambition to become a port for ocean-going vessels. The old scheme of rendering the Selue navigable as far as the gay capital is again revived and a public enquiry has been ordered by M. Guyot. A syndicate, too, of promoters has proposed to carry out the work at an estimated cost of about 200,000,000 of francs without a State subvention or guarantee of interest, and has already submitted a list of subscribers of one-third of the capital required. These are certainly steps in the right direction, but whether they will amount to anything can hardly be predicted at present.

The appearance at Vienna of a genuine case of Asiatic Cholera has aroused the fear that Western Europe will be invaded by the dread scourge during the present autumn. This is the opinion of Dr. Frederick F. Algernon, a specialist on the subject, who thinks it is possible that England may have an epidemic of cholera this coming autumn, partly because of the relation of the disease to influenza and partly because of the damp, telluric conditions of the country, caused by the recent protracted rains. According to the English hygienist Richardson, the statistics show that "mortality from cholera begins to rise in June, rises rapidly in July, maintains a high and steady position in August and runs up to the absolute maximum in September." The coming month is, therefore, the period in which telluric and other influences most favor the spread of the malady in England. For this reason the British government should exercise the utmost diligence to detect any case of infection seeking to enter their ports. Nor should our authorities leave any precautions unused to guard us from the terrible plague. Prevention here if anywhere is better than cure.

Seventy five years ago a New York merchant, by the name of Elkana Watson, assayed to estimate what the population of his country would be at each decennial count during the present century. His estimates for the first fifty years were singularly accurate. Thus for 1820, the first count after the estimate had been made, he was out by only 8,088 in a total population of 9,633,822; for 1830 by 32,375, in a total of 12,966,020; for 1840 by 47,073 in a total of 17,069,453; for 1850 by only 6,508 in a total of 23,191,878; and for 1860 by 310,503 in a total of 31,443,321. The estimate of 1870, however was wide of the mark, being 3,770,001 too high. This wide discrepancy was largely owing to the Civil War which Mr. Watson could hardly be expected to foresee. The disturbing element then brought in has affected all the counts since that of 1800, the count of 1838 being too high by over six millions, while that of 1890 was placed at 77,266,839, or about 12,760,000 more than the enumeration just concluded shows. On a comparison of the actual figures as revealed by the returns with the proportionate rate of increase it would seem that Mr. Watson reckoned that

the percentage would increase by one with each succeeding decade. This expectation was almost realized up to 1860. It is a singular feature of the growth of the population during the last decade, however, that instead of advancing on the percentage of the former period it has gone back by over two per cent. and this notwithstanding the fact that immigration during the last period was greater than for any of the preceding decades.

The pardon said to have been granted by Her Majesty to the Hindoo Prince Dhuleep Singh, ex-Maharajah of Lahore, who for many years has been wandering about among the courts of Europe, and cherishing meanwhile the most hostile feelings towards England, recalls the story of the Kohinur diamond, once the property of the fallen prince, but now the chief among the crown jewels of England. According to Hindoo legend, this precious gem was found in a Golconda mine, and its possessors have with few exceptions been the rulers of Hindustan. After belonging successively to the Bahmani, Khilji, Lodi, and Mogul Kings, it came in 1839 into the hands of Nadir Shah, who gave it its present designation. From him it went to the Abdali monarchs of Afghanistan, the last of whom gave it to Runjeet-Singh the ruler of the Punjab. On the abdication of the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh and the annexation of the Punjab in 1849, it was surrendered to the Sovereign of Great Britain. It is said to have weighed originally 900 carats, but after being cut was reduced to 279 carats. It was reduced by recutting to 186 carats and in this state was shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851; since which time it was again recut in 1852 and now weighs about 123 carats, and has been valued at £120,000. The Kohinur is rose-cut.

"That in public the average woman shows an inconsiderateness, a disregard for the ordinary courtesies of existence to a degree which is not anywhere nearly approached by the average man" is a statement which few will be bold enough to hazard. Such, however, is the cold-blooded assertion of Oscar Fay Adams, a contributor to the September *North American Review*. Mr. Adams protests against the popular opinion that "woman supplies the restraining, softening and refining influences at work in human society" and declares that "the code of manners followed in public by the average woman is disgracefully inconsiderate, superlatively selfish, and exasperatingly insolent, such a code, in fact, as would not remain in force among men in their intercourse with one another for one half hour." Four faults of rudeness are specified as characterizing woman in her intercourse with the world at large. "First, the indifference with which a woman will contemplate the fact that the convenience of others has been sacrificed to her caprice. Very observable in young women. Second, the needless delay a woman often causes in making her appearance when visitors have called upon her. Most commonly noticed among women who are no longer classed as girls. Third, the nervousness of a woman to wait for, and speaking before beginning to. Characteristic of nearly all. Fourth, the woman's failure to recognize the value of an engagement. Most women who have the opportunity of doing so. Coming to public notice, the woman's bad manners. She has her turn

stations, stops heavily loaded porters to ask some trifling question which might as well be asked of another, says little spiteful things to annoy her associates, compels the shopkeeper to pull down an endless pile of goods when she has no intention of buying, insults the shop girls, needlessly blocks up the way of others, threatens the eyes of those near her by the manner in which she carries her closed umbrella, in short, she acts as though others had no feelings or rights which she was bound to respect. Now it may be conceded that Mr. Adams has observed exceptional cases such as he has described, for, unfortunately, all women are not as refined and unselfish as could be desired, but that such instances of selfishness are sufficiently numerous to warrant the offensive epithet used by Mr. Adams, "the mannerless sex," no one but perhaps the author of the article will be disposed to contend. One wonders where Mr. Adams has spent his life and upon what unfavorable lines he has fallen that he should be moved to traduce his sisters in the way he has done; what is the character of his domestic relations, and whether he grew up under the helpful influences of a kind and good mother. The article throughout breathes the spirit of one embittered against the sex whose unique portrait he paints in colors so dark and repulsive.

The frequency with which the Canadian and American public are called upon to contemplate that harrowing incident, a railway disaster, lends interest to the question, whether the inhabitants of other countries are equally exposed to injury or death when they commit themselves to the rail. Recent official reports enable one to institute a comparison between Great Britain and the United States, touching the casualties which have occurred in these two countries respectively during the past year. From these reports the following facts are gleaned:

	U. S.	G. B.
Total number of railroad employees	701,743	316,420
Number of employees killed	2,970	435
Number of employees injured	20,118	2,760
Total number of passengers carried	172,171,318	915,163,073
Number of passengers killed	313	153
Number of passengers injured	2,133	1,133

From the foregoing table it will be seen that the Englishman when he boards his train, stands a much better chance of reaching his destination in safety than the passenger of a road on this side the Atlantic.

The part which United States citizens played with the murder of Gen. Barr, fled for asylum to the Republic of Atacama, has been highly noticed. The case is a very interesting one, and is a very good example of the bad manners of the woman's failure to recognize the value of an engagement. Most women who have the opportunity of doing so. Coming to public notice, the woman's bad manners. She has her turn