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5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND, 1896.

HON. A. S. HARDY has publicly described the administration of which he is now the head, as a "Temperance Government." That of Sir Oliver Mowat might very properly be similarly characterized, so that in this, as in other important respects, the change of Premier does not indicate any change of policy.

IN the last stage of a church quarrel people usually ask, "Whobegan this row?" and then they look around for a victim to punish. One or two men who posed as leaders are generally selected, and both sides turn on them. The Higher Criticism disturbance in the American Presbyterian Church has reached this stage. The rank and file on both sides want "reconciliation" and "fellowship" and some of the leaders will most likely have to suffer.

THE new management of the Grand Trunk Railway seems bent on abolishing the Lord's Day, or at least ignoring it. A long stride has been made within the past few weeks, and probably this is but the prelude to further steps in the same direction. Corporations are proverbially soulless, and it is perhaps useless to protest. All the same, the respectable portion of the population of Canada will view the change with deep regret.

SIR OLIVER MOWAT'S appointment to the Dominion Senate is technically called an "elevation," but to most people it will seem fair to say that he brings to that venerable, but not illustrious body, quite as much distinction as it reflects on him. As ministerial leader in that chamber he will confer a great benefit on the country if he can succeed in so modifying its constitution as to bring it more into touch with the strong currents of public opinion.

THE foreign immigrants generally flock to the great cities when they come into the United States, and they there form a mass of inflammable and very dangerous material. These people are so tainted, if not saturated, with anarchism, that whenever there occurs a strike they gather in mobs and set law, order, and authority at defiance. They did this in Chicago until they were suppressed by the United States Government, and they are now acting very similarly in Cleveland. This is one of the dangers of American democracy.

IN nearly all the reports of Church Committees or other bodies charged with the interests of Sabbath observance, late purchasing on Saturday afternoon and evening, and consequently unduly late hours of store and shopkeepers, have been referred to as hindrances to a right observance of the

day of rest. Every mitigation of this evil deserves encouragement; we note therefore with special satisfaction and commend as an example the course in this respect of a great company of this city, that of the T. Eaton Company, in closing every day during July and August their great departmental store at 5 p.m., excepting on Saturdays, when it does better still, and closes at noon. The departure is one that cannot be too highly commended, and we trust that many may be induced to follow this example, which we would expect to be amply repaid in the loyal, hearty service of all employees of those who show such regard for their health, comfort and reasonable recreation. Purchasers have really the control of this evil largely in their hands, and all who are right-minded will surely lend their assistance to this reform.

LORD SALISBURY laid before the House of Lords the other day a mass of correspondence between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States on the cognate subjects of the Venezuela boundary and international arbitration. He was quite conciliatory in his remarks, and gave the public an emphatic assurance that in spite of the difficulties that have arisen the negotiations have been proceeding, on the whole, satisfactorily. From the tenor of his statement it seems probable that the Venezuela dispute will eventually be settled by diplomacy rather than by formal arbitration. One of the difficulties in the way of the latter is the fact that the territory claimed by Venezuela includes a considerable British population, and Lord Salisbury is not willing to hand it over to the tender mercies of a half-civilized government. All Christians in both countries will join earnestly in the hope that some means may be found of settling by arbitration all disputes between Great Britain and the United States. Everything that is reasonable should be done to make war between these two nations impossible.

WE observe that the strictures made lately by Mr. Justice Street as to the defectiveness of our whole school system as a means of promoting good morals, are still the subject of remark and criticism in the public press. While we agree with those who think that the facts do not justify the large inference drawn from them, yet the subject in itself cannot receive too much or too earnest attention on the part of parents, trustees, teachers, and all connected with the working of our schools, or interested in the wellbeing of the young people of the land. We observe quotation made of one of the regulations of the Education Department bearing upon the teaching of morals and good manners, which is very excellent in itself. But the main thing to notice on the part of trustees, teachers, parents and school superintendents is the character of the teacher himself. A whole volume of faultless regulations will be worth nothing in forming good moral character if the teacher is not in himself or herself an embodiment and living example of pure and upright character and good manners.

THOSE who speak slightly of such a manual for the training of the young as it is the privilege of the Presbyterian Church to possess in its Shorter Catechism know not what they say:—

"One of the most interesting discussions which have taken place in the late Pan-Presbyterian Council, in Glasgow," says the *Presbyterian* of London, England, "had for its subject the important matter of 'Catechisms and Confessions.' No instructed Presbyterian in Britain needs to be told that the 'Catechism' and the 'Confession' are part of the spiritual backbone of the Presbyterian principle and polity. But the 'Shorter Catechism' is, of course, the popular Presbyterian Confession of Faith. Dr. Dykes was able to tell the Council that the result of the honest attempt on the part of the Presbyterian Church of England to teach the English children this grand old product of their Puritan forefathers had been very gratifying. He also referred to the fact that England was the birthland of the Catechism; but Dr. Marshall Lang was fully justified in claiming that, although England was its birthland, the cradleland and the nurtureland undoubtedly was Scotland. It is not going too far to say that the 'Shorter Catechism' has been one of the very greatest factors, if not the greatest factor, in the religious life of Scotland. It has proved the grandest nutriment both mentally and spiritually, and we believe that in countless cases where it was only acquired *memoriter*, it has proved in after years 'a treasure of sound words and of great thoughts which developed in the intelligence and in the heart.'"

THE following statement in the speech of William J. Bryan, at the late Democratic convention in Chicago, of who the business men of a country really are, well expresses a truth too apt to be overlooked or forgotten to the injury of the humbler class of business men to whom he refers.

"The miners who go a thousand feet into the earth or climb two thousand feet upon the cliffs and bring forth from their hiding places the precious metals to be poured into the channels of trade, are as much business men as the few financial magnates who in a back room corner of the world. The man who is employed for wages is as much a business man as his employers. The attorney in the country town is as much a business man as the lawyer in the great metropolis. The merchant at a cross-roads is as much a business man as the merchant of New York. The farmer who goes forth in the morning and toils all day, begins in the spring and toils all summer, and by the application of brain and muscle to the natural resources of this country creates wealth, is as much a business man as the man who goes up on the Board of Trade and bets upon the price of grain."

THE small upheaval in Crete reminds one of the Scriptural saying, "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." The embers have been smouldering there for many a year, and as there is plenty of material for combustion it is not surprising that the flames break out now and then. The present conflagration, insignificant as it is in actual extent, is of very serious import to Turkey. The Porte has had things its own way in Armenia, owing to the mutual jealousy of the European powers, but in the case of Crete there is Greece to be reckoned with. Crete is a Grecian island both geographically and ethnically, and the people who are not Orientals are Christians of the Greek Church. As might have been expected, the Grecian Government has formally notified the European powers of the dangerous condition of affairs in Crete, and this may be regarded as a diplomatic way of saying: "If you do not see fit to undertake the protection of the Cretan Christians against such treatment as the Armenians have suffered we will do so, and Europe may take the consequences." Meanwhile the insurgents seem determined to fight it out with the Turks, regardless of international warnings.

IN spite of the rather uncalled-for and unseemly wrangle over the election of the Hon. G. W. Ross as one of its Vice-Presidents, the Dominion Alliance meeting here last week was a marked success. In some important respects the situation, as regards prohibition, has since the last convention changed very much for the better. It has now been made clear that, whatever the Dominion Parliament may be able to do, no Provincial Parliament has a right to pass an absolutely prohibitory law. It does not at all follow, however, that the Provincial Parliaments can do nothing. On the contrary their right to enact local option laws has been unmistakably confirmed. Their authority to increase indefinitely the stringency of the existing license laws was not questioned before the Privy Council. The Alliance will accept Mr. Laurier's offer of a plebiscite for the whole Dominion, and its members and sympathizers will act wisely if they concentrate their efforts on securing a popular declaration in favor of a Dominion prohibitory law. Such a campaign, whatever its immediate effect on legislation, would be unprecedentedly beneficial as a temperance reform propaganda. Moreover it is one in the conduct of which there need be no dissensions.

## THE ALLEGED EPISCOPAL PLOT.

WE remarked a short time ago, that the recent overturn in Quebec betokened more than might immediately meet the eye, for that the more it was carefully and intelligently examined, the more it would be seen that a new era had dawned on that part of the Dominion—an era fraught with the brightest hopes for the temporal well being as well as for the spiritual progress, not only of Quebec, but of the whole Dominion. We say this not because Laurier is *in* and his opponents are *out*. That is a mere incident in the conflict, though a somewhat significant one. The great pressing, prominent fact of the whole struggle is that, we rather think, for the first time in Quebec politics, the Roman Catholic clergy, from the