The Toronto World,

An Independent Liberal Newspaper,

Published every morning at five o'clock at No. 4 King street east. Extra editions are published whenever there is news of sufficient moment to demand them.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:
Twenty-five cents a month, or $3 00 a year in advance, post-paid. Single copies, one cent. Sold on the streets and by newsboys in every city and town in Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba.

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The Toronto World.

The Only One-Cent Morning Paper in Canada, and the Only Exclusively Morning Paper in the City of Toronto.

THE ASHBURTON TREATY.

The true story of the Ashburton treaty has been told for the first time in Mr. Dent's History of the Last Forty Years. It is not one which Canadians can regard with any feelings of satisfaction, but it illustrates as well as any other the indifference with which British statesmen have regarded colonial interests in contrast with imperial ones.

The subject of impressment had created as much bad feeling between the two countries as the Maine boundary. It was indeed one of the leading causes of the war of 1812. Great Britain had firmly maintained her right in time of war to search foreign vessels and impress them into her own service, and as she held to the doctrine of "once a subject always a subject," the assertion of this right was an imminent source of trouble with foreign powers—more than any other with the United States, whose merchant marine was filled with men of English birth. The American government was anxious to have the question settled, and a very able memorandum was prepared upon it by Mr. Webster for Lord Ashburton's consideration. But the British government was not prepared to renounce the practice in future wars; Lord Ashburton refused to negotiate upon it, and after several conversations the subject was meekly dropt by the American plenipotentiary.

The right to search vessels under suspicion of being slavers, although flying the American flag, was strongly asserted by Lord Ashburton, and he had his own way about it. Even the dispute over the destruction of the Caroline was settled by the semblance of an apology.

The attitude of the British government on those subjects stands out in amazing contrast to the indifference with which the boundary question was treated, involving as it did the right of possession to twelve thousand square miles of territory. The treaty of 1783, while it did not clearly define the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick, gave to Great Britain on the face of it the whole basin of the St. John river. But the geography of the region was little known, and though the dispute between the two powers began soon after the treaty was concluded, little effort seems to have been made by the British government to know anything about the country. The treaty of 1814 was as vague as the one of 1783, and though protracted negotiations were carried on and the dispute continued to grow bitterer year by year, the British authorities did almost nothing to ascertain their rights until 1839, when a collision between her majesty's troops and the militia of Maine seemed inevitable. Then two commissioners were sent out to examine the physical character of the territory in dispute and report to the government on the subject of boundary as defined by the first treaty. The report upheld the British contention, that the true boundary was along the highlands south of the St. John river. "The conclusions upon which the American case rests," the report said, "are unsubstantial inventions brought forward in the absence of all real investigation; conveying erroneous ideas of the nature of the country, and calculated to mislead public opinion in the United States and in Europe as to the merits of this question." Lord Ashburton accordingly was instructed to maintain the view of the commissioners in the negotiations with Mr. Webster. Two old maps were found upon which the boundary as claimed by Great Britain was laid down, but their authenticity was disputed and rejected by Mr. Webster. The result was that a compromise line was agreed upon, the province of New Brunswick lost a territory equal in extent to the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut, and direct and easy access to the seaboard over her own territory was lost to Canada forever.

The sequel is humiliating enough. The senate of the United States had by resolution committed itself to the contentions of Maine and Massachusetts—that the true boundary was the highlands north of the St. John river. The treaty came before the senate for approval, and the senate blustered so loudly that Mr. Webster was compelled to show the trick by which he had won. Senator Rives, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, was chosen by Mr. Webster as the proper person to divulge it, and he did so in a long speech. He produced a copy of an original map found by Jared Sparks in Paris, presented by Dr. Franklin to Count de Vergennes, with the boundary as agreed upon in the treaty of 1783, traced with a strong red line south of the St. John, exactly where the British claim fixed it. The authenticity of this map was established by an original letter from Dr. Franklin to Count de Vergennes, written six days after the preliminaries were signed, and as Franklin himself was one of the plenipotentiaries there could be no doubt as to the boundary agreed upon. This revelation settled the treaty so far as the American senate was concerned, for it was clearly intimated to them that if the question was re-opened there was great risk of losing the seven million acres which Lord Ashburton had agreed to sign away.

Mr. Dent is severe on Mr. Webster, but he is not unjust. Mr. Webster entered upon his negotiations with Lord Ashburton [illegible] full knowledge of Mr. Sparks' [illegible] he had all along been in possession of the facts as to the true boundary, [illegible] not scruple to suppress them. [illegible] why did he suppress them," Mr. [illegible] deliberately and in "writing expressed to Lord Ashburton "his confidence in the validity of the "American claims. He put forward a "map in the accuracy of which he could "not have had any confidence, and insisted "upon its forming the basis of the boundary." It was a disreputable trick.

But we cannot exonerate the British government or its plenipotentiary. It was their duty to have collected all the evidence bearing on the subject, and to have sought for it in every quarter where information was likely to be obtained. Had they done so it can hardly be doubted that the British contention would have been fully sustained. Had they shown the same earnestness in preparing the case as the Ontario government has done in the matter of the northern and northwestern boundary, we cannot conceive of injustice being done to Canada.

How much better Canada would have managed a business that so largely and immediately concerned herself will appear obvious when we contrast the Maine, Oregon and San Juan affairs with the fisheries award. It is not in the nature of things that Great Britain should give the same protection to colonial as to imperial interests. Neglect of the one may call forth some words of censure in parliament; neglect of the other will call for vengeance at the hands of the constituencies.

The lesson is plain: Canada must assert the right to guard her own interests, and to make no sacrifices saving on her own account. There is no advantage in a connection which makes one party bear all the losses, for no fault of her own.

THE REGATTA.

The weather yesterday was again unpropitious, and any amount of disappointment was accordingly engendered. The committee seem to have done everything in their power, but the rough water upset their well-laid calculations.

To-day if the races are started there must be more promptness. If the referee decides to row, then let everyone be at his post, and if absent take the consequences.

There is a splendid collection of oarsmen here, and with smooth water good contests may be looked on.

THE KINGSTON NEWS thinks The World and other papers who wish to abolish Government house at Toronto are after small game, and they should therefore go for something larger. The News suggests a lessening of the expense of the local legislature. That is just what we are after, and Government house is a part of it. In advocating the simplification of our system of government and greatly reducing its cost, we find that to be successful we must be specific, as the waste is spread over a number of "small" items. Government house is one of the unproductive branches, and we therefore desire to see it lopped off. The News is also in favor of a reduction of provincial expenses; let it name something specific which could be wiped out and it will have our support.

DELMONICO, New York's famous restaurateur, died the other day. It is in great measure to him that America owes the improvement that has taken place in hotel and restaurant cookery. To him is also due the credit of introducing trained waiters whose services can be secured on special occasions. New York has restaurants, cooks and table service equal to Paris, and Delmonico was the great reformer who introduced them.

MR. CROOKS thinks two high school inspectors might do the work formerly performed by three, and accordingly for the present no successor to Mr. Buchan will be appointed.

THE EVILS OF PARTY GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor of the Toronto World.

SIR,—I chanced to pick up a paper published in Toronto called The World, and was pleased to read its contents and to see it was an independent paper. It is certainly much to be regretted that the press of our country is so absorbed by partyism and so much devoted to sustain it, as to a great extent to keep our true position hid from the public, which often prevents public action in the right direction and cripples to a great extent the prosperity of our land. Everything pertaining to our rule appears to be forced by partyists into the groove of partyism—taking it from the head of government down to the lowest officials required to carry out our laws. Every effort appears to be made to take from the people the direct management of all their affairs, both local and otherwise—making partyism to rule even down to the appointing of our division court clerks and bailiffs. While I am not an advocate for as much democracy as our American neighbors of the republic possess, yet I believe much of our own local affairs could be managed better and to our interests more directly, and at home, as the people are more and better acquainted with their own wants than a distant body outside of their locality can be. It may be said the members of the county whom we elect make the appointments. And say they do. Do they know our local wants throughout our counties? Is it to be supposed their being clothed with despotic power makes them better fitted to meet the views of the masses? I fail to see it. The days of despotism in this nineteenth century should be a thing of the past—should be a thing read of, but not known. This one-man power has a tendency to corruption. For instance, the member of a county, according to the present adoption of governments, has complete control over its affairs; all appointments must come through him to fill positions. He may fill the offices with his own friends, however incompetent and undeserving—and more, he may make every official bow to his *ipse dixit*, and pay for his position as well. It is placing too much power in the hands of a greedy party for his own benefit if he pleases to use it. Volumes might be written upon the subject here introduced, but as I am a stranger to you I do not feel to ask to trespass further upon your columns without your permission; but although I may be a stranger to you, my being one of the wilderness boys of Canada, I am known to many. I have ever watched the rise and progress of our country—political parties and the positions they have taken, and the effects of their rule—and, as here, have often expressed an opinion publicly to endeavor in my weak way to lead our country to that greatness within our reach, and to check the selfish from making inroads upon our liberties.

Picton, Sept. 5, 1881. E. SILLS.

A MAN'S RELIGION.

To the Editor of the Toronto World.

SIR,—I am a subscriber to your paper, and enjoy the reading of it very much, except when I occasionally come across a paragraph like the one enclosed, which I clip from your issue of September 6. Being a co-religionist of the man Green, or in other words a Jew, I fancy there is prejudice in the composition of that paragraph, inasmuch as there is no necessity in mentioning that Green is a Jew, from the fact that no other religion is mentioned in connection with other news items. Green is a man like any other man. What does the world care about knowing his religion? It does not add to the value of the news, and may hurt the feelings of some of your readers. If in your news paragraphs you mentioned that Tom was a Methodist, Dick was a Presbyterian, and Harry was a Catholic, we would take no umbrage at your mentioning that Green was a Jew. Excuse this letter, and I trust it may have obtained the object it was written for.

A. A. LEVEY.

KINGSTON, Sept. 7th.

[The item referred to merely stated that so-and-so happened in "the house of one Green, a Jew." We had no intention to reflect on his nationality or religion, and it was probably for identification that the nationality was mentioned. The World wishes to know no man's religion or race. If he is a good Canadian and an honest man that is sufficient. There is one thing that is creditable to our Jewish fellow-citizens: we never hear of a Jewish vote or a Jewish demand for office.—ED.]

A TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

To the Editor of the Toronto World.

SIR,—Having a great respect for Mr. Phipps, although not believing in his doctrines, and seeing that he has been vanquished in the Protection v. Free Trade controversy, I would, with your permission, and in way of consolation, say a few words of encouragement in his behalf. All those acquainted with Mr. Phipps cannot be otherwise than impressed with his disinterestedness of character. When he published his famous pamphlet on the eve of the last general elections, his only desire was to instruct his countrymen in matters bearing upon their future well-being, and if possible to elevate them into that higher position enjoyed only by those people who entrust their affairs in the hands of a paternal and protective government. Having by his extraordinary genius revolutionized the people of this vast Dominion, he very naturally wished that those plans which had taken him years to conceive and mature should be strictly acted upon and carried out to their utmost limits under his own personal supervision. This was the height of his ambition. Money was no object to him, as illustrated in the charitable distribution of his pamphlets, when he might have sold them and realized a fortune thereby. But he has no desire to accumulate riches; neither does he seek honor among men, but his country's good. The majority of his countrymen have, I believe, a great attachment to him. He is an earnest and humble lover of wisdom, and they recognize in his written style vivacity so pleasing. His superiority in literary brilliance, effective argument, and originality of view is plainly visible in all his writings, and those who would rob him of his well-earned distinction are beneath contempt. Repeatedly he has told me, in language unmistakably plain, that the potency of doing his country much good is strong within him, but others less disinterested than himself are continually thwarting him and rendering his schemes impracticable. SALMONEUS.

THE CUSTOM HOUSE INEFFICIENCY

To the Editor of the Toronto World.

SIR,—I am much pleased with the World's exposure of the Toronto customs department. An official investigation would reveal a sad state of affairs. I have been making entries at the custom house for years, and I can honestly say that the officials that I have been brought in contact with do not seem to be blessed with more than the average quantity of brains. The importer has a hard road to travel between incompetent officials and foolish regulations of a purely local character. No other port in Canada has so peculiar laws as are enforced here, and I am confident that if the Ottawa department were acquainted with the facts they would immediately cause a change. MERCHANT.

SIR,—Your recent article on the affairs of the Toronto customs department is timely, and deserving the attention of the authorities. No official who is capable of discharging his duty need fear investigation. It is only those who are negligent and inefficient that need tremble. If an investigation is instituted, it might be as well to inquire into the many rules enforced against the mercantile community, which cause great inconvenience and loss of time.

IMPORTER.

George Stephen.

(From the Guelph Herald.)

Many men are wondering what motive Mr. George Stephen of Montreal can have for engaging in such gigantic undertakings as his name is connected with. Banking, woollen mills, lumbering companies, the Pacific syndicate, Atlantic and Northwest railway, etc., all claim a share of his attention. He is already a millionaire, has a fine house, a hospitable wife, and neither chick nor child to inherit his wealth. He has all the social distinction he can have in a democratic country. He has few enemies and plenty of friends. It must be that he is one of these Napoleonic men who must have something to overcome or then die. George Stephen is one of the most remarkable men of the age. He raised himself from being a weaver's apprentice until he is a millionaire and the Canadian Vanderbilt, with a strong chance of his at least equalling his American prototype in wealth. Yet Vanderbilt has said that money, after it has reached a million, can bring no additional comfort.

How the Sweet By-and-By was Written.

There is a story that the popular hymn, "The Sweet By-and-By," was the work of two men while drunk. Joseph P. Webster, who composed the music, died several years ago. Dr. S. F. Bennett, author of the verses, lives at Richmond, Ill. He says that the charge of intoxication is untrue, though Webster was a free drinker. The two wrote a hymn book in 1874, and "The Sweet By-and-By" was one of the pieces jointly produced for it. The suggestion came from a chance remark by Webster, who was habitually despondent, that all would be well "by and by." Bennett at once made the rhyme, and Webster brought the music out of a fiddle, which was his customary aid in composition. The hymn book had its day, and is forgotten; but this one tune is put into every new publication of the kind, and has a sale of about 10,000 copies a year in sheet form. Dr. Bennett says that he and Webster were not orthodox Christians when the hymn was written, and that he is now even less a believer.

HOTELS.

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IS THE LARGEST, COOLEST IN SUMMER. Unequalled in Cleanliness, Best Ventilated, best Furnished, and the best managed Hotel in Canada. Graduated Prices.
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WHOLESALE DRY GOODS,
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(Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.) The Largest, Cheapest and Best Assorted
STOCK OF DRY GOODS
IN CANADA.
We have a large warehouse, where we sell to the public in retail quantities at wholesale prices.
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WILL KINDLY BEAR WITH US
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We are straining every nerve and have a large staff at work. Hope to ship every parcel in a few days. Goods urgently wanted will be shipped at once. More attractions, more New Goods, more novelties to-day.
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The newest styles in Lace Collars, Frills, Ties, Fichus, etc.
New Spotted Madras Lawn Frills and Ties.
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CENTRAL OFFICE OF
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CHEAPEST EXPRESS LINE IN THE CITY
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We can change the style of any kind of a hat.
HATS DYED AND CLEANED.
By our steam process we can make old hats look like new. Silk hats and pull over hats made to order new in any color or shape. A. S. SMITH, 67 Yonge street, Toronto.