

# TRUTH.

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

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## TO OUR READERS

But a fortnight now remains in which to compete in the Bible Competition No. 11, which closes on the 15th prox. It is scarcely necessary for us to remind those who have not already done so, that if they intend to compete they should delay no longer in sending in their answers. The list of prizes offered is a very valuable and extensive one, and very many more are likely to secure prizes this time than in any former competition, the number of prizes being so much larger. Read the announcement of the competition carefully, answer the questions correctly, and see what prize you may secure.

## WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

We have seen letters in one of the daily papers complaining of the indecency shown in some of the bathing suits worn on the island beach. We have already referred to this, and do so again to express the strong hope that vigorous measures will be resorted to to prevent such shamelessness. Any man or boy appearing in unseemly costume should be made such an example of that he will never repeat the offence.

Everyone who visits the Horticultural Gardens is loud in their praise. They are looking their very best just now, and great credit is due to those whose skill gives such delight to the sight and the sense of smell. We trust it will not be long before steps are taken to improve the south west corner of the Gardens. The condition of that spoils to a certain extent the fine effect of the whole. A few more benches or single seats would also be a great improvement.

In spite of several warnings already given this summer, the custom of newsboys and other youngsters jumping on and off the street cars while in motion, seems still to prevail to an extent that is not at all desirable. Perhaps it cannot be prevented altogether. The poor little fellows in their eagerness to do business will persist in running risks. Many of them however jump on merely for the ride of a block or two, and that should be stopped as far as possible.

Some of the complaints made about the incivility of street car conductors are, we fear, only too well justified in some cases. Of course there is another side to the question, and great allowances must be made. The annoyances to which these men are sometimes subjected by captious, ill-natured passengers are almost too much for human endurance. We can hardly wonder, in this hot weather especially, if their temper sometimes gets the better of them, and they are not so bland and decorous as some of their passengers would like them to be. Of course we are not excusing positive incivility, but the sensibilities of some people are so ex-

tremely delicate that in more brusquerie or shortness of speech, they see rudeness for which they think themselves entitled to some compensation. At any rate don't let anyone be persuaded by letters appearing in the papers now and then, that the conductors and drivers of street cars are, as a rule, uncivil in their behaviour, for such is not the case. There are, no doubt, exceptions, though these we are inclined to think are extremely rare.

Brockville papers complain that great quantities of fish are being killed in that neighbourhood by miscreants who explode charges of dynamite in the water. These fellows, if caught, should suffer condign punishment. Such deeds are atrocious, and need to be dealt with by the strong hand.

What is to be done with those people who will not return what we in our good nature have lent them? Friends of TRUTH recently lent waterproofs and umbrellas to mutual friends with a long walk, and a threatening thunder storm before them. Earnest expressions of thanks, of course, were tendered, and protestations made that everything would be returned the very next day. But day after day passed and no word of them. The umbrella was needed for sun as well as rain, the waterproof might be needed at any moment, but no sign of their return. Finally the people who lent them had to ask them back again, or they might have been with the borrowers even yet. How is one to characterize such actions? The excuse, of course, is that the things were forgotten. The thoughtless forgetfulness shown in such cases is simply indecent. It is just such conduct as this that prevents many little acts of kind consideration that would otherwise be gladly rendered. No one likes to lend an article feeling that there are nine chances to one of his needing to subject himself to the unpleasantness of asking the return of his own property.

The sort of weather we have had a good deal of this summer would tan any complexion in spite of all efforts to prevent it, one would think, and so faces showing every degree of the sun's effect, from lobster-like redness, to a darkness that is all but black, are met with constantly. But aside from this all but inevitable result of ordinary exposure, there seems to be a sort of ambition among the men to have these sun-dyed complexions. An observer at any summer resort cannot have failed to observe the assiduity with which the aspiring youth courted the warm attentions of old Sol. Instead of broad-brimmed hats they sported altogether brimless caps of the most approved pattern or bright colored handkerchiefs fastened picturesquely round the head so as to expose as much as possible the manly forehead to the bronzing influence of a midsummer sun. The craze, if it is

a craze, is much more commendable than some that have had their day. There is nothing weak or effeminate about it at any rate, though there may be a little affectation. And a nicely bronzed face is a pleasant thing to look on after all. Much more manly than a pink or white would be. If the boys never do anything worse than seek to be sunburned, they will do.

If any reader of TRUTH can concoct a drink guaranteed to cool off the hottest mortal that ever panted under a blazing sky, instead of leaving him hotter, thirstier, and more uncomfortable generally than he was before, as most "summer drinks" do, a fortune surely awaits him or her as the case may be.

By the way what a multitude of those "summer drinks" there are! Their names is truly legion. We would never attempt to name them. It would take us all night. Each has its strenuous advocates who make the strongest, and as experience testifies, the most unfounded, claims for their favorite beverage. Now there is cold tea for instance. If there is really a nasty drink on this earth, nauseous in fact, and instead of cooling one's temper more likely to inflame him to fever heat with sheer disgust, it is this same cold tea. But there are people who like it, and who will recommend it as the best possible drink for hot weather, being so refreshing, so exceedingly pleasant to the taste, and so unrivalled for reducing temperature to the degree of delicious coolness. People like these are about as near the truth as the other people who tell us it is never cold in Manitoba, at least that they never feel it cold, or those who assure us they thoroughly enjoy camping out on the island.

One thing has puzzled us for a long time past, how it is that people apparently sane, and generally regarded as having cut their high teeth, can cross to that sank bank—we call the island, and pitch tents in the full glare of the sun, away from even a suspicion of shade, and in many cases remote from the water itself. It must be awfully hot, and surely there ought to be some compensation for such frightful sufferings as must be endured there. To sleep, cook and eat one's meals in such a situation would be punishment enough for our worst enemy. We should hardly wish to try it ourselves. If there were a tree, or a bush, a big rock, or even a broad fence, into whose welcome shadow one might creep and forget his sufferings for a moment, the case would be altered. But there are none of these, and perspiring mortals are left to the tender mercies of their imaginations to help them conjure up the full romance of the situation. We remember the time when we ourselves "camped out" for a week or two in midsummer. We built our fires and tried

hard to keep them in when the rain came down. We fried bacon, and made pancakes, and boiled dried apples, and did great wonders in the way of cooking generally. We dressed ourselves in a negligible costume and tried to look as romantic as possible as we stood in the tent door, or lolled about on the ground outside, trying to look perfectly unconscious, though wishing with all our heart that the girls on the passing steamer or yacht would take special notice of us. We did all these things we say, and by dint of thinking hard on Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as well as more modern worthies, who have had a free and easy and withal independent existence in tents, we managed to feel somewhat romantic in our own estimation. We were a great deal more callow then than we are now, however, and are not likely to repeat the experiment. But we had a nice shady place to pitch our tent, and could at any moment retire into delightful shadow. We did not expose ourselves under the canvass on an arid sandbank to a scorching heat, mounting high in the hundreds. However, it is possible of course, that there may be human beings so constituted that they can do all this, and find any amount of fun in it.

There is said to be quite a little flutter of excitement among the leading reformers of the city over the approaching return of Mowat the triumphant. Meetings of the faithful have been held, and arrangements made to secure an imposing expression of enthusiastic good will. Committees have been nominated such as the Reception Committee, the committee on Badges we believe, the Procession and Park Committee, etc., etc. A very select committee has also been appointed to go to the Bridge and welcome the little hero to the land he has so bravely defended. It is said that several thousand badges are to be prepared and sold as mementoes or what not to those desiring them, at ten cents each.

A great deal of unnecessary talk has been indulged in over the reports of cannibalism by members of the starving Greely party. Pity for the awful sufferings to which human beings must have been subjected before they could be forced to the horrible necessity of feeding on the dead bodies of their comrades, seems to have been forgotten altogether amid the horrified hand-raising at the thought of the impious sacrilegious committed on the corpses. We cannot feel that all this opening of caskets and examination of remains to see whether the bodies were buried whole or not, has been altogether creditable to those concerned. We sincerely trust that none of the aggrieved friends or relatives are meditating action for damages against Greely or the others survivors of that ill-fated expedition. Let the dead rest in peace, and let suffering as far as possible make amends for any impiety.