

The late earthquake and volcanic eruption on Java will take their places in history as among the most terrible occurrences of the age. It is not possible as yet to reckon up the loss of life, which very likely will never be accurately known. That it will amount in the aggregate to not much, if anything, less than a hundred thousand, is beyond all reasonable doubt, while the amount of property destroyed will be found to have been quite on a corresponding scale of magnitude. The devastating volcano has done its work along with the quaking earth, and at present it is scarcely possible to say which has been the most destructive agent. But the fact is the two things go always together. Observers of volcanic phenomena have noticed that every great eruption, in whatever part of the world observed and whether from a volcanic vent on land or beneath the ocean, is accompanied by earthquakes and shocks of greater or less violence and duration, while on the other hand those observing earthquakes speak of them as accompanied by volcanic eruptions, and of their often being stopped on the opening of volcanic vents. This all took place on the late occasion in Java, and the whole configuration of both land and water has been changed by the operation. When a full account of the whole accident comes to be written, it will be found to have been an occurrence of surpassing grandeur and of corresponding, destructiveness and terror.

In the great earthquake at Lisbon, it is calculated that 60,000 perished, while in that of Calabria towards the end of last century as many as 10,000 were destroyed. It is calculated that thirteen millions of human beings have been destroyed by earthquakes, while the number of those destroyed directly by volcanic eruptions, though not so great, has at the same time been in the aggregate simply immense.

In 1783 there was a terrible eruption of Hecla in Iceland. The lava flowed out of the mountain side and reached a distance of fifty miles in forty-two days. It then travelled into two streams, the one running forty and the other fifty miles toward the sea. Its depth varied from 600 to 1,000 feet, and its greatest width was fifteen miles. The amount of lava poured out into the stream would almost equal Mount Blanc in bulk. In 1772 the greater part of a mountain in Java was swallowed up. The inhabitants on its declivities were suddenly alarmed by tremendous noises in the earth, and before they could retire the mountain began to subside and soon disappeared. The area this time was fifteen miles long and six broad. In 1822 there was a terrible eruption of the same volcano which has caused the recent trouble. On that occasion it was calculated that 30,000 persons lost their lives. In 1845 the ashes from Hecla fell on Shetland and Orkney ten hours after the eruption began, and in 1835 ashes from Consequina fell on Kingston Jamaica at the distance of 700 miles. It is to be hoped that the worst of the recent occurrence has been already ascertained, and that the record of the year's calamities is pretty well completed.

The Chinamen don't seem likely to go from Canada for a good while to come. Why they should is not easily made manifest. At any rate when they are employed on the Pacific Railway to the tune of 6,000 at a dollar a day their speedy disappearance is not likely and why they should, TRUTH re-
spects, is not clear. So long as they are employed and pay their debts and taxes, they must about like a great many of

their Anglo-Saxon neighbours. The men of the flowery land have not a monopoly of either dirtiness or vice, and as to their working for little or nothing when they get more that may be told to the marines.

So Lord Coleridge does not think it worth while to spend a day or two in Canada even to see his old "fag" and fellow student. Canadians are so rough, raw, and democratic you know. It would never do. Well it is to be hoped that they will survive the snub, and may rub along even though such a course should be repeated by most of English holiday makers. Canada has to remember that she is but a colony and of no particular importance in the estimation of Englishmen in general, and of English Lords in particular.

The whiskey that was used in the attempt to corrupt the electors of Muskoka, it is said, actually became frozen in the bottles. TRUTH is glad to hear that such was the fact, for it shows there was some pity in the hearts of the whiskey distributors. They would hurt the stomachs of those whom they treated to as small a degree as possible. Pity they had not made it all water. Would it then have been bribery? Perhaps so, for the intention would have been all the same.

It is said that the Marquis of Lorne is going to try an experiment in introducing musk rats into Scotland. If they so far supplant the other kinds it will be a blessing.

The Panama Canal is being pushed with great energy. Upwards of ten thousand workmen are employed, and it is reckoned that the whole will be finished within the time mentioned in the contract.

Who would have expected to have found dudes among the Papuans of New Guinea? Yet so it is. The men there delight in small waists, the women affect the opposite. An old bachelor says it is just like them!

M. Pernet, the Professor of French in University College has resigned, and is going off to spend a couple of years in France. He is said to have been annoyed by some observations made about him in a scurrilous evening paper. This however would never have led him to resign. The fact is he has made a competency, has laboured long and wishes a rest in his native land. What is surprising in all that?

TRUTH is sorry that Mr. Mercer Adam is going to leave Toronto, though glad that it is because he has got a good situation, which he richly deserves, in New York. In TRUTH'S estimation, Mr. Adam was by far the best qualified candidate for the position of Librarian about which there was lately so great a stir. But he is a quiet gentleman and did not fuss round like the others canvassing and button-holing at every turn. He did not proclaim his surpassing merits on the house tops, but all the same he very nearly succeeded and when he did not he took his disappointment like a man and a gentleman, instead of whimpering about it, as the other disappointed candidates did, like a whipt child, and setting all the influence he could command to abuse the successful man. It is to be hoped that according to his own anticipation Mr. Adam will at no distant day be back to Toronto. He has troops of friends who regret his departure and will welcome his return. *Don't you say.* If a librarianship becomes vacant, TRUTH hopes Mr. Adam will get it.

The Health Report for the week is more satisfactory than could have been expected. There has been a good deal of summer complaint, but not more than was to be calculated on.

The Guelph lottery scheme is apparently not dead yet and some spicy revelations are expected shortly. By all means let it be put through, and if there has been anything wrong let it be exposed.

TRUTH agrees with the *Toronto World* in saying that the time has gone by for assisted passages to Canada of any kind. Those who can come on their own hook may do so and welcome, but it is too much of a good thing to protect capital and leave labor not only exposed to unlimited competition, but taxed in order to bring still greater competition into the market. It is a terribly jiggled protective that. The kind of people needed by Canada ought to begin by paying their way. That a good many are making money by all this cheap talk of assisting the ready to emigrate and "saving the children" is about as plain as any thing well can be. There are plenty waifs and strays already in Canada who badly need looking after. But nobody seems to care for them.

One of the most remarkable women at present in England is the wife of the blind Postmaster-General, Mrs. Fawcett. When women sit in the House of Commons, Mrs. Fawcett, it is thought, will be about the first. The only draw back to such a pleasant prospect is that she may be dead before the great revolution comes round. She will, at any rate, have finished nursing all the children. Miss Miller and Miss Cobden are also among the coming women of the new era. There is no use in any body swearing at these ladies as unwomanly and as going out of their spheres. The question is what is really woman's special sphere? She is fit for some thing else than suckling babes and chronicleing small beer, though, of course, the babies are quite an item, while as to the beer it may be dispensed with altogether, and will be, in the new era. In any case there can be nothing wrong in women becoming as bright and intelligent as they can and in their doing all the good in their power. The chief end of woman is neither flirtation nor marriage, though in their own proper places neither of these is to be despised. One thing, at any rate, is clear, that women need to live and the more ways of making a living that are either made for them or made by themselves so much the better. There are lots of ways in which women can be usefully and honorably employed, and why shouldn't she if fit? Womanly women will get womanly work or make it such. Women can be druggists and one of the cleverest and most successful canvassers for books TRUTH ever heard of, was a woman. A good-looking girl to talk up a patent medicine or a book being issued in parts may often be safely backed against the world. Now, the following is good. In Finland there is an association of women called the *Puro by Excellence*. Its members believe in the superiority of women and would consequently hold that she should rule the man. Generally she does this, at any rate, though sometimes not. These female Finlanders make the men confess their sins once a week. Think of it! All the times they admired a pretty girl, or wished an exchange of wives!

Some one says that the great disposing cause of drunkenness is the undue expenditure of nerve force, and that those who work indoors and are of sedentary habits are most prone to it. It may be so, but a good many

laborers who are most, during their working hours, in the open air, make away with a good deal of liquor. At the same time there is a good deal of truth in what is said. There can be no doubt that a great deal of drunkenness, as of many other vices, is from the laws of heredity. The fathers eat the sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge.

The women in the States are bound not to let the suffrage question go to sleep. They are holding picnics, making speeches and button-holing in a very vigorous fashion. By all means go in ladies and win, TRUTH bids you all good speed.

TRUTH'S esteemed contemporary, the *Cornwall Reporter* has been celebrating its seventh birthday, and is taking not a little pardonable pride in its sturdy growth in the face of difficulties and opposition, which none but a newspaper man can appreciate. It had to fight against the systematic and unscrupulous opposition of enemies, and the cold indifference of lukewarm friends. It had no government or municipal pas to feed upon, as so many papers have, but had to depend entirely upon its own exertions, and TRUTH heartily congratulates the *Reporter* upon the position it occupies to-day as an able, fearless and outspoken champion of the party it believes has the best interests of Canada at heart. Long may it continue to flourish, and may each returning Septennial find it still more successful than the last!

At the Grimby Camp meeting there has been a great time on Temperance. One of the speakers—Governor St. John—said a great many things, as did all of them. In passing through Niagara, Mr. St. John enquired if they had a city library. The answer was that they had not. The next question was, How many saloons? Forty or fifty. "Ah," replied the orator, "that accounts for it. The dram shop is the enemy of the Church, the library, the neat house and the pleasant wife. In fact of everything worth having." Sensible man that. The patrons of the pot-house had better take a vote of it. The frequenters of the tavern are either originally far from intelligent, or very speedily become so.

In Vineland where no liquor is allowed to be sold, manufactured or kept, \$75 a year suffices to keep up all the police needed for 12,000 people. Yonkers is a place about the same size as Vineland, with greater natural advantages. It has 213 saloons, and spends \$37,000 a year on police. Vineland pays \$100 for the support of her poor. Yonkers has to come down with \$15,000 for the same purpose. There is a small town in Kansas, which started municipal house-keeping with four saloons, from which the town got a revenue of \$2,000 a year. The first year the town had to build a calaboose for prisoners, and the police expenditure was \$2,600. The saloons are now abolished, and the calaboose is to let, while a single policeman at \$606 does all that is necessary in his profession, and has so much time on his hands, that he attends to other business as well. Isn't there something worth thinking over in such facts? If Toronto had fewer drinkers, she would have more book buyers and book readers, sure.

The registered attendance at the Public Schools in England in 1870 was 1,700,000. At present it is 4,100,000 with an average attendance of 3,000,000. This is progress with a vengeance.

Why should gas or telegraph companies use the public streets without paying for