

It would seem that we are steadily advancing towards the universal adoption of cremation as a means of disposing of our dead, and although the idea at first strikes as an extremely inhuman and repulsive, a little thought will readily convince our better judgment that it undoubtedly is the least dangerous means of disposing of the corruptible part of our being when it can no longer be either of use or ornament to us. In a legal point, perhaps, it will not be conducive to the detection of crime, for, certain evidences will necessarily be destroyed by the action of the fire, both chemical and physical, still, with care and the appointment of proper and competent officials, whose business it will be to attend to such matters, there is little ground for fear. In the East, cremation has been practiced for many centuries, and the moral standard there is certainly not lower than it is in Europe and America. Another source of danger which some people seem to dread is that of being placed in the furnace before death had actually supervened, and it cannot be denied that when cremation becomes common and general, the strictest surveillance will be necessary to prevent accidents occurring; but it may be fairly asked whether the danger of being buried alive is not just as imminent, and the idea is certainly quite as shocking and repulsive, and quite as dangerous if it did occur to the unhappy victim. On the other hand the benefits to accrue from cremation are many and of vital importance to the whole human family in a moral and sanitary point of view, as well as in a financial one.

The European Russian Empire has been for a considerable time, and is still, in a most unsatisfactory state. Crippled in her finances and embarrassed by internal broils, her very police and detective forces corrupted, it cannot surprise those who have watched the course of events and the progress of Nihilism in Russia to hear that now even members of the Czar's own family are not free from suspicion, and her nobility is said to be ripe for rebellion; and yet despotism progresses in the same blind headlong course, and the Jews as still disgracefully persecuted. Russia is more and more ignoring liberal ideas and paving the way to a tremendous explosion.

It is an ugly blotch on the face of our boasted civilization that these pugilists are still allowed to go Scott free, with all the American boasted refinement. The other day two of these gentle lambs met, Mr. Greenfield and Mr. Sullivan, in Madison Square garden and engaged in their brutal game of trying to batter each other's brains out, and it seems almost a pity that they did not succeed. They were arrested and on being brought to trial before twelve of their countrymen, were acquitted.

So the last act of the Adams v. Coleridge scandal is over, and Miss Mildred Coleridge is married at last to Mr. Frank Mantell Adams. Lord Coleridge has settled three hundred pounds a year on her, and Adams agrees not to re-open the libel.

It is more than a pity that school-teachers are so frequently, and TRUTH cannot help thinking, unnecessarily, changed; especially in the country districts all over Canada and the United States. No doubt where inefficiency is discovered or a defective system of teaching, the change cannot be too soon made, and the trustees should have some more speedy way of doing it than that of waiting till the end of the year, which is the plan at present adopted. A statement was made a short time ago (I cannot now recall the name of the paper which made it)

but it was to the effect that about half the teachers in the Province of Ontario change their school every year. Such frequent changes cannot but retard the progress of the scholars and have a deteriorating effect on the teachers as well. Again it has had a bad effect morally on both classes. The teachers cease to take a proper interest in the welfare of their schools and scholars, well knowing that they will be removed in a year or so, and the scholars spend much of their time endeavouring to become acquainted with the little failings of each new teacher.

Lord Dufferin has some time ago arrived in Calcutta, and taken up his abode at Government House. In India the same opportunities for making himself socially popular will not be afforded him as were in Canada and the vice-royalty of the Empire of India, neither he or any other statesman will ever find a bed of roses. His ability, assiduity and astuteness will all be severely tried. The last of these qualities in dealing with the native princes and nobles will have every opportunity to enlarge its range and strengthen its power. It is, however, a thousand pities that his amiable sociability should be wasted on the desert air of British Indian society. Lord Dufferin in Canada gained much of his popularity by mingling freely with the people, rich and poor alike, while Lord Lorne and the Princess Louise went to the other extreme, holding strictly aloof, the Princess particularly avoiding the most prominent personages; and perhaps this need not so much be wondered at when we remember her first experience of Ottawa society. Lord and Lady Landowne seem to have hit the happy medium, and have shown greater tact and discrimination in their association with our people. Lord Dufferin may show the same in India.

A vigorous protest is being made by a number of the members of the medical profession against the proposal of the Medical Council to amend the medical act of Ontario to the extent of permitting an additional assessment of the profession, the proceeds of the proposed assessments to be applied in establishing a medical library and museum on Bay street, Toronto, the initial expense of which would demand a tax of about five dollars on every medical man in the Province. An organized opposition is being commenced by a number of medical men in the city, and will, without doubt, meet with the sympathy of many, if not of the majority of their colleagues throughout Ontario. The doctors are already heavily taxed by this Council, and the present move will, we fear, only add to its already unpopular status. At any rate there is bound to be no small row among the medicos. Already several meetings have been held and a basis of action has been determined upon, and at the next meeting a form of circular will be adopted to be distributed among the two thousand or more medical men practising in the Province. This circular will ask for the opinions of the profession as to the propriety of permitting the passage of an enactment such as that mentioned, as well as on several other matters relating to the unpopular operations of the Council; and as far as TRUTH can make out these latter are numerous. Based upon the answers to the circulars the opposition will take action to defeat the legislation sought by the Council. The members of the profession who are now taking these steps against the proposed amendment to the act think that they will have the support of three-fourths of the profession.

The return of the Jews to Palestine has been a favorite hobby of zealous and phan-

thropic persons in every age of Christianity. It has failed hitherto to interest the people most concerned, but the Jewish Chronicle records a movement which may have serious results. A conference is now sitting at Katowitz, in Upper Silesia, to frame a project for transporting the Hebrew population of Eastern Europe to the Holy land. Many of the most important towns in Russia, Poland, Germany, and Austria are represented by delegates; the conference is to last a week, and over £10,000 has been subscribed. That sum would go a very little way, in truth, but as the first token of interest on the part of the Jews themselves, it is significant. If they can be brought to entertain the idea, it might be realized. We are not used to think of the Jew as an agriculturist, and the fundamental objection to the scheme which inexperienced persons adduce is his incapacity for pioneering. But the persecutions in Russia have revealed that many thousand of the Chosen People are engaged in farming there, and in Austria, Poland, and the Balkan countries. It is these persecutions, doubtless, and the prospect of more, which have stirred the Jews at last. They may well think that if go they must, Palestine is as good a land to colonize as the Western States, and they would be fulfilling prophecy into the bargain. There is no serious reason for believing the idea impracticable, if money enough be forthcoming, and the right class of colonists be found.

Orders have been issued forbidding the managers of theatres in Germany to produce any plays in which ancestors or collateral relations of the Prussian royal family are represented. The fear is expressed by the London Truth that, owing to the relationship existing between the Russian princes and the house of Denmark, Hamlet may be considered an ancestor, and may not be permitted again to walk the boards.

The name Nevillo has degenerated from a proper name to a very improper one, and a common English word even more approbrious to the Canadian and American ear than the name Boycott is to the Nationalist Irish. There is hardly a paper we can take up but has registered in its pages the atrocious conduct of some newly-discovered polygamist. It was supposed that the notorious Nevillo was without parallel out of Turkey or Salt Lake City, but it would almost appear that these gay gentlemen are numerous in all parts of the country. It is, of course, a part of their scheme of vice to assume the habits of the rolling stone in the fable, but contrary to the character which that respectable fossil is generally believed to bear, these rolling stone gentlemen seem to have the knack of gathering a good deal of moss out of the pockets of too confiding young ladies. It is the money these scoundrels want, girls, and they do not hesitate to sacrifice you poor dears to obtain it. You, of course, are made a pass-time, and are made to contribute to the satiation of the worst grossest passions of the lowest moral grade of humanity. You suffer, but does the fault not, to some extent, lie at your own door. TRUTH fears you are just a little too credulous.

At the last agricultural exhibition in Toronto many persons availed themselves of the opportunity afforded to take a short run on the electrical railway, and no doubt imagined, at least some of them did, that this was the only electrical railway in the world. Many such short railways have been for the last three or four years in operation; but there is one which claims especial mention. We refer to that between Port Rush and Bush Mills, Giants' Causeway, Ireland, a distance of six English miles. One dynamo is operated by water-power at Bush Mills

and transmits the electricity along an iron strap from which the second dynamo under the car is operated by means of two steel springs which sweep along it, as the car runs along. This second dynamo works the wheels and a usual speed of ten miles an hour is attained. One car has been running for two years without interruption for repairs.

A "mother of men" and a "mother of Generals" has recently died at Benares whose life has set at defiance all orthodox medical theories, for, having been born 178, she has never left the plains of India the only occasion on which she went up the hills being that on which she had a serious illness. Anna, the widow of General James Kennedy, of the Bengal Cavalry, died in her ninety-seventh year, lived to see no fewer than one hundred and seventy-six lineal descendants, of whom one hundred and twenty-eight survive her. She had eighteen children, eighty grandchildren, seventy-three great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Besides military officers of inferior rank, her father-in-law, two sons, one son-in-law and four grandsons were generals in the army.

Highland County, Virginia, has a burning mountain. Two gentlemen who recently undertook to investigate it found the earth near the summit so hot that they could scarcely bear to walk upon it. Digging to a depth of a foot, they found the earth burning and smoking. The burning matter is brick-color, and could be moulded like

How educated and refined Canadian gentlemen to such an extent be duped into a marriage with such fellows as Neville or Benokin passes our comprehension. These rascals as a rule practice one of two rules either they are conspicuous religious workers, or even preachers of the Gospel, or are noblemen, or at the very least gentlemen of the highest social standing. One is the second son or even the heir of Lord Benokin, and so, and another is the Tichborne claimant himself; nothing seems to absurdly tempt them to believe with regard to a prospective husband; and their parents are just as senseless and credulous as they are. The case that TRUTH heard of occurred at Dayton, Ohio, the other day, where a Thomas Benokin, of Toledo, had her husband arrested on a charge of bigamy. She had been on his track for three years, during which time he had been living in Fort Wayne, Loganport, Muncie and other cities in Indiana, as well as in Chicago and Cincinnati in every one of which he either married or engaged to marry some woman. At all the places named Benokin became conspicuous as a religious worker, and thus ingratiated himself into the graces of the young females of the church, and always, it is hardly to be intimated, with a view to money and dollars.

It seems that the priests as well as doctors are engaged in a severe controversy. The Jesuits of the Province of Quebec are open war on all sides for the re-establishment of their rule in that Province, and do not hesitate to attack the Archbishop of Quebec, the seminary of St. Sulpice and the University of Laval and all who stand in their way. What will the poor people do when both the priest and doctor are too busy with their shillalahs to attend them? TRUTH does not know.

What a reign of terror now exists in London, England, and there seems no prospect of its abating. Recently meetings have been openly held in the United States which the wholesale destruction of women and children by dynamite and any means was publicly discussed.