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AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH, 1885.

MEN, WOMEN, AND THINGS IN GENERAL.

The Daily *Telegraph* of St. John, N.B., has done good service to the cause of humanity by describing an auction of paupers for farming-out purposes, in an adjoining county. The description is enough to bring the blush of shame to the cheek of every Canadian, and therefore one is not surprised at the remarks made by the overseer of the poor, to whom the law assigned the unpleasant task of knocking down the paupers to the lowest bidders. "Gentlemen," said Mr. White, "disposing of the poor in this way is a hard and unpleasant duty for the overseers of the poor to perform. It is a stigma that has already rested too long on the people of Kings county and that should be removed as soon as possible, and I hope this is the last notice of the kind that will be posted in Sussex. The more I think of the present method of maintaining the poor the worse the system appears, and if you gentlemen would walk around with us among the poor and see how they live, rather than become a burden on the parish to be disposed of at public auction, you would realize more fully the sense of shame I feel this afternoon." The first of the lot was awarded to a man who offered to keep him a year for ninety dollars. The next was left, for want of bids, with one who has been keeping her for seventy-two dollars a year. The third was sold for sixty-four dollars and a half in consequence of his being able to do a little work. His new master must be a man of high principle if he resists the temptation to make as much as possible out of his work, and spend as little as possible on his food and clothes. A few years ago a horrible murder was the result of this wretched system in Nova Scotia. A weak-minded young woman was assigned to the care of a farmer who, after seducing her, took her many miles away to a lonely part of the country, murdered her, and tried to conceal his crime by burning her body. The attempt might have been successful but for the accidental presence in the neighborhood of two young men, who noticed the smoke and extinguished the fire before the remains were rendered unrecognizable. Every right-thinking person will re-echo Mr. White's wish that the system of farming out paupers may soon be brought to an end.

A Providence worsted manufacturer has attempted to solve the apprenticeship problem by a method which bids fair to be successful. The law of Rhode Island does not recognize an agreement of the kind still common

in England, under which the apprentice is bound to his master for a term of years with no possibility of relief. Mr. Fletcher's plan is to engage a boy for three years. For the first his salary is three dollars a week, and if he shows himself worthy of it he gets a bonus of \$50 at the end of the year, though there is no obligation on the employer to give it to him. The second year his salary is five dollars a week, and he may earn a bonus of \$50 as before. The salary for the third year is six dollars, with the same bonus. If he has made good use of his time he is usually fit to begin regular work if not, or if he is found deficient in capacity to master his trade, he is either allowed to remain for some time longer as an apprentice or is dropped altogether. Mr. Fletcher's plan might be worth a fair trial in Canada.

Amongst the unknown quantities is the effect which the Panama Canal will have in diverting commerce from accustomed routes. The wheat exported from the Pacific slope of the United States has heretofore gone to Europe round Cape Horn. In 1883 the number of vessels in this carrying trade was 440. One can only speculate as to the effect of the great shortening of the voyage, which is at present about 16,000 miles, occupying four months in the case of sailing vessels. If California and Oregon can sell wheat at a profit in Europe now, their future as wheat-growing countries should be assured, in spite of the talk about India and the fertile belts east of the Rockies.

Heating and ventilation of dwelling houses are just now occupying a great deal more of the public attention than they usually do—perhaps on account of the efforts of the Provincial Board of Health to inform the public mind on matters pertaining to the public health. If fuel were not so costly in the city the open fire place would be found the best means of heating a room because it acts as a ventilator as well as a source of heat. The foul air which accumulates as the result of breathing is drawn up the flue and its place is taken by pure air which finds an entrance through small openings about windows and doors, or through ventilation pipes made for the purpose. If a stove must be used for the sake of cheapness by all means use a self-feeding base-burner of the most approved and modern form, and carefully regulate the various checks with which it is supplied. The gas from hard coal is fearfully poisonous, and to sleep in an atmosphere permeated by it is a sure source of deathly sickness if not death itself. The best method of checking a too rapidly burning fire of coal is to have a large hole cut in one of the pipes a short distance above the stove, and an outside pipe made just large enough to turn round the perforated one so that the hole may be either covered or left open at pleasure. The fiercest fire may be easily damped by opening the pipe and allowing the air to rush in, thus checking the current which ordinarily comes up through the fire chamber, and lessening combustion. The hole in the pipe serves at the same time as an admirable ventilator for the room.

The experience of the London (Eng.) School Board throws some light on the value at once of religious instruction in schools and of the ordinary written examinations as a test of acquired knowledge. The following are specimens of the answers given to questions on Scriptural subjects by competitors for prizes:—

Abraham was the father of Lot, and had two wives. One was called Hishmale: and to her Hagar, he kept her at home, and he turned her into the desert where she became a pillow of salt in the day time and a pillow of fire by night.

Joseph wore a coat of many garments. He was chief butler to Pharaoh and told his dreams. He married Potiphar's daughter, and he led the Egyptians out of bondage to Kana in Galilee and there fell on his sword and died in the sight of the promised land.

Moses was an Egyptian. He lived in a hark made of bulrushes, and he kept a golden calf, and worshipped brazen snakes, and he had nothing but kuales and manner for forty years. He was killed by the air of his bed while riding under the bow of a tree, and he was killed by his son Absalom as he was hanging from the bow. His end was peace.

It is natural to suppose that the pupils of Church Schools will be found equally confused on Scriptural subjects. One of them, when asked orally by the diocesan inspector to mention the occasion on which, according to the Scripture, an animal spoke, answered: "The whale when it swallowed