

Mr. Talmage believes in making use of all his friends. It was too bad though for him to try and ruin the reputation of our Canadian G. T. R. as he did, saying that certain persons had "the money to buy a ticket on the Grand Trunk Railway to Hell: and that train makes no stop till it comes to the grand smash-up." I think the public should see that Mr. Hickson takes off that train, and closes that station, now that Mr. Talmage has made known the evil.

But Mr. Talmage is quite ignorant of London "slime pits," as evidenced by one of his meditations. He said in his sermon:—"But I also thought all this glitter is but a miserable imitation of foreign dissipation. In London they have the 'Argyll Rooms,' the 'Cremorne,' and the 'Strand.'" Now "Cremorne" has been closed about three years—the "Argyll Rooms" were shut up more than a month ago, the license having been refused by the Middlesex Magistrates—and the "Strand"—well, that is still open; but then the "Strand" is a street, about one mile in length, and there is no particular need for closing it. Cremorne still exists as a garden, but it is so proper and prosy that I question if Mr. Talmage would care to visit it now.

On the whole, such preaching as Mr. Talmage indulges in about "the slime-pits of New York" is calculated to do more harm than good. It excites curiosity, and the curious will seek gratification. Many will go to these places to see "if Mr. Talmage is right"; others will go just to prove that he is wrong; and some will go as he went, to get, or make, a sensation. If Mr. Talmage by going into the midst of moral impurity could save the people who are impure—if he could preach in "the slime-pits," one could see that good might be effected; but Mr. Talmage only spreads the disease. He is like a man who goes into a small-pox hospital to see how the poor people suffer, and then comes out to go into healthy homes and tell what he has seen. The people who hear Mr. Talmage on Sunday morning are not the people whom he saw wallowing in the "slime" on Saturday night; and even if they were there is nothing in what he says to induce them to give up the ways of sin. They knew what those "Hells" are better than any preacher can tell them; and those who do not know what they are will be none the better for enlightenment on the subject.

The *New York World* has learnt from a correspondent at Ottawa that the Canadian Ministers are satisfied "that the American Government cannot be expected to pay over the large sum adjudged to Canada for conceding certain privileges to American fishermen, while the nature and extent of the privileges thus conceded remain in doubt." Now, many of us would like to know what Canadian Ministers have made such a statement? As a matter of fact we hold that in raising the question of payment, and in this protracted delay the American Government is manifesting a meanness quite unworthy of any civilized nation. The American Government only believes in awards when made in its favour; and the *World's* Ottawa correspondent is just as short of correct information as the American Government is of a correct sense of justice. At any rate, to have Secretary Evarts pressing the matter upon the attention of the British Government to increase its difficulties just now when its hands are more than full is what no friendly Government would do—except that of the United States.

Commerce wears a most gloomy aspect in England. A member of one of the leading firms in Manchester, writing to me this week, says:—

"We have suffering all around us, and trade is almost an unknown commodity. Is there any such thing? we are all asking. Of failures and dissolutions we have plenty; they are constantly presenting themselves, and in quarters where they were never expected. We have already a tremendous list, and one that makes us all look ahead for squalls, especially when we know that banks too must needs go down. But I am glad to say that we have not lost heart, but are buckling to with more energy and a watchful care in the details of a large business; for it is too often the case, in these critical times, that we are so completely engrossed with the prominent and striking events of the day that we forget the minutiae upon which the crisis generally turns. We have to be careful that everything is done right now, and cannot afford to lose sight of small things. These are strange, stirring times for Manchester, and will try the mettle of the best of us."

All the Clyde shipbuilding yards have reduced the wages of the workmen seven and a half per cent. The masters have stated that the course has been forced upon them by the hardness of the times, and the workmen have wisely accepted the reduction.

Masters and men in North and East Lancashire anticipate the coming winter with the most gloomy forebodings. Trade in cotton goods has gone from bad to worse, and the employers are confronted with difficulties which for years past have never been thought of. The glut of goods in the market is simply unprecedented, and the state of trade is but inadequately described by the word stagnant. At Preston,

Messrs. Nimmo, (30,000 spindles) and Messrs. H. Sharples & Co., (32,500 spindles and 476 looms) have ceased running. A very ominous circumstance is that Messrs. Horrocks, Miller & Co., the largest and best known firm in the North of England, have adopted measures for the restriction of production at two of their mills. Restricted production seems to be the order of the day, and times of great depression are expected.

The Home Rulers have got sadly demoralized, and as nobody cares to kill them off as a party they bid fair to do that for themselves. As a matter of fact they do more harm than good to Ireland. It is undeniable that there was a time when Ireland was most shamefully treated by English politicians, and when there was good reason for Irish discontent. But all that is changed. There is no more cause for dissatisfaction in Ireland than there is cause for dissatisfaction in England or Scotland. The British Legislature has been making an effort for years on years to redress Ireland's wrongs—often to the neglect of the wrongs of other portions of the kingdom. If the Irish people had but courage and common sense enough to organise a political party on a loyal and national basis, letting such hollow things as the Home Rule movement, Repeal, and Nationalism go to the winds, and demand that their party give time and energies to those practical reforms, fiscal, legal, educational, and social, which the country so much needs, a good and important work would be accomplished. But Irishmen the world over devote themselves to the impracticable, and demand the impossible.

Notwithstanding "the spirited foreign policy" of the Earl of Beaconsfield England has to endure a good many humiliations and rebuffs. Something of the kind has just happened, and this time it has come, not from the Ameer of Cabul, but from the French Government. For months past diplomatic attempts have been made by the British Government to bring the Khedive of Egypt under its control. In truth, the British have all along been hoping that by some fortune of politics or war Egypt would fall into their hands. And when Mr. Rivers-Wilson was appointed by the British Government, and accepted by the Khedive, as Minister of Public Works of Egypt, it looked hopeful from a British point of view. But just then France stepped in and declared that she had some important interests in Egypt, and was disposed to look after them. The British Government had not only to listen to what France had to say, but to submit to her proposal—to the effect that the office of Egyptian Minister of Public Works be assigned to M. de Bliquieres, and that he have authority over the railways and harbours of the country. So the pleasant dream of possessing Egypt is dissipated. Britain is suspicious of Russian ambition and aggression in India, and France got suspicious of British ambition and aggression in Egypt—and now Britain has to deal with France in Egypt and Russia in Turkey—quite enough to test her wisdom and strength.

Eastern affairs wear a gloomy aspect, and none can tell what the end will be, for none seem to understand the situation. The Congress of Berlin seems to have done nothing but stave off the inevitable crisis for a few months longer. The old disorders were not removed, they were only covered over by a thin layer of diplomacy. The relations between the Porte and Austria are complicated, and threaten to lead to most serious results; the Austrian work in Bosnia, for all the late news of demobilization, has not approached completion. In Albania and in Greece no change for the better appears. There were two Commissions appointed for the reorganization of Roumelia and the limitation of the Bulgarian frontier, but no progress whatever has been made, and they say none can be made within the present year. In the meantime, Russia is making new demands, and assuming an attitude for the support of them, which has intensified the general disquietude of Europe, and the public of all European countries are awaking to the bitter fact that the Settlement of Berlin is a hopeless failure.

Some action must be taken, and that soon. Austria finds the situation intolerable, for her dual Empire is being shaken to its foundations; England is in no better case, for she has difficulties in India, difficulties in Asia Minor, and domestic troubles not a few. But the suffering of Austria and England is greatly less than that which Russia is called upon to endure. She has complications with England and Turkey and Austria; to keep up her exhausting military effort through another winter would lead to national bankruptcy; the Empire is cankered with bigotry, superstition, and the vilest corruption; it is cursed with knavish ministers and thievish officials, who all plunder the revenue and oppress the people. So as Russia is the chief sufferer it is more than likely that she will make the first move toward "re-settling the settlement." In a recent Russian circular despatch it appears that the Government of St. Petersburg has again "expressed its intention and desire to come to a definite arrangement with Turkey on the basis of the Treaty of Berlin," and "seeks to bring about, as far as possible, a united and common action of the Governments con-