

Canada. Dr. Bevan did not forget this continent; and, now that our English brethren are really opening their eyes a little, we hasten to assure them that a little timely and generous help just now, especially to our College, will enable us to press on cheerily and take advantage of the open doors that are here plainly before us. Congregationalism is beginning again to be appreciated, and its unsectarian evangelicalism is just what earnest souls are crying for. We are truly rejoiced to read the utterances and spirit of this meeting, and pray that our bonds of brotherhood may be strengthened thereby. Brethren across the water, in aiding us, you strengthen your own hands.

*Sic transit gloria mundi.* The London *Truth* says: "In the churchyard of Hughenden there is a dilapidated grave. The iron railing around it is rusted, and, owing to the kerb having sunk, is broken and crooked. Beneath this dirty, neglected, and ruinous spot repose the remains of Lord Beaconsfield. He was a man of much ability, and will occupy a prominent figure in our history. Conservatives, Primrose Leagues, and such-like persons, are too much occupied in lauding the principles of the deceased statesman, and in calling upon fools to vote for them because they laud them, to keep his grave in decent repair."

WE copy the following from the editorial articles of the *New York Independent*, because they utter our sentiments, notwithstanding that *The Week* has endeavoured to make it appear a crime to publish damning facts regarding "society":

Mr. Stead, editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, has been tried and convicted. He will not appeal, but will suffer the penalty.

The charge brought against Mr. Stead was a misdemeanour. The English law reads:

"Whoever shall unlawfully take, or cause to be taken, any unmarried girl under the age of sixteen years out of the possession and against the will of her father or mother, or any other person having the lawful care or charge of her, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour."

It may be fairly supposed that the prosecution, which was so much more eager to punish the men who have exposed the crimes against young girls than it was to punish those guilty of these crimes, would select the charge on which to try Mr. Stead and his associates on which they believed they could most easily convict him, and which would afford least opportunity for him to make damaging revelations.

Thus far we have received nothing more than the

telegraphic summary of the evidence on which Mr. Stead and Mrs. Jarrett have been convicted; but it is plain that no pretence is made that any injury was done to the girl. She was well treated. It would seem as if Mr. Stead was deceived by Mrs. Jarrett as to what Eliza Armstrong's mother supposed was to be done with her daughter. According to the *Pall Mall Gazette's* story the girl was sold by her mother for immoral purposes; according to the testimony the mother supposed the girl was engaged as a servant. The difference is that the case shows not how drunken mothers sell their daughters, but illustrates another phase of the case—namely, the ease with which girls may be decoyed to their ruin.

It is plain that Mr. Stead had for years been resolved to expose the criminality of a system which works the ruin of thousands of girls. The facts had been known by Parliamentary reports, but no legislation had followed. At last, with the best purposes, Mr. Stead, through his paper, told the horrible story in such a way as to compel attention, and to force the enactment of a law which should give partial protection. He did it in a dramatic and sensational way, believing that in no other way could he succeed. His success was immediate and magnificent. But all society was angry with him, and bent to crush him. The clergy were in his favour; but the newspapers, the clubs, the nobility had had no mercy for the victims, and they had no mercy for the victims' friend. Not one thing was done by the officers of the law to punish the great criminals, but Mr. Stead must suffer.

In the course of his detective investigations, he used detectives' methods. To show how easy it was to obtain a victim, as had been done scores of times, he instructed his agents to do the same, except that the girl was carefully cared for, and returned, finally, to her mother. This may have been done in violation of law; although it is clear that the child was freely given up by her mother. But the case was so clearly described in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, that it was easily identified, and the charge of felony brought, and conviction obtained. No doubt the Justice was right in instructing the jury that Mr. Stead's good motive is no excuse for breaking the law; but if, when sentence is pronounced, it is made as severe as it would have been against the wretch who violated the law for his own evil purposes, it will be clear that the Justice shares, as he appears to do, in the malice. In his imprisonment, Mr. Stead may have the satisfaction of knowing that, whatever his errors, he has been the occasion of the most important act of legislation for the protection of the home which Parliament has found time to pass for many a year.

WE gladly draw attention to our friend Mr. C. S. Pedley's letter on the centralizing tendency of our Missionary Society, and can assure him that centralization and arbitrary power were not by us confounded. Certainly we were at sea regarding the ground of such thoughts as appear to have been uttered at the Association meeting, we confess we are still at sea, notwithstanding the letter of our friend now printed. This, however, we know, that