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[Written for the TRUE WITNESS.]

The World and the Soul.

The world to a youthful soul, "My treasures are boundless, what wisest thou? ... What wilt thou choose, and how? ..."

The Lumber Trade.

We regret to state that reports from England are anything but encouraging to those engaged in the lumber trade. The following is an extract from the Newcastle Daily Chronicle...

Amateur Athletics.

The amateur athletic clubs of New York and elsewhere have lately been discussing informally the question of drawing closer the restrictions imposed upon amateurs by the "Laws of Athletics," and some of the associations have been inquiring into the doings of prominent athletes who were accused of indulging in professional practices at Boston and elsewhere...

Is it True.

Thirty-two young Government Clerks in Ottawa were invited to a state ball, and toward the close of the entertainment, nearly all of them were so drunk that they staggered about the ballroom. It was thought that somebody had drugged their beverage, but an investigation has proved that they became intoxicated in ordinary ways...

The Valley at the Nile.

London, March 26.—The Times, commenting on the condition of the famine-stricken population of the Nile Valley, says: "The state of affairs is immediately ascribed to last year's inundations, and the failure of the first wheat crop; but the real cause lies in the helplessness of the Fellah's condition. He is so mercilessly taxed that he is forced to live from hand to mouth, and it is impossible for him to make any preparations against the day of temporary need, while he is so oppressed with work and sore distress by insufficient food as to lose all hope and energy, and all power of special or moral resistance."

The Largest Bridge in Europe.

The largest bridge in Europe will be completed next year. It will cross the Volga in the government of Samara, Russia, on the Siberian Railroad line. The Volga, at the point of the bridge, is about four miles wide in the spring season, and in autumn is 4,732 feet high, with ice-cutters 35 feet high, at a distance of every 364 feet. The ice-cutters are covered with granite. The iron work is from Belgium. A temporary colony is established for workmen employed on the bridge; it occupies about 55 acres, and has 60 different buildings, insured at 100,000 roubles. Two thousand men are employed, and among them are one hundred and seventy Italian masons. Three steamers and seventy barges are used constantly for forwarding wood, stone, iron, and other materials. The bridge will cost 4,630,000 roubles, or about \$3,500,000.

Mendacity to High Life.

An instance is reported as having occurred on Friday afternoon which indicates to what extremes females in quasi-respectable positions will go in order to gratify their desires for luxury. A lady in silk dress, and otherwise well-attired, was found begging in the vicinity of stores that are usually frequented by fashionable women. The want of correspondence between her demands and her garments induced the belief that she was insane, but inquiry disclosed the fact that she was the wife of a gentleman residing in a neighboring rural locality who had resorted to that method of increasing her pocket money beyond the sum which her husband allowed her. The feminine appetite for luxury has never been before known to prompt ladies in respectable stations to adopt that peculiar method of gratifying their cupidity.

Temperance.

Neal Dow reiterates his opinion that sellers ought to be hanged. In Philadelphia, a Sunday morning breakfast is the inducement to attend a temperance meeting. A member of the Michigan Legislature has introduced a bill making it a misdemeanor to sell liquor to a woman under any circumstances. The current temperance agitation in London takes the shape of a controversy as to the extent of beer adulteration. Francis Murphy has been lecturing during a great part of the season, for \$100 a night. Though funds favor a lecturer in Great Britain, particularly in Scotland. An Ohio man has bequeathed \$10,000 to distribute tracts setting forth the injurious qualities of lager beer. A society for the enforcement of the Civil Damage law is to be formed in Buffalo. The validity of the law having been settled by the Court of Appeals, the organization will prosecute, free of expense, the cases of drunkards' wives against liquor dealers.

Trade in England.

There can be no wonder that people in England are beginning to open their eyes and to enquire the reason of the great decrease in their foreign trade. The returns for February have just been issued, and they are the lowest years back. The value of imports during the month was less than \$29,000,000, while the value of exports was under \$13,000,000, a decline of eleven per cent. in imports and of 14 per cent. in exports compared with February last year. The value of exports was smaller than in the corresponding month of any year since 1870. In 1873 the February exports were valued at more than twenty millions sterling, so that the falling off as compared with that year is more than one-third. The decline extends almost throughout the list. Of twenty-five leading articles of export, three-fourths of the total, measured either by quantity or value, there is a decline in the exportation of all but two. There was an average decline in the quantity of cotton manufactures shipped of more than twelve per cent., about the same percentage in the case of iron, and still more in manufactures of wool.

The Condition of Mr. Butt.

The following paragraph from the London World may interest our readers:—"Now that Mr. Butt is out of immediate danger it will not alarm his friends to learn that during at least three weeks the honorable and learned gentleman has been unconscious, except in moments of delirium, which were not infrequent. When the paper reported a slight improvement, the meaning of the phrase was merely that Mr. Butt was occasionally conscious for a few moments and able to recognize the members of his family. In one of his fits of delirium, the Irish leader delivered a very fervid speech to an imaginary House of Commons; and I am told that the scene in the sick room, which just then was full of friends, was exceedingly effective. His malady was mental as well as bronchial; and though danger is over for the present, the naturally thin constitution has been wrecked in the tough struggle with King Death. Isaac will never be himself again, though his mind may regain all its brilliant subtlety and his tongue all its persuasive eloquence; and from what I hear from those who know him well, I am afraid the Senate House will know him no more."

Courtesy Again to the Front.

New York, March 30.—There is quite a stir in sporting circles over the proposed international single-scuttle race being arranged between the English champion oarsman, Wm. Elliott, and Charles E. Courtney, of Union Springs, N. Y., for \$5,000. About a week ago James Taylor, of Newcastle, authorized Mayor Addell, of Pittsburg, to match Wm. Elliott, of New York, to row Charles E. Courtney, a single-scuttle race, any distance from three to five miles, the race to be rowed on Alleghany River at Pittsburg, in August, for \$200 to \$500 a side, Elliott to be allowed \$75 for expenses. On Courtney receiving official information regarding the challenge, conferred with his backers, and they have decided to conditionally accept, and there is every prospect of a great contest being arranged. Advices from Auburn, N. Y., the home of Courtney, state that his backers have notified ex-Mayor Liddell that they will match Courtney to row Elliott a three or five mile single scull race for \$2,500 a side up and down, and will allow Elliott \$300 expenses, race to be rowed at Saratoga or on Owasco Lake, two or three months from signing the articles. They object to going to Pittsburg to row, because Saratoga and Owasco Lake are far superior for shell rowing. Ex-Mayor Liddell will at once forward the reply to James Taylor.

Superstition in Merry England.

A remarkable case, as showing the amount of superstition still prevalent among the lower orders in England, came before the borough magistrates of Ludlow, Shropshire, recently. A woman named Collier was summoned under the local by-laws for using abusive language toward another, named Oliver. The parties, it appeared, were neighbors, and a sheet having been lost off a garden line, the practice of "turning the key and the Bible" was resorted to with a view to the discovery of the thief. The complainant said that Oliver met her in the street and told her the Bible had been "turned down" to several houses where suspected persons lived, and that when Mrs. Collier's name was mentioned "the Bible fled out of their hands." The Bible then turned down to see if the sheet was stolen during the day or night, and as the former was indicated, Mrs. Collier called her "a— (daylight thief)." The bench dismissed the case, remarking that the superstition was "more like a relic of the past" than a belief of this "advanced age." It is curious to remark how this method of divination, very commonly practiced in the middle ages, has survived almost without modification. The Bible is opened at the book of Ruth, and, balancing the key on the forefingers of each hand, which are formed in the shape of a cross, the verse is repeated, commencing, "Whither thou goest I will go." Where it turns the guilty party is to be found.

An American Paper on the Canadian Tariff.

[Springfield, Mass., Republican.] "The new rates are aimed primarily at the United States. The Canadians say they have labored long with us to secure reciprocity of trade, and that we have again and again rebuffed them with protective duties. And there is altogether too much truth in the charge. Meanwhile, the 'balance of trade' has been going against Canada ever since 1873. That year the exports to this country were \$42,000,000, and in 1878 they fell to \$25,200,000, while the imports from this country grew from \$47,700,000 to \$48,600,000 during that period, in the face of the large decline in prices. Really more revenue per centum is collected from the English imports than from the American, since the former are all manufactured goods, the latter largely food and raw material; thus, the average rate on English imports under the former tariff was 12 1/2 per cent., upon American less than 10. All this time we have been imposing 30 per cent. on imports from Canada. And, while our demand for Canadian goods has constantly decreased, England's has grown, so that England took 58 per cent. of all the Dominion's exports in 1878, against 43 in 1873, while the United States took only 31 1/2 against 49 in 1873. Is it surprising that when Canada compares her two largest customers in the light of these figures, she should feel a little bitter toward us?"

FATTENING CATTLE.—An English farmer very successful during ten years in fattening cattle and sheep, supplied a ration made as follows: English bushel, corn soaked in ten pails of water two days, then simmer for an hour, afterwards mix with fourteen pounds coarse, cheap sugar, and commingle with cut-straw, hay or other fodder.

Value of Land in England.

[London Truth.] "The reason why land in England must become less and less valuable for agricultural purposes is that rapid communication is destroying distances, and the cost of the transit of corn from California and other places where it can be produced on plains that pay no rent and that require no 'high farming' will still further diminish. The reply for long was, 'Yes, but land will always be valuable for grazing purposes.' I doubt this. The importations both of live stock and of dead meat are assuming enormous proportions."

Russian Merchants.

Wealthy Russian merchants, with a touch of savagery in their nature, often give way to riotous enjoyments. A party of them call at a first class hotel, order a costly dinner with a profusion of champagne and other wines, lock the doors and give themselves up to wild revelry, eating little, but drinking enormously. Unable to consume all the wines, they seize the bottles, shout, "smash," and then rush upon the mirrors, furniture, and ornaments of the apartments. The next thing is to pay the bill and decamp. Some of the hotel proprietors, used to such visits, hide the valuable pieces of furniture, and charge high for the breakage.

The Zulus.

Universal compulsory service is an older institution among the Zulus than even in Prussia. For ages the Zulus have been trained as warriors from boyhood, and have remained liable to be called upon for military service even after they have become gray-headed old men. Fifty years and more ago, when as yet they were armed only with spears, assegais, and axes, the Zulus were the most dreaded of all the Kaffir tribes by reason of the reckless and desperate determination with which they attacked. In 1838, when Natal was founded by the Dutch Boers, it was the custom of the Zulus to bring up their forces in a dense circular mass. Arrived in close proximity to the enemy, the mass would open out with wild and monotonous cries: "hank attacks would be pushed forward on both sides, and every effort made to completely surround the adversary. During the last ten years the best and newest rifles and cartridges have been openly sold to Kaffirs in Griqualand West or on the diamond fields, despite the protests of the Orange Free State and of the Transvaal."

Civil Servants in Great Britain.

We have often pointed out that civil servants in the old country are prevented from interfering in public agitations. Here is a proof of this, and it would be well for Canada to follow suit. We take the following from the Dublin Nation:—"Mr. Johnston, ex-M.P. for Belfast, and now inspector of fisheries, has had his career as an Orange demagogue brought to a sudden and rather inglorious termination. In reply to a question put by Mr. A. M. Sullivan in the House of Commons towards the close of last week, the Chancellor of the Exchequer informs the public that the inspector has been 'cautioned' in respect of the speech recently delivered by him at an Orange meeting in Belfast, and containing, as the public are aware, some remarks most offensive to Catholics on the subject of a Catholic University. He has, in fact, been told not to offend again in a similar manner, under pain of losing his place, and the valiant hero who has so often expressed his determination even to die in defence of his principles has pocketed the advice to keep the place."

Loyalty.

[Galt Reformers.] "There is a good deal of superfluous talk indulged in about this 'loyalty' question and the threat of Sir George Campbell in the British House of Commons to make Canada an 'orphan,' because she favours a fiscal system different from that of Britain. Although as much opposed to the system advocated by the Tories during the campaign last summer, as any of our contemporaries, we hold that Canadians and not Britishers are the best judges of what is best for this country; that Canadians have a perfect right—and if they have not they should have—to adopt any fiscal policy which in their opinion will be beneficial to the best interests of this country. All this talk about Britain casting us adrift is mere humbug. The principle involved in this case must be argued from the question of free trade and protection altogether." Will our super-loyal contemporary please whip the Reformer into the traces?

[Mall.] Moreover, it may be well to ask under what royal letters patent was the British trader appointed sole manufacturer for the Canadian people? What Imperial act deprives us of the right to make the clothing we wear or the goods we use, and vests it in Manchester and Birmingham? Mr. Bright and his fellow-manufacturers in England may as well understand once for all, that the Canadians are a free people possessing the constitutional right, as they have the natural and material means, to build up Canadian industries, and to enforce any tariff they deem best suited to that end. The Colonial Secretary's reply admitted as much, and we should not be content with less.

A WESTERN FARMER ON THE FENCE.—A Western farmer giving his experience with Western sars: "I tried osage, and it lied as fast as I could reset it. I tried willow, and it spread all over my land till it was more of an umbrella to shade corn than a fence to keep stock. I tried pine board fence, and horses would sit down on it, manufacturing a lumber yard into a wood pile faster than any way I ever saw. Lastly I tried barbed wire; it did not do, and it required no trimming; it did not shade my corn, and when the horses sat down on it—why they got off."

Exodus of Negroes.

A gentleman from New Orleans reports that the exodus of blacks from Louisiana and Mississippi is producing great consternation among the planters of the Mississippi Valley, who will be unable to till their broad acres unless the migration is speedily checked. The planters are all in debt, and the fact that the majority of them usually hypothecate their crops one year in advance of production adds to the complications of the situation, and increases the general alarm that is felt concerning the immediate future.

The Plague.

The doctors have been studying the Russian plague. They say that no medicine has any effect on it, and that none of the ordinary disinfectants have yielded any decided results. It is more a respecter of persons than the cholera or typhoid fever, for the poor appear to be often attacked, and the rich very rarely. The good effect of free ventilation, and of the lime-washing of houses, seems to point to care of the general health as the best safeguard against its approach; and though apparently distinct from typhus, it is favoured by the same predisposing causes and checked by the same precautions.

Germany and Canada.

[New York Post.] Germany joins Canada in retaliatory tariff measures against the United States and the necessary results of the new restrictions will be that our legitimate trade with both these countries will decrease. So long as we allow in this country protective duties to rest on fourteen hundred commodities we are stepped from complaint, and the put will only excite jeers when it reflects on the blackness of the letter. Nevertheless, although we may feel that the laugh is against our high protectionists, who are likely to be sickened with foreign doses of their own quack medicine, it is no laughing matter that our country should lose its foreign trade just as our trade, foreign and domestic, begins to revive.

Russia Suspected.

London, March 15.—There are rumors afloat to-day, from apparently trustworthy sources, to the effect that, contrary to her promises, and to the general expectation of other powers, Russia is evading the evacuation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. It will be remembered that in these despatches, some weeks ago, it was stated that strong reasons existed to fear that on the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Eastern Roumelia there would be scenes of deplorable turmoil and bloodshed, for the reason that factions in that province were still greatly engaged against each other, and that the Turkish authorities were not capable of preventing outbreaks. It is now thought probable that Russia wishes to retain her occupancy of the province for some time to come, and assigning as her cause this state of things.

What Truth Says.

Another quackery (says "T. T." in Truth) has been promulgated. A German physician declares that all our ailments arise from the practice of eating our food cooked; likewise that clothing is a mistake. Everything is to be eaten raw, and invalids (especially those afflicted with gout or indigestion) are recommended as a beginning to try to confine themselves to fresh fruit and oysters, when they will speedily require neither drink nor medicine. It appears that thirst arises from the fact that all the liquid in meat and vegetables is extracted by cooking. This is all very fine, but it will be some time before even the kitchen will induce even enthusiasts to devour raw flesh, fish, or fowl. It would be interesting to hear the experience of the author of this new system after a six months' trial thereof.

How Many States Hang Murderers?

Four States of the Union have unconditionally abolished capital punishment, viz: Michigan (in 1846), Rhode Island (in 1851), Wisconsin (in 1853) and Maine (in 1876). The following States have the "option" jury law; Indiana, 1862; New York, 1862; Illinois, 1867; Minnesota, 1868; Iowa, 1878, and Louisiana many years ago. In these States there is no capital punishment unless the jury unanimously recommend that penalty; hence there are but few executions in these States. Of the above States Iowa totally abolished that penalty in 1872, but modified that law in 1875 as mentioned. The following States have the "governor's option" law, viz: New Hampshire, Vermont and Kansas. In these States the criminal is sent to the State prison for one year (Vermont two years) prior to execution, when he may be executed on the warrant of the governor, whether he shall or shall not, issue the warrant.

Going to Jail.

On Friday last a prominent lawyer of this city, at present engaged in the Criminal Court, had occasion to go to the jail to see one of his clients, and hired a carter to drive him there at Jacques Cartier Square. While the jehu was engaged wrapping the buffalo robes comfortably round his fare and otherwise looking to his wants, the horse became impatient and started off with all his might and main (especially his main) leaving the owner all agape with rage and astonishment. Not so the lawyer, who seemed to be accustomed to horses running away with him, for he puffed coolly and placidly away at his cigar and never minded either the feelings of the people who had to get out of the way nor the danger of a breakdown so long as the horse brought him to his destination, the jail. A man having more courage than sense ultimately stopped the animal, but not until he had performed more than half the journey with the reins hanging loosely.

Fashionable Marriage in Rome.

New York, March 31.—A London letter, giving details of the marriage at Rome, March 15th, of Miss Ada Hungerford, sister of Mrs. McKay (wife of the California millionaire), to Count Giuseppe Telfener, says the affair was magnificent. The Count has an enormous fortune. The religious ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Fogia. Mr. Capel stood on the left of the young bride, and Mr. Cataldi, who represented His Holiness the Pope, stood on the right of the bridegroom. In the afternoon of the wedding day the grounds of the former's villa, Portosenio, now called Villa Ada, were thrown open to the public and to a number of guests, who were invited to witness races run by eleven horses of Telfener's. A box stand was erected for the accommodation of King Humbert, Prince Adelaide and Countess Telfener, and some ladies. The King arrived on the ground at a quarter past three, accompanied by the Duke of Aosta, General Medici. The grand palace built by Victor Emmanuel, in which the young couple will reside, is surrounded by most beautiful grounds. Miss Ada Hungerford was called the star of the American Colony in Paris. Count Telfener occupies a high position in Rome and is well known from his connection with some of the biggest railroads in South America, constructed under his directions.

A Scotchman and a Zulu Chief.

[London Letter to N. Y. Times.] Where will you go and not find a Scotchman in power, or an Irishman intriguing for it? In the various negotiations with the Zulus, and many times last year, during the Kaffir war, the name of John Dunn, a sort of Prime Minister to King Cetwayo, frequently cropped up in news-letters and dispatches. This gentleman was born of Scotch parents at Port Elizabeth in the Cape Colony, and is not more than 40 years of age. He is a Zulu chief, and evidently inherits with the bravery and love of adventure of his fathers their loyalty and discretion. He has amassed a fortune in trading with the Zulus, and in the midst of the troubles between Natal and Zulu he made up his mind to remain neutral in case of war. Coming over to Natal, he had an interview with Lord Chelmsford and expressed his intention. The English chief received him courteously, but also informed him that if he broke out he should treat every man he met in the Zulu country as an enemy. Mr. John Dunn therefore resolved to seek an asylum in Natal until the end of the war. Lord Chelmsford agreeing to find him land to live upon, and an opportunity in due course to return to his old location. Accordingly, Dunn, with his tribe, 2,500 men, women and children, and 1,000 head of cattle, crossed the Tugela, surrendering their arms to the British authorities. Dunn is said to be a sturdy, well-built, intelligent man, and he had great influence in Zululand, though he could not influence the King in a pacific policy. Just before he had received the ultimatum, Cetwayo sent a message to Dunn, saying: "I am going to fight. I will eat up every English soldier as a bit of meat, and when they are all finished, my appetite will be keener than it is in the beginning."

Emigrants to Manitoba.

[The Globe.] Emigrants leaving Ontario for Manitoba should postpone their departure till navigation opens otherwise they will probably be detained at St. Paul, Cookston, Glyndon, or St. Vincent till the Red River boats begin to run. The railway from St. Vincent to Winnipeg is said to be in such a condition as to preclude its use for some months to come, and if this be the case emigrants going to Manitoba now would suffer heavy losses in waiting till the Kistten boats are ready to transport them and their stock. There is no reason why parties who intend to go as far west as the Saskatchewan should not start at the end of March, because after they reach St. Vincent they must at all times depend on their own waggons for the rest of the journey. The resort to waggons by parties going to Manitoba would be needlessly uncomfortable and expensive, and emigrants going too early in their season must either be prepared to move on by their own teams, or delay in some American town at much expense, greater in proportion to the quantity of stock, implements, and goods taken with them. Those going only as far west as Manitoba will do well to remain here for a month longer, when they will have a choice between the lake and the rail routes. It is not at all likely that any delay at Duluth will be necessary after the opening of navigation; but should emigrants be detained there they will find a comfortable building at their disposal, which is leased by the Canadian Government, and under the charge of a Canadian Emigration Agent. The settlers who intend to go in by rail should at any rate wait till the Red River is open, by which delay they will save money and have no lost time on the road. The last fortnight of May is quite early enough to arrive at their destination.

The Length of a Pig's Tail.

The length of a pig's tail led to murder in Madison County, North Carolina, last Thursday. Two farmers, named Norton and Gaither, disputed concerning the length of the tail of a pig which they were examining. Norton gave Gaither the lie, whereupon Gaither told Norton to get ready for a deadly fight. Both men drew their revolvers almost simultaneously. Gaither was fatally wounded, and Norton lost a thumb. The point as to which of the two men was right in regard to the length of the pig's tail remains undecided.

The Zulu War.

CAPE TOWN, March 17.—The British steamer landed the first of the reinforcements at Durban, Natal, on the 5th instant. The troopship, with the 57th Regiment, arrived at Durban on the 10th instant. The relief of Ekowe will be attempted shortly. An unsuccessful endeavor was made yesterday to communicate with the Ekowe garrison by signal. King Cetwayo's brother's overtures for submission were a ruse to cover his retreat to Swaziland. Reports that Cetwayo sent messengers to sue for peace are false. A body of Basutos crossed the river Tugela on the 8th instant, stole some horses and fired on the colonial forces, who repulsed them with the loss of 20. All quiet in the Transvaal.

The Prince Imperial and the Queen.

The Emperor Napoleon III., during his visit to England, contrived to win the warm friendship of the Queen and Prince Albert, which, in the case of the former, has been extended to the widow and son. The young Louis Napoleon, before departing for the Zulu War, called upon the Queen to bid adieu, and, according to a London paper, she received him with the greatest cordiality, thanking him in a trembling voice for the courageous interest he evinced in her army and country. She seated him beside her on a sofa during the interview, and, as he rose to depart, she drew a ring from her hand, and placing it upon his finger, asked him to preserve it as a mark of her gratitude. The young man was visibly affected by the Queen's gift and words.

Is the Moon Inhabited?

M. Flammarion, the great French astronomer, being desirous to test the truth of his surmise that there are inhabitants in the moon, proposes to construct a telescope of sufficient power to definitely settle the question. A committee has been organized to collect the necessary funds, the cost of the instrument being estimated at 1,000,000 francs. This will be the most costly telescope in the world, unless the American proposition to erect one on Pike's Peak at an expense of \$1,000,000 should be carried out, and it now seems probable that it may be. Four years will be required to complete the instrument, and if funds are provided there is no reason why it should not be completed. Its power would be sufficient to distinguish buildings of any magnitude, and to show the topography of the moon's surface.