

The winter will soon be upon us again, and the usual struggle of unfortunate passengers up the North Street Hill from the Railway Station over glare ice will again be witnessed, and duly anathematised, unless immediate steps are taken to remedy the danger and inconvenience. Will not the City Council move in the direction of getting the flight of steps from the station up to Lookman street, which we have so often urged? Surely the I. C. R. would not be obdurate in declining assistance. Will not our daily contemporaries bring their great influence to bear in this matter?

The London, G. B., street cars, which carry 150,000,000 passengers a year, are, it is said, soon to exchange horse traction for electric propulsion. A trial trip has been made and a speed obtained of from 8 to 12 miles an hour, and at the higher rate the car was stopped by a single turn of a switch. The dispensing with horses will rid the companies of an immense outlay. One company employs 5,000 horses, and the life of a car-horse is very short, owing to the great and continual strain involved in starting the car. The wear and tear of streets will also be lessened by the removal of thousands of horses. With electric locomotion the space required for offices, stores, yards, etc., will be only one tenth of the space used under the horse traction system. The great reduction in the force of men required to attend the cars would also prove an item of economy. It will not be long before electricity will reign supreme, and the suffering horse have at least one of his hard fates averted.

The intention of starting a new Canadian Magazine at Toronto is announced by some of our contemporaries. It is to be called the *National*, and some papers demur to the choice. We do not ourselves see any great objection to it, though possibly a better title might be selected, a good list of contributors is published, and, although the traditions of Canadian Magazines are not encouraging, Canadian literature ought to be in a better position to put forth an attractive monthly to-day than when the last venture died out. But the *Canadian Monthly* was always too heavy. Certainly, a new magazine ought to appeal to a larger public now, and it might reasonably be expected, a public better disposed to support a national undertaking. The great difficulty will be to compete with the popularity of American publications so taking as Harper and others. At all events it ought to find patriotic support if only on the ground that it is Canadian, and we heartily wish the proposed enterprise an immediate and substantial success.

The Prince of Wales reviewed the entire Egyptian Army at Abbasseh recently, and was wildly cheered by the troops, whose appearance and movements the Prince complimented very highly. The French Government has become very uneasy at the visit of the Prince to Egypt, so much so that it has forwarded to Lord Salisbury an inquiry as to its import, and also requested definite information as to the date of England's formal evacuation of Egypt, a movement which, by the way, is not likely to take place in the near future. It is to be hoped that any English Government will present a firm front to France on the question of British control in the land of the Pharaohs. The case is in a nutshell. France, in 1882, decided to withhold her assistance in suppressing the revolt of Arabi, and by that action ruled herself out of any right to raise objections, or assume an interest equivalent to that of Great Britain. England's expenditure of treasure, blood, and organization demands the utmost firmness in dealing with French pretensions.

Reverting to the subject of the erroneous impressions formed by English Statesmen of Canada and the United States, which we touched upon in a note in our last week's issue, it is further to be remarked that Mr. Gladstone displayed yet more misconception owing to lack of local knowledge, when he spoke of "respect for law and desire for order" being pre-eminently characteristic of the people of the United States. That there are many citizens of the great republic who have a respect for law and an eager desire for order is certain. They are probably a majority, but it is not to be denied that there is a very large minority whose sympathies run either with crime of certain kinds, or with illegal and violent methods of suppressing crime of other kinds. It is not so much the extent of the crimes that are committed, for, unfortunately, there is no country which is free from criminals, but the treatment of the criminals, which shows how little real respect there is for law and order. It is a by-word among our neighbors themselves that in some of their older states and greatest cities the punishment of grave crime is so uncertain that many notorious criminals evade the hands of justice, and that in other cases the uncertainty and postponement of punishment afford the greatest encouragement to the criminal class. On the other hand in the newer districts, and, indeed, not in them only, crimes of some kinds evoke the wild justice of lynch law, vigilance committees, white caps and such organizations, to say nothing of violent action by individuals—these private substitutes for the public maintenance of law and order partaking far more of the nature of vengeance than of the self-protection of a civilized community. The *Toronto Empire*, of whose apt language on this subject we have partly made use, goes on to make the following just remarks:—"In a steadfast regard by the body of the people for law and order, Canada is greatly superior to the United States. In the enjoyment of true freedom, of liberty without license and self-government by the people, Canadians have no reason to envy their neighbors, the very contrary being the case. It is a pity that a different impression should be encouraged through over-reliance upon the boasts of spread-eagle orators and writers in the United States, and upon the depreciation of Canada by a few unpatriotic Canadians. A little practical experience of both countries would secure a truer appreciation of their respective merits and advantages."

We have not as yet seen any comments in the press on the visit of the German Emperor to the Sultan, beyond the mere record of his reception. It strikes us, however, that it is not without a strong significance. Should war unhappily break out a thoroughly friendly understanding between Turkey and Germany would operate as a strong check on Russian designs and movements, and it is not likely that the young Kaiser should have overlooked or neglected so obvious a point, while the constant fear and jealousy of Russia on the part of Turkey naturally incline her to an alliance with a powerful neighbor who may at any moment be glad to avail himself of collateral outside, even if not actually belligerent, aid. If a sovereign of the old type of Turkish Sultans should ever arise, a soldier at heart and a despiser of luxury, extravagance, and dissoluteness, and who would bend his energies to redeem his country from debt and misgovernment, Turkey might yet be a powerful factor in preserving the peace of Europe. The mischief is that there seems to be no prospect of such a contingency.

The enormous military establishments of the great European powers are, of course, a heavy burden on the resources which would be so much better devoted to the development of peaceful progress, yet great armies, at least in some countries, are not without redeeming features as constituent parts of the nation. It is natural that this side should impress a soldier like Lord Wolseley, whose opinion in matters military is certainly worth something. He speaks as follows of the German army:—"Great as it is for war, it is infinitely greater as a national school for the moral, mental, and physical training of the people. It has become the most important of peace institutions. In it all Germans are trained to strength and taught the first principles of personal cleanliness and of health. There they learn to be honest and manly, and are taught the excellence of those virtues which serve to make good subjects and law abiding citizens. It is the school of the nation, in which deep love of fatherland is fostered and cherished, and where all classes learn that there is honor in obedience and nobility in self-sacrifice."

The Manchester Canal justly ranks as one of the greatest engineering works of the day, and the successful manner in which the contractor, Mr. Walker, is prosecuting the work stamps him as a man of wonderful ability and the greatest fertility of resource. The Canal, which is thirty-five miles in length, is being constructed close to the Mersey, and starts from the Cheshire Bank of that river, at a place called Fartham, a few miles above Birkenhead. The cut has a uniform depth of 30 feet, with a breadth of 120 feet, and the water is 26 feet deep. It is lined throughout with concrete, and is faced at top with huge blocks of Cornish granite rivetted together. There are four systems of locks, and at each of these stages the canal widens out so as to permit of three locks abreast. When completed, as it is expected to be in 1891, the largest ocean steamer can come up to Manchester in seven hours from the entrance of the canal, and load and unload in the large basins being constructed for that purpose. The total cost of the work will come within \$50,000,000, and the contractor has now employed 12,000 workmen, and dredging and other machinery that save the labor of ten times as many men. At intervals of five miles along the route he has constructed cottages, chapels, and gymnasiums for his men, and schools for their children, where they are educated free of charge. In thus providing for the comfort, amusement, and enlightenment of his workmen and their families, Mr. Walker has made a new departure, and his wisdom and philanthropy have been rewarded by the fidelity of his men, it being stated that not one has been discharged since the commencement of operations.

The *Toronto Globe*, in an article evidently intended to propitiate the total abstinence and prohibition people, presents us once again with both sides of that vexed question. First it deals with the Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby, who is dubbed "an able but somewhat self-sufficient gentleman." His views are presented as follows:—"He is, or was, of the opinion 'hat wine, if used moderately, is an excellent article of diet, while beer and all malt liquors he looks upon as among the best creations which God has made. He thinks beer a more healthy drink than tea, and holds that, as the Germans of New York and elsewhere drink beer at every mid-day meal, the law against taverns being open on Sundays for the supply of malt liquors should be so far relaxed as to allow all Germans to get beer, just as other citizens are supplied with milk. He is quite sure that nothing but either stupidity or malevolence would argue from this that he advocates open saloons on Sunday." Dr. Crosby may perhaps lay a little too much stress on the virtues of beer, but healthy and sound men do not guzzle beer to excess, and find it a wholesome drink in moderation throughout long lives. For the rest the views ascribed to him seem to be sensible enough.

The *Globe* goes on, after its version of Dr. Crosby's views, in this wise:—"All this talk, which may be courageous, but which to us seems lacking in good sense, has provoked the indignation of the Hon. Neal Dow, who in the last issue of the *Union Signal* handles without gloves the somewhat arrogant and not very logical Chancellor. Mr. Dow is especially severe on the assertion that beer is a more healthy beverage than tea, and adduces a good many considerations to show that such a statement is entirely contradicted by facts. The beastly brutal drunkenness which has so long prevailed in England has, for the most part, Mr. Dow affirms, been caused by beer-drinking; while it has long been well known that a surgeon shrinks from attendance upon a wounded beer drinker, because his blood is so hopelessly poisoned by his drink that a mere scratch, which would give a tetotaler scarcely a passing annoyance, will disable him for weeks or months, and often issues in the loss of a finger or a hand, or even of life. On behalf of this contention Mr. Dow quotes quite an array of eminent medical authorities." For violence, arrogance and exaggeration, the palm appears to us to lie altogether with the prohibition advocate.