

TO PREVENT CIVIC TROUBLE!—In a little Bavarian village a ceremony has just taken place which it might not be unwise to repeat in many parts of our Province, beginning, as a matter of course, in our own city. The men of the hamlet in question met together in a solemn conclave over their public affairs. They finally decided that the spirits of evil were making trouble in their midst, and that unless they could be exorcised, disasters would befall the village. A party of 150 farmers then arranged to meet on the following night, armed with guns, which they were to discharge as the witching hour of twelve drew near. The volleys were kept up for an hour, at the end of which it was thought that the evil spirits would be wholly routed, and the warriors withdrew to their homes, confident that their battle with the unseen enemy would result in the prosperity of their beloved hamlet.

FOREST DESTRUCTION.—Already the vast forests of America are showing great gaps, and lumbering men of to-day realizing the reckless sacrifices of timber land which are continually being made, are firm in the belief that a timber famine must eventually come. In the United States twenty-one per cent of the entire area or 450,000,000 acres are composed of woodlands. Of this, 25,000,000 are annually cut, while a large amount of territory is devastated by fire. It is estimated that the country's supply is depleted twice as fast as it is being reproduced, and at that rate the end must soon come. The statistics of the wood lands of Canada are not on hand, but we fear that many of our people are but beginning to appreciate the value of a tree, and that the majority of them have not grasped the meaning of the philosopher who said—"He who plants a tree confers a favor on the human race."

FREE AGAIN.—At last the famous Borden murder case is settled, in so far at least as it concerns Lizzie Borden, the suspected daughter of the murdered man. Public opinion has been strongly with Miss Borden, who has suffered severely during her ten months' imprisonment, and her acquittal will be satisfactory to most of the parties concerned. Her fight for liberty has been a desperate one, for the Government has pushed the prosecution vigorously and has acted on the assumption that she was guilty, though, according to the law, she was to be considered innocent until her guilt was clearly proven. The jury, however, showed good sense in declining to convict, on the count of Miss Borden having the exclusive opportunity to commit the hideous crime. Despite the acquittal of the prisoner, the mystery of the murders is yet as far from solution as ever, and there seems no probability that it will ever be unravelled.

HER GOOD WORKS PRECEDE HER.—We feel that the women of Canada have reason to be congratulated upon the appointment, so to speak, of Lady Aberdeen to the leadership of Canadian society. She is an excellent, high-principled woman, full of good works and enthusiastic over all duties which fall to her lot. Many gifted women will have preceded her, and we cannot but be mindful of the high honor in which they have been held. Lady Dufferin was a warm friend of working women and worked energetically in their behalf. The Princess Louise did much to elevate the artist's taste, and the excellent Art Gallery which she established at Ottawa may be the nucleus of a collection whose fame may be world-wide. Lady Lansdowne had a deep interest in the public schools, and Lady Stanley has done a great work for Canadian nurses, yet Lady Aberdeen bids fair to excel them all, for she is a philanthropist in every sense of the word. She has not only encouraged and protected the Irish Home Industries in their darkest hours, but she has organized "The Onward and Upward Association" for the benefit of all struggling women. The aim of the Association is to provide help, mental, moral and spiritual, for its members, and the bright journal of the league is edited by her Ladyship. There is also a child's magazine, "Wee Willie Winkie," of a signally pure and bright character, in which the Countess' name freely appears. Both of these magazines will probably attain a good circulation in Canada, and through them we will learn still more of the energy and good sense of their promoter.

"FALSE CHRISTS SHALL ARISE."—In these days of religious liberty there are constantly arising new sects and denominations. While it is to be regretted that the schisms are so many and frequent, yet for the most part they are not productive of evil. An arrest made in Baltimore last week has, however, caused many thoughtful schismatics to reflect on the evil way in which their example has been followed. A woman in that city announced that she was the Lord Jesus and speedily obtained a following. She was not a fanatic or a woman who had gone crazy on the subject of religion, but a clever trickster, anxious to levy tribute while her real identity was concealed. It is not many years since a family of three, dwelling in Ohio, announced that they were the earthly embodiments of the Divine Trinity. The result of the awful assumption was that the peace of an entire church was broken and that a large number severed their church connection that they might worship the three vile imposters. In Virginia a few months ago, a new sect, "Christ's Holy Sanctified Church of Chincoteague Island, No. 1," was formed, and a large following has been secured. It is known that unwise, if not immoral practices, prevail among the members, and that they have abused the privilege of performing marriage ceremonies awarded them by the courts. We are all peculiarly sensitive on the subject of our religious beliefs, but that is no reason why we should tolerate evil and abhorrent practices in the name of religion. The false prophets and their disciples are fast increasing in Canada as well as in the United States, and it will indeed be a blot on our country and on our consciences if we allow the establishment of sects holding distinctively evil tenets, in our Dominion.

NOT IN CANADA, THANK GOD.—There is a world of horror in the line announcement in several United States papers of the lynching of an innocent man at Milan, Tenn. The murderer made good his escape, while a mulatto, who resembled him closely, was tortured to death by the mob. The event is scarcely deemed worthy of comment, for it is known that it is useless to appeal to the moral element, if indeed there be one, of a lynching community.

PRACTISE AS WELL AS THEORY.—An excellent idea is being carried out at the Provincial Normal School, where a practical training is offered in a subject which is not familiar to many teachers. A ten days' course in butter-making at the School of Agriculture is offered to all students who wish to substitute for the Science lessons a practical knowledge of dairy work. The idea is a progressive one, and the results cannot fail to be advantageous to those who take the course in question.

GIVEN HER CHOICE.—If the Princess May is at all like other brides she will be both pleased and delighted to select the wedding gift which is to be forwarded from Canada. We recollect the complaints of many brides who have been deluged with butter coolers, pickle jars, biscuit boxes, etc., who have longed for the possibility of exchanging the many times duplicate gifts for really necessary and useful articles. The Princess, we trust, will, however, be amply provided for in every particular; and we trust also, that the very slipshod articles which have been written on the subject of the Royal gift will not be read by her or by her amiable friends. It is comparatively easy to be smart on a subject of this kind, but it appears to be quite another matter for the press to remember the courtesy which is due from it to the bride of Her Majesty's heir.

THEY KEEP COOL.—While the heated diplomatic discussion concerning the seal dispute is being carried on between Great Britain and the United States, the seals are calmly returning to their summer quarters without evincing any interest in the struggle as to their ownership. The male seals reached the rookeries early in May, but the weaker females have waited for the sunny weeks of June and July. Their summer quarters are always the Pribiloo Islands, of which the little patch known as St. Paul is by far the most popular. Five millions of fur seals come each summer to the island, despite the fact that there is so little surface room that it is necessary that the rows should be tightly wedged, and that there is no possibility of flapping a flipper with ease. The sealettes are born at or about this season, and it is not until they have attained the age of some three months that the islanders begin their work of butchery.

A FAR-SIGHTED PARENT.—It is strange but true that but few of us have any definite idea of what to do in cases of emergency which call for prompt action. We have all read of the methods to be employed in recovering supposedly drowned or suffocated persons, of the proper bandaging for severe cuts, and of the treatment to be given at once to persons suffering from hemorrhage; yet any of us who have felt the responsibility of any one of these serious situations will remember the fervent wish which he experienced for a more definite knowledge of the treatment which the accident called for. Not long ago, a wise mother, mindful of the emergencies which are apt to befall little children, decided to drill her little family in an emergency catechism, which they began by giving an illustration of how they would gargle if they had diphtheria. Then came bright questions and answers which the little ones enjoyed thoroughly, notwithstanding that they were learning practical lessons which would be of use to them all their lives. Among the emergency queries were—"What would you do if you were lost in a city—if your clothes caught fire—if a horse ran away with you—if you floated away in a boat." The children, whose minds are thus stored with valuable knowledge at so early an age, will, doubtless, as they grow older be prepared for the more serious emergencies of life, and be fully equal to the demands which any accident may force upon them.

IGNORANCE OR IMPUDENCE.—It is hard to say whether the mis-statements about our Dominion which are continually being made by the British press are more amusing or annoying. The brilliant but irresponsible Lord Randolph Churchill has been acquainting the world with some new facts concerning our past history of late, and we cannot say that we have been wholly edified. The constitution of Canada was not, we believe, drawn up in 1868, as his Lordship averred when discussing Home Rule for Ireland, nor did the B. N. A. Act provide for the protection of all Provincial minorities by allowing them representation in the Upper Houses of the Provinces, nor do the Governor-General and the Lieutenant-Governor exercise to any extent the small vetoing powers of which they are possessed, although, according to the same authority, they are little less than despotic rulers. Lord Churchill is also unhappy in his reference to Mr. Blake, who, he states, "has come over with great amiability to establish a constitution for Ireland." He decries Mr. Blake as a foe of the Federal Government of Canada, and instances as an illustration Mr. Blake's hostile attitude towards the Government in the Manitoba railway case, while it is a well known fact that during the entire suit, Mr. Blake was the counsel employed by the Canadian Pacific Railway and worked manfully for the success of his client. It is not surprising when one who should be an eminent authority is so inaccurate and untruthful that a London *Times* reporter should also lose his head and write a graphic account of a rebellion which he alleges took place in 1868 in the Province of Nova Scotia.

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