A GREAT HERESY

Heresy has in these latter days become almost a by-word. Men speak of it with a smile instead of a shudder. In truth, if by heresy is meant want of conformity to the philosophy of the sixteenth century, the word may well become a laughing-stock when men try to make it a term of reproach. It is like reproving a man for having outgrown his baby-clothes.

But, in the broad sense of dangerous departure from the truth, heresy is a serious matter. The name may fall into contempt, but the thing is very real and very bad. For, if truth is life-giving, if it is to the soul what light is to the body, then to miss the truth and accept falsehood in its stead is one of the worst thing that can befall a man. "If the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is the darkness!" And when this ignorance, instead of being self-confessed, plumes itself as true knowledge, and sets itself up as a religious faith, and seeks to draw men into it, it becomes indeed an engine of destuction. This is real heresy—error which saps the foundation of religious truth, in the name of religion.

There is one such form of error, so fatal, so persistent, and so wide-spread, that it may fairly be called "the great heresy." Its essence is this: Men regard religion as in some way a substitute for right living, instead of the highest form of right living. They seek a shorter and easier way to God's favor than by obeying his law. They reject the word spoken of old: "What do the lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"—and put ceremonial, or sacrifice, or some other substitute, in place of justice, mercy, humility, and the whole sweep of right feeling and right action which constitutes character. So doing, they utterly pervert religion. They make of it an excuse, instead of an obedience, it becomes a shield to their wrong-doing, instead of an escape out of wrong-doing.

True religion implies man's recognition of the moral universe in which he is a part. It is the disclosure to him of the spiritual and eternal realm which enspheres his narrow and visible present. It shows him the transcendent consequences which attach to his action. He sees himself no longer a helpless and uncared-for atom, but the child of the Almighty and the heir of immortality. He hears the voice that called him into being calling him at every moment to choose the right and spurn the wrong, and he feels in himself the power to obey or disobey the call. He recognizes a law by which his wrong-doing works consequences of evil that he cannot measure, while every right action is the seed of far off harvests. True religion, in a word, brings transcendant motives, and appeals to the noblest capacities and highest energies of human nature, all centering in this: that men are set upon the most earnest effort toward goodness.

But the historial record of religion is largely the story of men's attempts to escape from this hard practical application. The great religious delusion of mankind has been the idea that the Deity was to be approached and placated in some other way than by the homage of the heart to perfect goodness and the effort of the life to reach it. So the ancient heathen sought to appease their gods by hecatombs of oxen or of slain enemies, just as they would have bribed an earthly monarch by similar gifts. So the Jews in the time of Christ, instead of making their ritual the mere symbol of spiritual worship, made it in itself the essential thing. So the earthly Christian church, relapsing toward darkness with a rapidity which presents the saddest spectacle in human history, found in baptism and sacrament the way to salvation. And so our Protestant churches sometimes have presented schedules of doctrine which, if they do not explicitly absolve men from the obligation of right living, yet place the condition of acceptance with God in right intellectual belief far more than is safe.

Thus we have known a preacher to speak in this way. He set forth in one of the noble Old Testament passages, the blessedness of the righteous and the misery of the wicked. And this was in substance his application: "Some of you feel yourselves wanting in this righteousness, and, you are uneasy about it. But a righteousness has been provided for you which is perfect, and which you can have this moment if you will. It is all ready, you have only to accept it. It is like a title-deed to vast possessions, signed and sealed, and you have only to hold out your hand and take it. Christ has provided a righteousness for you; will you accept it?"

Now mark, that this conclusion was a direct reversal and overthrow of the text, and of the whole teaching of both Old and New Testaments. If these books carry one thing on their very face and in their deepest heart, it is the blessedness of being righteous. The preacher's lesson was, Christ has spared you the necessity of being righteous. The message of the scriptures from first to last is: Strive by God's help towards goodness; be vigilant, be faithful, endure unto the end! The preachers comfortable doctrine was: You need have no trouble; full righteousness and sure salvation are yours this moment if you will accept them!

All representations of Christ's work which make it supersede in any way the necessity for good works in men, are radically false and dangerous. There is no trace of such an idea in the New Testament. It is safe to say that such a misconception never entered my mind. The thought that are them in Christ lifting men into goodness; not Christ saving men from the necessity of goodness. In him is disclosed the Divine forgiveness, but always with the added message: Go, and sin no more. He did not come bringing a signed and sealed pardon or title-deed. His work was to plant the Kingdom of God within men; to kindle in them his own spirit; to touch them with a longing for goodness, a divine love for men, a consciousness of their Father God, that should make them bud and blossom in all sweetness and glory of life. It was the thought of likeness to him, of participation in his spirit and very personal communion with him, that inspired his followers when he left them. They dwell on this with endless richness of expression: "That Christ may dwell in your hearts;" "Christ in you the hope of glory;" "Dying with Christ unto sin;" "If ye be risen with Christ;" "For me to live is Christ;" "Whether we live or die we are the Lord's;" "Your life is hid with Christ;" "Christ who is your life." The whole New Testament may almost be said to be a sublime expansion of this idea; the growth of the soul into likeness and at last into absolute oneness with Christ. Compared with this, how unspeakably poor and degrading is the view, that we come into the benefit of his life and death by some mechanical transfer outside of our own character, rather than by being transformed into his image!

Again, men so achieive of the heavenly life that it makes them sluggards in this life. The idea is very common, that if one does but become a Christian here, however poor a one, at the gate of death he will pass instantly into full perfection and perfect happiness. The latent feeling that goes with this is very strong: If I am right on the whole, my future destiny will not be affected by the details of my conduct or the degree of my attainment. An immeasurable amount of spiritual indolence and failure are due to this fancy—for it is only a fancy—that the details of conduct will have no perceptible influence on the life of the next world. In truth, every choice between right and wrong leaves its mark on the soul; and the soul takes that disposition and character which is the result of its whole course of action, into the next world with it. So much is certain. What renovation, what sudden accession in its rate of progress, may come with the opening of the new life, we do not know. But we have every reason to believe that the moral equipment with which a man leaves this world will determine his beginning in the next. And the proper use of the belief in a future life is as a constant motive to right doing in this. Our actions do not perish in the doing, or when we die. They take hold on eternity. It is with this thought that the apostle ends his grand statement of the Christian expectation of immortality, in 1 Corinthians, 15. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Every attainment here is a step in a ladder whose summit is in the heavens.

All Christian truth, rightly apprehended, is a supreme motive to right living—to honesty, purity, truth, love, and whatsoever in character is morally lovely. Any conception which lessens the importance of right living, by offering something else as a substitute, or by under-rating the effect of character upon destiny, is heresy against Divine truth.—*Christian Union.*

ROWDYISM CHECKED.

For some time past Arnprior has suffered annoyances from the presence of a number of raftsmen, who have made it their business to go round nightly, creating disturbance, tearing down fences, uprooting shade trees, and doing what other mischief they could. The Council, determined to put a stop to these proceedings, made provision, at its last meeting, for calling out any required number of special constables to keep the peace. On Sunday night last a gang of raftsmen kept parading the streets up to a late hour, at the same time making use of profane and threatening language. Mr. Martin, the Enforcer of By-Laws, was attacked by one of these men, while in pursuance of his duty watching the movements of the gang. Constable Wilson was also attacked by a couple of the rowdies, whom he succeeded in beating off, without, however, making a capture of either of them. Thereupon a number of young men from the hotels and mills were called out as special constables, and, about one o'clock, under the direction of Constables Wilson, Lyon and Martin, they proceeded toward John street, where the rowdies were congregated in front of Foley's hotel. The gang, numbering about twenty, as if anticipating an attack, stood there in solid phalanx, ever and anon popping off revolvers and other fire-arms, and with the most frightful oaths threatening all manner of vengence on the constables. The number of specials at first obtained was not thought sufficient to attack the gang—and accordingly a halt was called in full view of the rioters, while some of the constables went in search of reinforcements. Just as these were approaching, however, the rowdies taking the alarm dispersed, going in various directions towards their encampment on the other side of the river. The constables, however, succeeded in capturing two of the fugitives, one John Denison, an employee of John Bell, Pembroke, and the other Peter Kearns, in the employ of Mr. Graham. These were at once conveyed to the lock-up, and next morning were tried by justices Craig and Wait, who fined them $10 and costs—amounting to about $4 50, each. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the regular constables for their promptness in this matter, nor on the young men, who assisted them, for the readiness and zeal with which they rendered their services. It is only to be regretted that more of the rowdies were not caught, but let us hope that the example made of the two got hold of, will be a warning to others of their class to respect the law in future.—*Review.*

AN OPERA TROUPE OF PARROTS.—An extraordinary public entertainment has been produced in Lima Peru, by an Italian named Contarini, who proposes to carry his exhibition to Europe. He has trained and taught by dint of great patience, and perseverance, an opera company, made up of 30 parrots and paroquets, which perform two of Bellini's operas, "Norma," and "Somnambula," on a miniature stage, with full chorus and recitative. The director and manager accompanies the artists on a piano harmonium, and the perfection with which each bird sings his part and the excellence of the chorus is prodigious. The debut of the lyrico-ornithological company in "Norma" was attended by the wealth and fashion of Lima. When the paroquet that sang the contralto finishing the allegro in the "Salutation to the Moon," such was the enthusiasm, the shouting and the applause at hearing a bird sing the "Casta Diva" that the bird company, affrighted, took flight and sought refuge among the side scenes. This interrupted the performance for nearly a quarter of an hour, and Signor Contarini had to tranquillize the "artists" by giving them bread soaked in wine. Thenceforth the expressions of approbation were moderated in order not spoil the play. It appears that the bird artists have now become accustomed to the applause. The correctness and propriety with which they give certain parts of the opera are wonderful. The primo tenore possesses all the airs and graces of the School of Mario, and the Ladies of Lima have named the prima donna Patti.

Toledo, O., July 16.—A cable despatch announces the safe arrival at Cork of the schooner C. B. Benson, which sailed from this port in May last, and from Montreal June 4th, with a cargo of 24,000 bushels of corn. This vessel together with the Pemlico of Chicago, was recently reported lost off the coast of Newfoundland.

IMMIGRATION.

We find the following interesting letter on the subject of "Immigration," in a recent number of the Halifax *Chronicle* which is deserving of attention:

MR. EDITOR,

It is conceded by every writer of note in the United States, and confirmed by the unanimous testimony of all travellers who have visited that country, that the unparelleled progress of the Republic is owing in great part to the ever flowing stream of immigration that has been directed to the States from Europe; while the Provinces composing the Dominion of Canada have thriven mainly by the growth of the native population, which has been constantly depleted by a constant out-flow of the rising youth of the country in the direction of the Republic, not because they are Republicans, but because the slow growth of their native country fails to satisfy the active energy of youth. In consequence of this state of affairs, the progress of the country is retarded; in the most flourishing districts there is not labor enough to work the available land, of which most of the farmers have too much, the prevailing desire being more in the way of owning land than in the thorough cultivation of it. There is hardly a family in Hants, Kings, or Annapolis counties from which the young men have not emigrated from Halifax or Boston, or taken to trading or other occupations without any provision being made to fill up the places vacant by the exodus of the native population; and in Pictou, Antigonish and Cape Breton, matters are in a worse condition. The metropolis is suffering in every branch of trade by reason of the depletion of the country. A city cannot thrive unless it is surrounded by a rural population. Manufactures cannot exist unless there is a population to use the product of labor and capital. This is strikingly demonstrated by a visit to St. John, where all is stir and bustle as compared with the unfrequented streets, increased competition, and almost stationary population of Halifax, once the trade importing centre of Nova Scotia, and other provinces who now import their goods direct instead of through Halifax firms. The opening of the outports as ports of entry has reduced the trade of the capital to a retail trade, for a city of thirty thousand inhabitants, and the wholesale trade, formerly in the exclusive possession of our merchants is shared in and to a large extent monopolized by Montreal firms, who penetrate into the most remote districts. With all these causes in operation, we are content to go on without an effort to recover our lost trade or fill up the gaps in our population. If you speak to a member of the Dominion Government he is either indifferent or will explain that the Government at Ottawa are looking into it, and have appointed Mr. Jenkins, M. P., to settle the question for us. If you approach the Local Government you are told it is no use; Mr, So-and-So has charge of that department, and in fact this is not a country for immigrants,—what can you do with them? That is the question I propose to solve—not by sending an immigrant into the wilderness telling him to look for a piece of land and apply for a grant, and the Government will give his application a favorable consideration. While waiting, his means are spent; he has neither the energy to clear a bit of land and erect a shanty; if he goes on the land he has either to starve or clear out, to sink in the city, or leave the country, and ruin the reputation of a district in which, with proper precautions, he might have become a valuable resident. This is the usual experience of most of the Government immigrants; even the railroad left but a few occupied clearings on the route, as the laborers followed their work. But I beg to suggest to the farmers and land-owners of society to take advantage of the present difficulty in England between farmers and laborers, by offering inducements to settlers under certain conditions. For instance lots varying in extent from one to five acres to be set apart, and small houses built on them. In case one person can employ one or more hands on his farm at a certain wage during the year, the laborer occupying the lot or for five years and working faithfully, for one or more persons as agreed upon, to receive a deed of the land he occupies, and which he is expected to cultivate in his extra time; if he has honestly done so he has acquired a title to the soil.—Should he leave before the term agreed upon, of course he would leave his improvements behind him. In this way the farmer might find useful labor, the Government do a great service at little cost, and the laborer be planted in a state of society suitable to his former life, having a certain and reliable wage, with a bonus for good conduct at the end of five years, or in a shorter term by payment of a stipulated price. An immigration of this nature would be more suitable to the country than an indiscriminate influx of unselected settlers; as such an association would have a choice of sober reliable men, who, with their families would have an inducement to remain in the country. In this way many new settlements would be formed, and a valuable class of men attracted to our shores. I ask the farmers to think of it, to look around the waste plains and see if there is not here and in every county in the Province a mode in which by assisting immigration, large numbers of useful laborers could be permanently settled in Nova Scotia, the Government paying their passage from Europe, and forwarding the immigrants to their destination. I propose that in every country or township there should be formed an immigration there a corner in which they could find room for a laborer and his family, or whether with the help of one neighbor it could not be done, or if there is not some leading man in his district who could form such an association to assist in filling up the waste places with men who will bring new modes of culture and information. I am sure that between the farmers and the Government such a scheme of assisted immigration as I have indicated could be organized as would be productive of much benefit to the country at large. Hoping that others may be induced to consider this important matter,

I remain, yours truly,
JOHN MCCULLOCH

Lowell, Mass., July 16.—A thunder storm and hurricane passed over the city to-day, doing great damage to chimneys, church steeples, fences, and insecure buildings, but, so far as known, no loss of life occurred.

Sand Point July 14.—A Frenchman employed as road repairer by the Canada Central Railway Company, was drowned on Sunday afternoon. He and another went out in a bark canoe, and it being windy at the time got upset. His name is Herbert Ritchie; his people live somewhere near Lancaster. The body has not been found.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

New Westminster, June 23.—At a meeting to consider the railroad question held on Saturday evening, the following resolutions were passed:

Resolved—that whereas the people of Victoria protested in the name of the people of British Columbia against the non-commencement of the railroad on Vancouver Island; and, whereas, we do not consider the building of the railroad on Vancouver Island would be a commencement of the Canada Pacific railroad, and that Mr. McKenzie's Government is bound by the Order in Council, which named Esquimalt as the terminus, and—

Whereas the branch line from Esquimalt to Nanaimo, if built at all, should not be commenced until such communication is established with the interior as will enable our own producers to supply the market created by the construction of the line—

Therefore be it resolved, that we repudiate the action of the people of Victoria, and deny their right to speak in the name of the people of British Columbia.

The second resolution read as follows:

Resolved that we reiterate the resolution passed at the meeting held in this city, on Saturday, 9th May last, and—

Resolved, that a committee appointed to draft a petition to the Dominion Government setting forth the substance of the resolutions; the committee to report to an adjourned meeting on Wednesday evening, and—

Resolved, that a synopsis of these resolutions be telegraphed to Mr. McKenzie.

Yale, June 23.—At a meeting held last night, it was carried unanimously that,

Whereas, it is expedient that public opinion should be expressed in regard to the railway policy of the present Government of the Dominion, and after a full discussion of the same, be it therefore

Resolved that in view of their great importance complete surveys should be made through out the Mainland before deciding the line of railroad, and that until such surveys are completed it would be impolitic to commence such a great national work without information as to the best route of the railway; and being satisfied that the Government will at an early date after the surveys are completed commence the actual construction of the railroad on the Mainland of British Columbia, this meeting is therefore of opinion that the railway policy of the Dominion Government is in the true interests of the Dominion, and that we unanimously endorse the same. Secondly

Resolved, That we condemn in the strongest terms the course pursued by the Local Government in their refusal to open negotiations with Mr. Edgar, the confidential agent of the Dominion Government, in regard to the extension of time, and

Further, we condemn the imprudent course they have thought proper to adopt in appealing to the Queen in Council. Thirdly,

Resolved that in view of the great importance of the Province, that the complete survey of the valley of the Fraser should be made in order that this summer the line may be located; as it is the opinion of many engineers that this route is preferable to any other, traversing the most settled portion of the Province, the meeting therefore most strongly urge that the Dominion Government have such surveys commenced.

THE BEECHER CASE.

New York, July 17.—The Brooklyn "Eagle" says Beecher's statement is ready for Committee; He denies he ever made impurity intimations to Mrs. Tilton. He acknowledges Mrs Tilton complained to him of her husband, and spoke of him going with strange women, and proved her statement was true, and finally begged him (Mr Beecher) to advise her as a man and a minister what to do. Mr Beecher after long deliberation and considerable hesitancy, advised her, if she felt she could not reclaim her husband, to leave him. After a time Mr. Beecher felt that he had made a mistake in giving this advice; thought that perhaps if left to the impulses of his own generous nature, Tilton would have abandoned the strange women after whom he had been running, and return to the peace of his own household. In this condition of mind he apologized to Mr. Tilton for what he had done, and promised to extend him the right hand of good fellowship in future and bury the past utterly. Mr. Tilton's forthcoming statement, will, it is said, disappoint the public greatly.

A RAID BY GRASSHOPPERS.

Washington, July 9—The following was received at the war department today:

To the St. Paul, Minn., July 9.
Secretary, Washington.

A terrible calamity has befallen the people of the several countries in north western part of the State. The locusts have devoured every kind of crop, and left the country for miles perfectly bare. They did the same thing last year in the same area. Many thousands are now suffering for food and I am using every public and private source that I can lawfully command to send immediate supplies of food. This State is entitled to two years quota of arms, estimated at $8,160. I respectfully request that the subsistence department be ordered to turn over to me in lieu of these arms a quantity equivalent in value rations or such parts of a ration as I may request. I should not make this request but for the gravest reasons, and to prevent immediate starvation. I have used every resource which the State has given. I earnestly hope that the obstacles of form will not be allowed to interfere. Please advise me by telegraph

(Signed,) O. K. DAVIS,
Governor.

The people of Toulouse must be a hard lot. A writer lately said of the city: "is a large town, containing 60,000 inhabitants built entirely of brick."

A WHOLESALE SUICIDE.—A very sad and peculiar suicide in Paris recently was that of a man who threw himself from the Point de Solfeune into the Seine, holding in his hand a bag wherein he had placed his cat, his dog, and two canaries. He was taken out terribly injured, though still in possession of his senses, but the poor animals were all dead. It declared, on being conveyed to the hospital, that, being weary of life, he had resolved to quit it, taking with him the only creatures that had not ceased to love him when misery and want became his portion. He died in a few hours after being rescued from the Seine.

AT PEMBROKE.

DISGRACEFUL OUTRAGE, PEMBROKE, July 11.

A very disgraceful occurrence took place in this town on Monday last. A dance in connection with a wedding was being held in the house of a respectable French family on Lake street that evening, to which a number of strange men endeavored to gain admittance. The occupants assured them it was a private affair, in which none but invited guests were to take part. At this the intruders took themselves off, but soon returned in greater numbers. Being again told that they could not be admitted they threw a volley of stones and sticks through the windows, broke down the door, and, forcing their way in, proceeded to smash up the furniture; and then, not finding any one to oppose them, and no more damage to be done, they went off. Several young men were promptly arrested by the town constable, and on the following day they were brought before Mr. Justice Thompson who committed four of them for trial, namely, J. Wilson, R. Burke and two Paynes. The prisoners elected to be tried summarily, and their trial before Judge Deacon took place yesterday, the 10th inst. The judgment rendered against them was twelve months in gaol in Toronto at hard labor.

The Herald,

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JAMES POOLE,
EDITOR and PROPRIETOR

The Herald.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT $1 A YEAR

CARLETON PLACE, JULY 22, 1874.

The old fashioned test of personal morality and private individual decency of character being required in candidates for high educational offices is set at nought by the nomination of Mr. Sangster, at a convention in Toronto, by a majority of two votes to the educational council of the Province. Has it come to this that the school teachers of this Province have decided that the morals of candidates for public office are in no case legitimate subjects for discussion, and ought not to be taken as even an element in considering whether these candidates should be rejected or elected? If candidates may be drunkards, the most scandalous, and whoremongers; if it is never to be whispered as an objection to any of these gentlemen that they have violated the sanctities of private life, and seduced their friends' and neighbours' wives or daughters; if with brows of brass, that know not how to be ashamed, they, after setting all honour and decency at defiance, claim still to take their places among the rulers and councillors of the land, though they deserve to be lashed out of all decent society with a whip of scorpions, be it so. Let us only know that this is the new code, and that his is the proper way of proceeding, and then we shall understand how to deal with it, and how to characterize it in language appropriate and unmistakable. We, on the contrary, are old-fashioned enough to believe that personal morality and private individual decency of character and conduct are very important points to be considered when men are being chosen to fill offices of public trust, emolument and influence; and we hold that nothing can be more injurious to a nation's character and a nation's prosperity than that public offices should be filled on any other principle, whether these be connected with the legislative executive, or educational affairs of the country.

The new panacea for hydrophobia: "File the dog's teeth." This of course will be acted upon (as it has the sanction of the physicians), to the great inconvenience of the curs and the annoyance of their owners. It is curious how custom dulls people's perception of the greatest dangers, while they are at the same time so acutely sensible in regard to any irregular death. A dozen diseases could be mentioned which kill their tens of thousands where hydrophobia kills one. Yet these diseases excite no alarm, while one case of hydrophobia seems to affect the whole nation. Defective drainage causes more deaths in a month than all the mad dogs in Christendom do in a century. But no one thinks of being excited about bad drainage. Human folly is perennial.

The Rev. G. W. G. Grout begs to return sincere thanks to the members of L. O. L. 48, Carleton Place, for their most kind and handsome gift of $15 in acknowledgment of some very slight services.

TAKING IT COOLY.—One of the most disagreeable companions on a hot Summer's day is a hot stove, and yet how many women who read this article feel compelled to spend many hours out of every twenty-four with this black, silent, fiery, kitchen partner. Is there no escape? Suppose the kitchen door opens on an ample porch, with a roof over it and a honeysuckle in front of it, or a grape-vine, or a hop-vine, or morning-glories, or flowering beans clambering up a trellis and shutting out the ardent rays of the sun. What a nice place that would be for carrying on the various activities of a Summer's morning. One could wash there, spread the ironing table beneath the growing grapes, set the dinner table there, shell peas, stone cherries, and do a thousand other things in the open air while keeping an eye on all that goes on in the kitchen. If there is but a step to the ground, two or three large trees just at the door are better even than a porch.

It does not occur to a great many women that there is any better or easier way of doing than the one to which they have become accustomed. The tendency of housework is to settle into a fixed routine and wear deep ruts, to go out of which is no easy matter. But it is not a bad plan to start inquiries in every department of domestic industry, and try experiments until one finds out the easiest way of accomplishing the matter in hand. In the Winter of course the nearer the ironing and baking table is to the stove the fewer steps will be required but this is not the first consideration in Summer, and if one will have a high chair to sit in while ironing or baking on a low table, the distance from the stove will not amount to much.

There is another matter not very well understood by cooks. We use entirely too much fuel, we cook by too hot a fire, we eat too much hot food, we boil our soups and our vegetables furiously, when all we want is simply to raise the temperature of the liquid in question to 212 deg., which can be done with a moderate fire and no inconsiderable saving of stove-lining, and physical discomfort. It is calculated that one-third of the power generated in any machine is consumed in overcoming the friction, and one great problem with machinists is to reduce the friction to its minimum. Let us apply this problem to housekeeping, and begin by studying all the ways in which we can keep cool.

The Northern Colonization Railway Company of Montreal is displaying much energy. Last winter Mr. Charles Legge, in its service, made an exploration between Aylmer and the mouth of the French River. His report speaks favorably of the route traversed. He is of of opinion that it will be easy to construct a railway on the east side of the Ottawa as far as the Matawan, where the river will require to be crossed and the road continued to the Georgian Bay. This line is 414 miles from Montreal to the mouth of the French River; 115 of the distance, the line would traverse Ontario, and 229 miles would be in Quebec. A second line, by Carleton Place, is 406 miles; a third by Ottawa, Carleton Place and Pembroke, 413.35 miles; a fourth is 426.25 miles; and a fifth, by the Grand Trunk to Toronto, 563.75 miles. The Province of Quebec has granted 10,000 acres of land a mile from Quebec to the mouth of the River Creuse, a distance of 397 miles, and will give an equal proportion if the road be continued within that Province as far as the Matawan. The continuation would entitle the company altogether to 1,700,000 acres, much of it covered with valuable timber, and estimated to be worth from $1 to $5 an acre, on an average of $2; which would produce $3,500,000. The County of Pontiac has voted $150,000; the Federal Government $616,000, and $600,000 is expected from the cities of Montreal and Ottawa. When these amounts are obtained, the financial question will be resolved by issuing $1,734,000 in bonds.

It will be remembered that a furore was caused a few years ago by the velocipede in Canada. The excitement lasted several months, and everybody seemed to be provided with the skeleton two-wheeler. Suddenly, however, the machines disappeared from street and turnpike, and since then literally not one has been seen. In Europe the passion for this rapid mode of locomotion has by no means died out. The velocipede is used extensively on the mail routes of France, and a few months ago a great race took place between a bicycle and a horse, all the way from Paris to Lyons. Oxford and Cambridge have also just had a bicycle race. The start was from Oxford and the finish was at Trumpington, outside of Cambridge, a distance of eighty-four miles. The race began at 9.30 a.m., and was over a little after 6 p.m., Cambridge being the winner.

At the Quebec lunch Mr. Mackenzie said the proposed Reciprocity Treaty was as advantageous to Canada as could be desired. No doubt, he added, it would be said the Americans acquired new advantages; but what one side lost in one place, it gained in another. It was possible to be mistaken as to details; but, viewing the matter as a whole, he did not think we had made a mistake in the negotiation. The Quebec Press is far from being unanimous in accepting this view.

It is the intention of the Postmaster General that hereafter security for the faithful discharge of the duties of their offices will be exacted from all Post Offices employees holding positions of trust.

Free postal delivery will be begun in Montreal on the first of September; and as soon thereafter as possible the system will be extended to all cities with a population of twenty thousand and upwards

FRANKTOWN.—The Rev. A. Fisher, of Franktown, was lately presented by his parishioners with the handsome sum of $120, and requested to apply it towards purchasing a monument for his wife, whose sudden death in the midst of her usefulness they have not ceased to deplore. Their sympathy with their beloved pastor, during his severe bereavement, has been of the warmest character, and has taken this touching expression, than which nothing could be more gratifying to his feelings. Though amongst them for little more than a year Mrs. Fisher had endeared herself to her husband's parishioners, by her amiability and gentleness, and her death was keenly felt and lamented. The warm sympathy and kindness shown Mr. Fisher and his family, under their heavy trial, have been most consoling, and he can never forget that under his trying circumstances he has been sustained by their kind and loving hearts. The above is only one, of many tangible expressions of kindness, received by Mr. Fisher during his ministry at Franktown, and cannot fail to be of the most gratifying and encouraging nature to him in his labours amongst his people.

COM.

What we feared when the new contract was entered into for the carriage of passengers and freight to Manitoba has already happened. The carrying appliances are admittedly unequal to the work; and a great jam on the route is reported. There is a scarcity of everything necessary, even provisions, and passengers have been detained on the route twice and in some cases nearly three times as long as the trip had previously under more favorable conditions been made. It is no excuse to say that there is a great increase of passengers and freight; for this was to have been expected and should have been provided for. Under present circumstances, communication with Manitoba is difficult enough; and every facility possible ought to be obtained. Whether we can expect this under the contract now subsisting is almost more than we dare hope for. If the contractors find they cannot do the work, they ought to give the Government an opportunity of getting it done through other instrumentalities.

We have Health officers in Carleton Place. It was announced several weeks ago in the HERALD, that the council had selected several wise men of the place, and constituted them, a "Board of Health." An advertisment also appeared, about the same time, which gave indications of life and activity, and led people to believe, that something was going to be done. That vigorous measures were about to be adopted, to enforce sanitary regulations. Can anybody tell what that board has accomplished? Have they done anything? Was their appointment a mere farce on the part of the council, and accepted by them for the mere name of the thing, without any purpose of performing the onerous and responsible duties of the office? We pause for a reply.

Mention has been made in some of our recent telegrams of laborers out of employ in the United States returning to Europe in search of work. We do not know this may not be true in some instances; but we find in a New York journal a statement which may have helped to give rise to the report. It is said that the competition this summer between steamship companies has been so keen, especially for homeware steerage passengers, that tickets have been sold so low as $12.50. Many Germans and others are taking advantage of these rates to make a visit to their fatherland. The steamer *Britannie* is said to have taken out 800 cabin and steerage passengers, and the rush at the close of last week was very great. Probably among the crowd may be many who are discontented with the recent hard times, or desirous of change, who intend to try their luck again in the old world.

THE POPE A TEETOTALLAR

We think no church in America has of late surpassed the Roman Catholic in in zeal against intemperance. The Pope in his letter last winter to the Massachusetts Catholic Temperance Union planted himself amongst the foremost of reformers. He says:

In your zeal, consequently, to abolish this disreputable and promiscuous custom, you not only struggle against one vice, but in your efforts to stem the the numberless evils flowing from this source you also advance the interests of your religion, promote the welfare of your fellow men and the prosperity of your country. And should you with God's grace, prosecute the movement to success, you will call down manifold blessings on your own people. For Saint Augustine observes, "Sobriety is the mother of all virtues. . . It puts to flight sin and crime, shuns the danger, is faithful to duty, and rules over the home and family with care and moderation."

We exhort you, therefore, for the true welfare of your country, rigorously urge onward the total abstinence movement under the guidence of the church. Thus will you, beyond all contradiction, deserve well of God, of the church and of your fellow-men. We most cordially wish you the largest measure of success in your labors; and in token thereof, and as a pledge of our paternal tenderness, we most lovingly impart to you, beloved children and to all those who will engage in the same work with you, the Apostolic Benediction.

The comet is not very brilliant yet, and hardly fills the bill of promises; but still he is a rather interesting young chap, and grows finely.

The new Anglo-American cable is now ready, and the Great Eastern will soon begin paying it out. Every new telegraphic bond between America and England lessens the chances of a rupture of the *entente cordiale*, the hearts of the two countries being still more strongly grappled with hooks of steel.

SCHOOL PICNIC AT JAMES' SCHOOL HOUSE, LANARK.—We had the pleasure of attending a very interesting and successful Picnic on Friday last the 17th inst., in the grove in the immediate vicinity of the School House in School Section No. 12 in the Township of Lanark. The picnic was got up under the auspices of the parents of the children attending the School in that section, and which is taught by their very estimable Teacher Miss Sinclair. The day was in every respect one of the finest that could be desired for the occasion. From the number of persons present and the interest taken by them evidence is conclusive that the people in that locality take a lively interest in matters connected with the advancement of the school, thereby shewing to the rising generation the importance which should be attached to the receiving of a good education. On arriving at the place selected for the occasion we were really surprised on seeing the long tables erected and most abundantly covered with the substantials and delicacies of the season to supply the wants of the inner man—all got up in the best style and variety. On a second consideration, however, we should not say we were surprised, as from a previous knowledge of the people in this place we are sensible that the ladies who contributed to the picnic well know how to prepare and make edibles to be relished on such an occasion. The number present including the scholars of the school considerably exceeded three hundred, amongst whom were several persons from a distance. We were specially pleased at seeing present from Ennisville, A. Code, M.P.P. and Dr. Mostyn of Almonte. After ample justice was done to the good things thus provided, the chair was taken by Mr. Hugh Bowland in a convenient place prepared for that purpose, who in his usual eloquent style addressed the audience on matters connected with the occasion. He then called upon Mr. Code, M. P. P. and Dr. Mostyn who each gave lengthy and interesting addresses bearing upon matters connected with education and Educational Institutions of Canada. Their addresses were received with applause. During the day's proceedings the amusements were enlivened by vocal music led by Mr. Docherty and several lady vocalists of the place. The grounds were prepared with swings and other amusements which were well patronised by young and old. Too much praises cannot be given to the Teacher, Mis Sinclair, for the very satisfactory manner in which she has conducted this school for some six or seven years past. Great harmony between parents, teacher and scholars exists in this school section, hence the cause of the very happy day which was spent on Friday last, and which will be long remembered by the children who were on that day present. We have to say in conclusion that we have attended scores of picnies, and many very good ones too, but it seems as if the arrangement, harmony and general life which prevailed on this occasion made *it* the most interesting one we ever attended.

It seems strange that almost before the community has recovered from the painful shock of the Mill River disaster, and directly in the teeth of the terrible warning, two other reservoirs in the same neighborhood should break and sweep away bridges and mills and houses; and even strip the soil from the earth. No lives were lost, owing to the prompt warning given by an observant resident near the reservoir, but the escape was very narrow. The losses to individuals and corporations are estimated at from $350,000 to $375,000, but these will be increased by the enforced suspension of business for many months until the works are repaired and the mills are rebuilt. It is a heavy penalty to be exacted of innocent people and thrifty communities. But if they could not understand the meaning of the Mill River calamity they must take the inevitable consequence of their stupidity with the best grace they can command. The country is full of shoddy work, and the judgment of nature's inexorable laws has been passed on scores of bridges, dams, reservoirs, and buildings. People who continue to live at the mercy of shams, without so much as making or demanding an investigation of the flimsy and uncertain structures, must not expect a great deal of sympathy when the crises comes. They should be very thankful if they escape alive, and look on their losses as a fine on their folly. And if after this any more rotten dams, or half-built reservoirs, or make-believe bridges break, those who suffer in consequence will look in vain to the public for a sympathy they have no business to need.

We clip the following from one of our country newspapers:

"In pursuance of the statues and in accordance with the by-laws in such case made and provided, public fairs will be held [among other places] at Ballicroy, on the first *Tuesday* of January, April, July and October, except said fair fall on *Sunday*, then on the *Monday* following." (*Sic.*)

While it is impossible not to admire the piety which promted the addition of the proviso, it must be admitted that a superfluity of caution is displayed. Whether this perspicuity as to time is owing to the combined wisdom of our legislators, or whether the peculiarity arises, as the name of the locality would seem to imply, from an Irish atmosphere redolent of "bulls," we are not informed.

It is a remarkable fact that a man named Barbier, in Michigan, imagines he has been bewitched for five years by an old woman. Most men are bewitched by women under forty.