

FROM OUR OWN OBSERVATORY.

Judge McDougall Upholds the Toronto Sunday Car Vote.

THE litigation over the Sunday car vote has ended in a complete fiasco. Judge McDougall, who was appealed to by the Sabbatarians to inquire into the validity of the vote of May 15th, after hearing lengthy arguments on both sides, decided on Friday last that, though under the Acts of the Legislature he had power to open a full inquiry and make a scrutiny of the votes, the Anti-Sunday Car people had utterly failed to show any solid grounds for doing so. Though there had been ample time to make inquiries, and the petitioner asserted that he had full knowledge of the circumstances, neither in the petition nor in the affidavits by which it was supported had a single specific charge of wrong doing been set forth, and no reason had been shown to justify him in entering upon a lengthy and expensive investigation—a "fishing voyage of discovery," as he called it. A more severe condemnation of the pettifogging and unscrupulous tactics employed by Blake and the rest of the Sabbatarians could not well be imagined.

The "Strong-minded Woman" as a Mother.

The popular novelist of this generation has drawn many a picture of the woful effect in household affairs of the efforts made by women to secure a better and more solid education, and juster treatment as responsible members of society on equal terms with men. One would think at first glance, that more knowledge, more liberty, and more responsibility could have no possible evil result; but this is one case, out of many, where custom and prejudice, and a method of looking at things from the narrowest and meanest and most selfish point of view has led many, even of the most cultured of our literary men, to take up a position of opposition to what, at the first as well as the last view, would seem to be, not only a natural outcome of modern educational development, but a sternly-demanded reform in our social life. This letter from Mrs. Alice Stone Blackwell, in *The Woman's Column*, might be taken as a text by our Woman Suffrage friends, and extended to almost any degree with corroborative examples from their own experience:

"STRONG-MINDED MOTHERS.

"An anonymous correspondent, in a recent letter to the papers, says that the children of to-day are more excitable than those of fifty years ago, because they are left to servants, and on coming home from school they find their mother 'off to some woman's rights meeting, or casting her ballot.'

"Nothing so stirs the indignation of the children of suffragists as the charge that the women who attend equal rights meetings neglect their offspring. Whatever it may please outsiders to imagine on this point, we know by happy experience that there are no better mothers in the world.

"At the party given in honor of the seventieth birthday of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe (a suffragist), her son told one of the editors of the *Woman's Journal* that he wished the public could know how completely, in the eyes of her own family, Mrs. Stowe's fame as an author was eclipsed by her virtues as an almost ideal mother.

"From Juvenal's time down to our own, the great enemies of maternal duties have been fashion and frivolity. Children are neglected for 'society' a thousand times where they are neglected once for philanthropy or reform.