

There is a new plan being adopted in New York for the amusement and improvement of the masses. There are Sunday afternoon concerts given in the Hall in Central Park. Thousands upon thousands attend who would never think of going to a church, and they not only listen to the masterpieces of sacred music which are played, but they join enthusiastically in the singing. For instance, "Old Hundred" was, one day, what they started with, and the crowds took up the chorus "All people that on earth do dwell" and then when the closing doxology came they were enthusiastic with "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Now who knows how much good may in this way be effected? It is quite true it may be abused. The best of things is liable to this. It may by and by be turned into not sacred but secular playing. Quite true. But in the meantime is it not something worth while to draw these sweltering and toil-worn thousands away from their stuffy homes, or from the wretched and degrading whiskey dives to the fresh air, the green grass, the bright sun and "Nearer my God to thee?" Who knows what tender chords may be touched, what hidden memories may be awakened! Sure TRUTH is, at any rate, that those listening to such music under the green trees and stretched on the green grass are more likely to do good and to get good, than by hulking about the dram shop or listening to such senseless and often irrevocable drivel as is too often served up to them on Sunday afternoons, in our own among other parks and public places.

What is wrong with cremation? It is said to be very unhealthy, far more so for the living than burying the dead in the earth. Perhaps it would not cause an abominable smell. Perhaps it would. In any case however, if a man wishes his body to be cremated rather than be eaten by worms, why should he not be gratified? The last proposal is to make all graves at least six feet deep and to allow no more than one to be buried in one grave. Then when a grave is filled in this way just let it go back for farming or grazing purposes, and take in another lot. In this way, also, the dead would be utilized by being made to yield some greater fertility to the fields for the benefit of the living. It is very evident that as population increases there must be great economy practised in taking up land for interment.

The less that the Duke of Argyll or any other Duke or Lord, either of England or Scotland, says about the blessings of landlordism, so much the better. It has been and is one of the basest, most grinding, most unjust, most selfish, most merciless systems that ever cursed any part of God's earth. There is not one nobleman in ten who can show title deeds for one twentieth part of his lands except use and wont. They gave nothing for their lands. They were simply stolen by the strong hand or secured from kings for the meanest and basest, and least defensible of services. Through this system the people of England and Scotland have for centuries been cursed and fleeced and enslaved. There are thousands and tens of thousands in Canada

and all over this Continent who carry with them bitter memories of what they endured and what they suffered in the Old Country. No, my Lord Duke, it ill becomes you to say a single word on the subject. Sir James Graham, Sir Albert Peel's Home Secretary, knew better when he said "All I have is in land, but I do wish these fools of landowners would not talk about the burdens—the extra burdens—on their property. They are leading people to enquire into the actual facts and when these are known it will be seen that they are all exactly of the opposite character, "I do wish" would Sir James add in disgust. "I do wish they would hold their tongues." Yes, that is the best thing for them if they were only wise.

There is at least one level-headed judge in Philadelphia. He lately sentenced to three months imprisonment one of these sprightly people who point "unloaded" pistols at the heads of friends.

What ought to be done with Bank Managers who by reckless speculation and careless and criminal handling of Bank funds, cause the loss of capital and it may be of life to many helpless and deserving persons? They generally, if not always, get off scott free, unless they are found to have been actually stealing. But what else than stealing have they in many cases been doing? Let any one look back on the history of banks that have failed in Ontario within the last twenty-five years, and will he not have to say of many more than either one or two of those who had the management of them, "If ever any body deserved the Penitentiary these persons did?" And yet they all went unwhipped of justice and some of them still hold their heads pretty high in social life. They beggared many deserving families. They swindled them. Nay, practically they robbed. And yet apparently the law knew nothing of their criminality and has no punishment for their offences. Surely this is wrong in any way. Stock wreckers are much more dangerous persons than train-wreckers, why hang the one and treat the others as honorable men?

Every Bank Manager who gambles with other people's money and runs risks of making ducks and drakes out of what has been entrusted to his care ought to be treated as the criminal which he really is, instead of being allowed to get off as is too generally the case with no worse punishment than what his own sense of having made a mess of things may happen to inflict, and that in a majority of cases, it may easily be understood is of a very infinitesimal description.

Apparently nobody can say whether General Gordon is dead or alive. He went away we are told with the strong conviction that he would never return. But if a good man, convictions or forebodings are not to be taken as revelations. The General may come back yet all right and if he be eventually even moderately successful he will not be spoken of so harshly as he is often at present as "a crank" and so forth. Crank he may be, but perhaps it would be well for the world

if there were a great many more such cranks.

Let the great matter of Forestry and Tree Planting never be lost sight of. Every one who has even a small piece of ground should be turning it to account by planting a few trees. A great part of the success of Canada's future depends upon this being successfully set about. Mr. R. W. Phipps recommends the planting of the Silver Poplar as a tree that grows rapidly and has many good qualities.

TRUTH has no doubt that the Judge was quite correct in his ruling in the Eno case, and that the terms of the Extradition Treaty really made it impossible for him to do otherwise than order his discharge from custody, but all the same it was a very great pity that such was the case, and the Extradition Treaty ought if possible to be amended so as to corner criminals of the Eno stamp. For a rogue and criminal he undoubtedly remains branded, though legal technicalities intervene to prevent him cooling his heels in prison as he ought to have done. He will doubtless go to Europe, settle in some fashionable locality, and enjoy life thoroughly without any disquietings of conscience. Sooner or later however, as a general thing, well merited punishment falls on the heads of such men, who, though they escaped the meshes of human law yet the Supreme Justice suffers not to go unpunished. Ill-gotten wealth even in this world rarely prospers its possessor. With all their cleverness fraudulent rascals and thieves generally die if not in prison yet in poverty.

The two candidates for President have now got fairly before the country and will have to run the gauntlet of any amount of criticism. Blaine is thought to be a good deal of an American Jingo with both jealousy and hatred for Britain, a strong believer in the Monroe doctrine and an enthusiastic supporter of Protection. Cleveland has not been so prominent, has not made so many enemies, and as the choice of the respectable Democrats is expected to secure the support of the "sore head" Republicans. It is possible, however, that the advantage may be more than counterbalanced by the bolt of Kelly and Tammany Hall. The fact is that both parties are passing through a disintegrating process. Old issues on which they were at first formed, are pretty well settled and dead. New times have new questions and new interests. No party can live on mere traditions, and it is well that it can't. Even though the Democrat candidate should gain the prize the heavens won't fall or the country go to smash. Quite the contrary. It might rather be an advantage all round and would certainly issue in a reduction of the high tariff without endangering one point settled by the war. The Democrats are too level-headed to think of stirring a hornets' nest by disturbing any of those points disposed of by the arbitrament of the sword. They know that it is best for them and best for all parties that these ugly questions remain settled once and for all.

Away down in the Soudan, the Christians must not be of the material out of

which martyrs are made. They had lately the choice of turning Mahomedans or dying and they all chose the former. That may have been very convenient but it was far from heroic. And yet would a good many in Canada, under like circumstances, not do the same thing? How many in Toronto would chose death sooner than the Koran? A good many, let us hope, but perhaps not so many as some might fancy. In these comfortable sceptical days, martyrdom is no better than it is called. At least a goodly number of bustling Christians would think twice before they took the fiery crown.

So the fragments of the Greely expedition have been rescued and with no a moment to spare. Another forty-eight hours it is said would have finished the whole company. Now what is gained by all these arctic expeditions? Of course men look lofty and with a grand air pronounce the word science, but is there enough in all that to frighten any man of sense from saying what he thinks? It is awfully Fatalist, unscientific and all that, but TRUTH is inclined to ask if the game is worth the candle, though if the cause is shown it will be quite ready to recant and repent of its heresy in dust and ashes.

If teachers residences were provided in the different school sections and a strong effort made to raise the standard of remuneration, there would be more done for the teaching profession than by all that could be devised in the way of retiring allowances. Pay a man or a woman a fair liberal salary in working days, and let them provide for old age as they please. If they don't choose let the blame lie on them and the burden and loss as well. It is whispered that the Educational department is devising some plan whereby such a scheme of residence building may be encouraged on fair and equitable grounds. That is right, Mr. Ross. TRUTH will stand by you in that to the very last. It is what all the most sensible and best qualified teachers want. They don't wish to be treated like babies and told how they are to provide for old age.

There is a good deal said about waves of heat and cold. Might not something to the point be said about rascality? It seems there is a pretty big and widely diffused wave of this latter kind passing over the world just now. Apparently the rascality is the rule, honesty the rare exception. Some people say "Try women as bookkeepers. They would not cheat or cook accounts." TRUTH has a great regard for the sex and thinks the suggestion worth a trial.

The greatest sensation New York has had for a long time has been that of Lulu Hurst, the so-called magnetic girl. Without doubt there would seem to be something very wonderful, if not neither miraculous nor inexplicable, though as yet unexplained, about such exhibitions of power. The girl was tested in ways that made anything like fraud or trickery an impossibility. There are people, of course, who do denounce the whole thing as a trick, but these, it is to be feared,