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Manager and Editor

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1909

The Militia Department has issued orders that this summer no liquor is to be sold at camps of instruction. We heartily congratulate the Minister on this wise decision.

There were 2,884 deaths from tuberculosis in the Province of Quebec in 1907, while the deaths from typhoid, measles, scarlet fever and diphtheria were only 1,780. The authorities in that province need to be up and doing or the white plague will become a scourge.

A peculiar feature—the recall—is embodied in the charter of Los Angeles, California. Under its terms a mayor may not only be elected into office but, for sufficient cause, may be elected out of office by popular vote before his term expires. It seems only reasonable that when an official ceases to represent the views of his constituents he should give up his trust, but how few do so voluntarily. The system referred to is a modern political idea, and it might well be introduced elsewhere. At present the only way to get rid of an offensive official, at least in many offices, is by impeachment.

A somewhat interesting decision was recently given in the United States courts affecting the upbringing of the offspring of mixed marriages. It has been customary to exact from the Protestant party contracting marriage before a Catholic priest a written document promising that the children shall be brought up Catholics. In the case in question the Protestant said he never intended to keep the agreement; that it was not binding in law; and that it was only made to get over an embarrassing difficulty. The courts have upheld him. It is, however, laid down that the agreement is binding if made to the wife instead of to the priest.

## THE PROPOSED CHANGES AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.

The trustees of Queen's University at their annual meeting on April 28, re-affirmed in substance the position they formerly took with reference to certain changes in the constitution of the university. A resolution was passed in which it was stated that it would be greatly to the advantage of the university to make further constitutional changes, and asking that the General Assembly assent to the removal from the charter of such denominational restrictions as might impede development; and that the Assembly appoint a commission to co-operate with the trustees in regard to such changes.

The University Council had previously discussed the matter, and in that discussion the liberal spirit which has always characterized Queen's, though under Presbyterian control, was emphasized in a speech by Dr. Edward Ryan, a professor in the medical faculty. He said he was a Roman Catholic, but he would rather see Queen's under control of the Presbyterian church than cut loose from it, and be connected with no religious body. If there had to be separation he wanted to see it take place as a natural evolution, and not a complete severance. The council, however, approved of the changes.

Queen's has just received a handsome donation from one of her graduates, Prof. Wm. Nicol, of the School of Mines, who has promised \$40,000 for a new mining and metallurgical building. The provincial government has provided \$100,000 for a new chemical building. With these two new buildings the science equipment will be materially strengthened.

Incidentally it may be stated that there are 80 students in attendance at Queen's having the ministry in view. The graduating class in theology this year numbers 12.

Though the Baptists do not believe in infant baptism they seem to be moderating their views to some extent. In one of the leading churches of New York they have introduced a system of "infant dedication," which, except that water is not used, differs little from the ordinary baptismal service for children. The children are presented and a solemn charge is delivered to the parents, who are called upon to promise to bring up the children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and to teach them to pray and read the Bible. The need of some such service to emphasize the relationship between the church and the children has long been felt. It is a considerable step towards the views of other denominations which practise infant baptism.

That there are still many people who enjoy good, solid religious reading is evidenced by the large sale of books by S. D. Gordon, the author of the "Quiet Talks" series of books. The publishers, Messrs. A. C. Armstrong and Son, report that a total of 305,000 copies of Mr. Gordon's books have been sold. The Upper Canada Tract Society can furnish any of Mr. Gordon's useful books.

## "THE SICK MAN OF EUROPE."

The whole civilized world will rejoice at the turn of events in Turkey. Sultan Abdul Hamid, after an inglorious reign of 33 years, has been deposed, and the movement of the Young Turks for constitutional government is likely to be successful. Not that rebellion against constituted authority is to be commended, but revolution in this case, as in many others, means reform. Seldom has a more cruel monster sat on a throne, the Bulgarian and Armenian massacres which he permitted, if indeed he did not instigate them, showing that he was hated and despised the quality of mercy. His detourment was marked by great rejoicings, showing that he was hated and despised by his own subjects. He may now be court-martialled and condemned to death, and steps are being taken to confiscate his large fortune invested in foreign countries.

The deposed Sultan has been succeeded by his brother Mohammed Reshad Effendi, who is spoken of as a friend of liberty. On receiving a deputation from the newly constituted National Assembly, he said: "I am pleased to become the first constitutional sovereign. Doubtless my successor will improve upon me, but you may rely upon my doing my best. I also have suffered oppression and can therefore enter into the feelings of my fellow-sufferers. Let us endeavor to work together for the welfare of the country." If the new sultan lives up to these professions a new and brighter day will dawn for what has hitherto been one of the worst governed countries of Europe.

Abdul Hamid is the third sultan of Turkey who has been deposed in 35 years. His reign has been marked by three ghastly milestones—the Bulgarian atrocities, which led to the Turko-Russian war; the Armenian butcheries of 1895, and the recent atrocities at Adana. Twice he pretended to accept the idea of constitutional government, but always found means to prevent it being carried out. Now it has come, and the cause of civilization and Christianity will be the gainer.

A certain judge, Hans Hamilton, addressing a crowded audience between the acts of a patriotic play in England said he had some months ago, informed the Government that masters would come to a crisis in June 1911. He alleges that confidential information in the possession of the admiralty and the war office justify his forecast. A Canadian M. P. goes him one better and foretells war between England and Germany by June 1909. These amateur prophesies have an unsettling effect and do much harm.

The city of Hull, Que., has a club, according to the Catholic Register, which adopted the name "Veille tard," or "Stay out Late," composed of presumably respectable young men, and which existed for the sole purpose which its name indicates. The inevitable result followed. A midnight brawl, which developed into a drunken carouse, ended in one of the members losing his life. Young men who deliberately enter on such a career must expect that their course will be downward.