



TRUTH FOR THE PEOPLE

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

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HAVE YOU TRIED ?

Attention is again directed to the offer of "TRUTH Villa,"—the beautiful residence so beautifully located in this city—as the grand prize in connection with the present Bible competition. Read the full details on page 22 of this issue. Be assured the offer is *bona fide*, and the award will be fairly given to whoever may be the successful competitor for the middle answer. The time may not yet be past for success. No one can tell until the last answer is in and the time of competition expires. If you have not sent in your answer yet by all means do so; if you have sent in try again, and order TRUTH for four months to some valued friend, or have it credited that much longer to yourself. You are sure to have thus the worth of your money, any way.

WHAT TRUTH SAYS

What a necessary mutual dependence there is in community of all classes of men and of trades. The hod-carrier does not look like a very important personage among mechanics and artisans; he is not a skilled tradesman, and it would look as though any form of man of sufficient physical strength could be got any hour to do his work, or that it is not a very important work, anyway. But let the hod-carrier get on his mettle and strike, as he did in Toronto a few days ago, and *then* his importance is demonstrated. The skilled bricklayer must stop because the hod-carrier has stopped carrying up the raw material; the skilled joiner must stop because the brick walls and partitions are not made ready for him; the skilled plasterer and the painter must stop because the others have stopped; the great building stands unfinished because the carrier has laid down his hod. A hundred families may feel the pinch of the persistent strike of one man, or of one class of men—one necessary cog in the great wheel of industry.

As civilization advances and industries grow in extent and importance, the mutual dependence of men on each other becomes greater and greater. If a small log house, or an Indian's wigwam would do, a man with the aid of two or three of his immediate friends could do all the necessary work, and strikers could be put to defiance, but men, especially in the large centres of population and wealth, have become too much refined for such rude structures, and so there can be less personal independence than before. There are certain penalties and discomforts attending civilization, just as there are those attending the lack of it, and there are certain important lessons civilization teaches unmistakably, not the least important of which is that no class of industrial men, however humble their calling, are to be lightly esteemed, or to be considered unnecessary.

Intelligent men may well be divided in opinion in regard to the continuance of the policy of the Ottawa Government of appropriating large sums of money to assist immigration to Canada. There is a good deal to be said on both sides of the question. Canada wants additional population. There are yet millions of acres of very fertile land unoccupied and untitled; there are great manufacturing facilities yet unused; there are good opportunities to millions of people to live and prosper in Canada—if they are the right kind of people. That "if" is a very important consideration; it is the turning point in the whole issue. This year the Government proposes to expend \$300,000 in assisting immigrants to Canada. The Opposition leader urges that the system of assisted passages has a tendency to bring among us a very undesirable class of people, who become paupers on our hands, or inmates of our prisons. No doubt a great many more of the undesirable class will reach Canada under the assisted passage system than would otherwise reach it. No doubt, too, a good many of a desirable class will come in that way. We must strike an average. There are to-day in Canada some excellent and prosperous citizens who came here under the assisted system, and there are some most wretched people who came in the same way.

One thing is pretty evident: Canada is not, just now, in a position to desire anything like the number of immigrants, dependent on their daily labor, as it was in the days of more prosperous business. Times are dull just now, and may continue so for a year to come at least. Many of our laboring people cannot find ready employment now, and it seems like a cruelty to increase their number. What we do need more than anything else is a class of industrious farmers with enough energy to go at once to the near sections, and with enough capital to carry them through the first year or two after settlement. Even such people are more likely to come to Canada instead of going to some other country under the assisted passage system. If it can be so arranged as to discriminate between such and the to-be-dreaded class, all right. If it cannot, then let us stop aiding until at least the labour market is in a much more healthy state than it now is.

The Parnellites appear to cling to their determination to stand aloof from both great parties in the British House of Commons. They united with the Tories to vote down the Gladstone Government, but they refuse to go with their new allies now that the Salisbury Government has been formed. When the formal change of seats took place from the Opposition to the Ministerial sides of the House, the Parnellites only moved to grab the best seats they could find vacant during a veritable scramble. It looks as though they intended to remain united for scrambling purposes, throwing their votes and influence for this side or for that, just as it may best suit their own purposes in each individual emergency. Such a course may just suit the ideas of some men who greatly

admire independence from all political parties, but it is doubtful if any high minded Government can long continue in power under the British system, constantly menaced by any considerable party of independents of that stamp. It yet remains to be seen how much the Irish cause will gain when championed by a set of men resorting to such tactics.

Certain American politicians are evidently making a good thing out of Presidential campaigns, and no sooner is one over than they strive to usher another in. The *Current* says that these men show a strong disposition to begin the next campaign at once, though the election will not take place till '89. It well says: "The Government is for the people, and if the people need anything in this world, just now, they need a little time to attend to their personal business. The politician has had the ear of the private citizen; now give the business man a chance." Some such remarks would apply very well to the latitude of Canada as well. We have a class of men who manage somehow to subsist on political campaigns, though just how it is done is not well known to all. Let such leave the business men alone, a part of the time at least, and give them a fair chance.

The reports from England in connection with the political crisis, culminating in the fall of Gladstone and the rise of Lord Salisbury, may make very interesting reading, but surely few real Britons will feel much prouder of the nation after perusing them. The House of Commons ought to be the wisest and gravest of all the deliberative bodies of the nation. To it is committed the most important affairs of the nation—such as most deeply affect the interest of all the people. The evidences of wisdom and gravity displayed during the crisis have been of the most questionable character. To read of a Government pressed to the wall and defeated on the paltry matter of an extra shilling tax on spirits or beer; to read of all parties and all factions—divided on every thing else—uniting together to tear down an existing Government, without any understanding whatever of any united action for the formation of another; to read of the leaders of parties, like Lord Randolph Churchill and Parnell, rising in their seats in the House and swinging their hats and yelling, as do the interested spectators at a prize fight, must bring with the reading a sense of real humiliation to every truly loyal and truly spirited citizen of the nation. Is it by such men that the great British nation is to be governed? The mother who once said, "go forth my son and behold by what fools the nation is governed," is long since dead, but her daughters may rise up and give similar advice to their children.

The reports of the formal resignation of the one Government, and the formal acceptance of the seals of office by the other, are calculated to inspire similar feelings of pain and disgust. When the retiring ministers went to Windsor Castle, last week, to for-

mally deliver their seals of office into the hands of the Queen, and when the incoming men went the same day to accept theirs from the same royal hands, great crowds of citizens of all shades of politics were reported to have assembled to witness the arrival and departure. And what citizens they appear to have been. The aged and earnest Gladstone was cheered and hooted at by the respective factions of the crowd; "hisses and groans," it is reported, "preponderated at the arrival of Right Hon. Hugh Childers, the retiring chancellor of the Exchequer, the presumed author of the extra beer and spirit tax." The new Premier, Lord Salisbury, was cheered and hissed at with about equal vigour, and he is said to have scowled savagely at those who hissed. The *Jingoes* roared with applause at the appearance of the pugnacious Randolph Churchill, and so the circus went on until all had come and gone. These men were among the electors of the nation—the veritable masters of the members of the House of Commons—the citizens of the world's great metropolis! It does look as though the school master has yet a great work to do, and the minister has a great mission field where his services are greatly needed without one moment's delay.

Cholera, of the most virulent and rapid character, is now prevailing in the south of Spain, and the panic among the people in consequence, is said to be fearful. All classes of society, it is said, are being attacked, and thirty thousand people are reported to have fled from their homes in Murcia. An outbreak of that kind so early in the year will not be apt to confine itself to the one country alone. America will be fortunate if the dreaded disease does not cross the Atlantic this year. Every sanitary precaution should be taken by us to remove every possible cause for such a disease in our midst.

Mormonism is becoming more and more effectually hemmed in, and the day of its extermination, or the extermination of its most debasing feature—polygamy—seems not far distant. Not only have men been fined and imprisoned in Utah for practicing polygamy, but three of its missionary elders have been imprisoned in Tennessee for preaching polygamy. Of course there is the usual talk about the rights of free speech, but the people are becoming too much roused regarding the growing evil to allow it to continue much longer.

The season is now far enough advanced in the United States that a fair estimate of the coming wheat crop can be made. The official estimate of the Agricultural Bureau is that the total wheat yield this year will be 330 million bushels, or 30 millions less than was at one time estimated. It is said that after all required for bread and seed is deducted from this quantity the balance left for export will be quite small. The wheat market of England has been glutted for the last year or two, however, and there will probably be plenty and to spare, anyway.