



TRUTH FOR THE PEOPLE

OLD SERIES.—17TH YEAR.

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IMPORTANT.

January 31st, the date announced for the closing of Bible Competition No. 15, falling on Sunday, all letters post marked February 1st will be eligible for entrance in that competition.

THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

The old Latins used to say, *Quod ignotum pro magnifico est*; and with us the thing unknown or unknowable is always fascinating if not magnificent. Naturally enough, therefore, we like to discuss future contingencies. The editor of the *Boboaygeon Independent* turned his gaze backward the other day to contemplate the horrible state of affairs that must have come had not Eve transgressed and death been brought into the world. The Hon. Edward Blake following in the wake of Mr. Justin McCarthy, who had caught the inspiration from Tennyson, at one time "looked into the future far as human eye can see," and saw Federation there. Sir Alexander T. Galt had been flying the same beautiful kite for the entertainment of the English while High Commissioner, and Sir John felt nettled that an officer of his Government should broach such a subject across the water. But Sir John himself favors the poetic dream now; and Mr. Martin J. Griffin is at his back, hurling red-hot sentences from the Ottawa Library in support of the magnificent fad. But neither Sir John nor Mr. Griffin can federate into one organized body the bones of British empire scattered over the globe; for geography is stronger than the combined strength of a good writer and a successful statesman.

Whatever our own sentiments might be on the matter, we are compelled for the present to look at the question of our future from a practical point of view. We have a large number amongst us who are intensely Canadian while at the same time remaining devoted to the Crown and sworn to maintain the tie that binds us. The strongest, and we believe the most influential, representative of this class is Colonel George T. Denison. He glories in Canada, and everything Canadian; but he would draw sword to maintain the tie that binds us to the mother land. He thinks that separation would not mean independence, but annexation; and he declares that the sons of the country are prepared to shed their blood now as at Chateaugay and at Chateaugay rather than submit to conquest and absorption by an alien nation. If Col. Denison's forecastings were correct, and the people believed that they are, then most assuredly would we find the sons of the country rallying around him in the hour of need to maintain the tie. In his speech at Niagara, Col. Denison declared that nobody but "wanderers and Bohemians, having no stake in the country," desired the change; and that "the real Canadians are a unit against change in our constitution. The vast majority of the newspaper press are loyal to Canada and its institutions and have no sympathy with the black sheep

that hang on the skirts of their profession." Finally, in concluding his speech, he said:

"It would not be worth while to notice this movement at all, were it not that we are celebrating the centennial of the settlement of this country, on principles diametrically opposed to those advocated now by these few, and under which we have flourished, and increased, and enjoyed so many advantages for one hundred years. I hope that at the next centennial our descendants may have as many causes of congratulation, and as many blessings for which to be thankful as we have, and that the agitators of their day may be as weak and unimportant, and as powerless as ours are to-day. If so about once every one hundred years will be often enough for our side of the case to be laid down."

Of course the worthy Colonel was simply walking with mailed heels here over the necks of his enemies. He was not content with knocking the Bohemians down, and then with standing them upon their feet to cuff them again, but he must go striding up and down over their prone bodies. We have certain sympathies upon the other side, yet we must confess that we cannot help admiring the manner in which the brave Colonel smashes the heads of the Bohemians.

An excellent article upon the subject of "Conversations," by Rev. E. A. Stafford, appears among "Our Contributors" this week. The art of free and easy conversation is one to which too little attention has been paid in the past. Mr. Stafford gives some valuable suggestions to those who wish to be instructed. Mr. John Waddell's contribution on "Truth" is a well-written article upon an important question. Mrs. Annie L. Jack's "Flowers for Bloom" is a leaf from her own experience in flower growing. "The Battle of Lacolle Mill" is a thrilling bit of unwritten Canadian history by a clever writer.

The advocates of the Scott Act in Toronto have taken heart since the election of Mr. Howland. They think that the carrying of the measure here may not be impossible after all.

"Ouida" still continues to write; and she gets six or seven thousand dollars for each of her books. In the old days she used to run down to the shores of the Adriatic, the Italian wind blowing through the coils of her long black hair, and a score of dogs following at her heels. Now her hair is shorter and is streaked with silver, her retinue of dogs are reduced to three; and they are old and budgey.

A large number of young men have passed the late Civil Service Examination. We had thought, however, that nearly every young man in the Province had already passed; but there are evidently a few left yet.

Prominent Reformers of Toronto have determined not to get behind their neighbors the Conservatives in the matter of Club accommodation for the social hour. In a few days will be opened the Reform Club, which will be located in the house lately occupied by ex-Mayor Manning on Front Street. The only political rival to this club

now is the Albany, which, though small, is very home-like and conducted according to the manner of the most comfortable and select of clubs. There is no reason why each political party in a city like Toronto should not be able to maintain a comfortable club; but the fortunes and the fate of the old U. E. Club might well dishearten those who attempt the establishment of a similar institution. If the *Globe's* statement is to be credited the rooms of the U. E. Club presented a queer spectacle after the collapse of the institution. A *Globe* reporter climbed through a window and found upon the table, heap upon heap of bills tied with red, yellow and pink ribbon, all exquisite to look upon from an artistic point of view but all unrecipited. The trouble with the U. E. seems to have been that it carried on its affairs in too magnificent a way; and that in the hour of its tribulation prominent Conservatives were not forthcoming with subscriptions. There is no reason to fear that a similar fate awaits the new Reform Club. Men of character, of means, and of enthusiasm in the party's cause are engaged in its organization. We most cordially wish success to the new Club.

Cases of extreme hardship are reported from various parts of Ireland, the sufferers being persons who have refused to conform to the will of the National League. The shadow of this tyrannical League is over every home; and acts of brutality perpetrated by its branches have reached the ears of Government.

The ghost of a Hamilton lady played havoc in the room of a freecor, at Cleveland, Ohio. She sat upon a couch in his room and then vanished. Afterwards she threw the clothing of his bed upon the floor;—and was all the while lying dead in the next room. The story may seem strange; yet we are able to believe after all that there were spirits in the room of the freecor.

Mr. W. H. Howland has revealed already that he intends to be more than a malcontent. He has written to the proper committee of the council saying that legislation must be sought for the regulation of roller skating rinks, and the licensing and surveillance of cigar stores. Both the rinks and cigar stores, it is claimed, have led to the ruin of many young girls. If the mayor-elect can accomplish anything in this direction he will justify the enthusiasm bestowed upon him by the moral, and the better portion of our community.

Diphtheria, measles and scarletina are busy in the city.

The newspapers are prepared on the shortest notice to account for anything. Lady Macdonald has gone to the North-West, and one of the enterprising journals says that "she is interested in town-lots at Regina with Lieut.-Governor Dewdney," and that she is gone to look after her property. The same paper says that Regina was made the capital to enhance the value of the lands held in the town by Lady Macdonald and Mr. Dewdney.

Fault finding is not our practice unless when the wrong-doing is beyond peradventure. For example, we never have been able to find one word of justification for the Government in retaining Mr. Dewdney in his place after the whole North-West, all the Reform and all the independent press, and a large number of Conservative newspapers had asked for his removal. Mr. Dewdney has considered himself under the special patronage of Sir John and Lady Macdonald; and on this account he has been guilty of much recklessness. He had only barely become settled in the Territories when a firm of American speculators presented him with a costly silver service. The Lieutenant-Governor accepted the presentation, knowing very well that it was a tender for his interest in the operations of the speculators. No one would have thought of objecting to Mr. Dewdney receiving such a gift upon his departure from the territories; because the act then might have been a tribute to the governor's public career, or as a mark of personal esteem. But in the case under criticism, Mr. Dewdney and the head of the speculators were entire strangers. From what we know, and from all that we learn, Mr. Dewdney in private life is very estimable, and the possessor of numerous good qualities. But his career in the North-West has been reckless and disastrous; and it has shown a culpable contempt of public opinion. The plain duty of Sir John was to have removed Mr. Dewdney when the people asked for his removal; for he was a far greater offender than Sir David Macpherson whose only offenses were ignorance of the affairs under his charge, and more or less of stupidity.

Mr. Goldwin Smith has published a pamphlet entitled "Temperance vs. Prohibition" which contains the substance of addresses delivered from time to time by its distinguished author, on the subject of temperance. The pamphlet is a concise and some what telling argument against prohibition; but nevertheless one cannot read the production with any other feeling than pain. Pain to think that a man of the sincerity, the ability, the great gifts, and the marked powers for good of Mr. Goldwin Smith should lead his talents in a cause that now has the reproach of nearly all good men and women.

It is not true, as was reported, that Mr. Goldwin Smith has sold The Grange and is about to retire to England. It was said that the climate was telling severely upon his health; but we are glad to be able to say that he has recovered completely from his late illness.

Some attention is being given to the Chinaman, and this reminds us that John has a good deal of wit under the roots of his pig-tail. When the Chinese were suffering persecution at the hands of Sand-Low Kearney and other Irish myrmidons in California, one Chinaman, raising his hands, said "Brethren we leave this place, and go to Ireland. That is the only country where the Irish do not rule."