

TRUTH.

OLD SERIES—16TH YEAR.

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OUR PUBLICATIONS.

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WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

It would seem that things are in a bad way in Zululand. Everybody is blaming somebody else, and the likelihood of still more bloodshed is all but certain. The English will need to speak and deal with the Boers in a much more decided feature than ever before things will be really quieted down, for backward as many are to believe it those Dutch Christians are at the bottom of the most of the mischief, oppression and bloodshed, which have been going on in that region for the last fifty years.

The Queen of Madagascar has been succeeded by her niece who is said to be bitterly hostile to the French. Who can wonder at that? The wonder would have been had it been otherwise.

Now that the cold evenings are setting in, with the long winter nights to follow, dancing will more or less take the place of boating and other out-door amusements. TRUTH's readers will, therefore, like to have an occasional dance piece wherewith to while away a pleasant hour; and they will, therefore, be doubtless pleased with the composition which forms the musical selection for the week. It is a bright little piece, not too difficult, or too tiresome on the fingers, while the time is sufficiently well marked to make a good piece for dancing.

Next week the citizens of Toronto and its many visitors will probably have the last opportunity, for many years to come at east, of seeing the Princess Louise and her

husband on Canadian soil. They are to visit the "Queen City" and attend the Exhibition, after which they will probably soon leave Ontario, and in a few weeks take their departure from Canada to England, having completed their required official duties in the Dominion. The conviction seems pretty general that the Princess leaves Canada with but few regrets, as life on this side of the Atlantic has never seemed very attractive to her. Especially does this appear to have been the case in regard to Ottawa, which has been shunned in a marked way during all her Canadian sojourn. Whether this has been from any dislike to the locality, or to its "society," or whether it has been because other places possessed greater attractions, the gossips may spend their time in discussing. People will always differ in opinion in regard to these questions.

The Governor-General certainly deserves credit for the loyal manner in which he has attempted to discharge the duties of his position, and he will leave the Dominion with the respect of all parties for the impartial manner in which he has invariably conducted himself in connection with the many delicate duties he has been called upon to perform. If Canadian life and society has been as unpleasant to him as to his royal wife he certainly had the good sense to conceal his feelings in the matter. The general impression is that he has rather enjoyed his reign in Canada, and he would have cheerfully extended the term had it been the desire of the Imperial Government for him to do so.

The fact that another member of the Queen's family has expressed a willingness, if not a desire, to become the successor of Lord Lorne, gives strong indications that the office has been rather a pleasant one to its present occupant. It was probably a wise decision, however, of Mr. Gladstone not to make another appointment just now from the Royal household. The experiment was rather a venturesome one in the outset, and now that it has proved fairly successful it may be just as well not to venture on it too soon again. The novelty of the situation is now gone, and at least such an appointment is attended with a good deal of embarrassment all round, even when the political waters are flowing smoothly on both sides of the Atlantic. Should a storm occur from other causes, or should any misdeed or mistake of judgement of the person appointed create a storm, the result would be most unfortunate. Probably had Gladstone been at the helm of affairs instead of Disraeli seven years ago the venture would not have been made at all. As it is few have any reasonable grounds to regret it, but it may be better just now to let well enough alone.

The Toronto Exhibition, commencing on Tuesday next, 11th inst., and continued until Saturday 22nd, promises to be the most popular and successful of the kind ever held in this city; and that is saying a great deal. Toronto has been very successful in the way of great exhibitions, and especially since they came under the sole management of its own residents. The city is so centrally and favorably situated, with such easy access

from all points, by both land and water, that a much larger number of people can easily reach it than any other city, and the accommodations for visitors are good. Fortunately for the success of these exhibitions they have been, so far, well managed, and there have been no reasonable grounds of complaint of unfairness to exhibitors, or extortions on the people. As there will be reduced rates of travel by rail and the prospects of an agreeable time generally, TRUTH hopes that all its friends will avail themselves of such an opportunity as occurs once in a year of visiting "Canada's Great Show."

What has come over the *Mail* on the R. & T. Portage affair? It is not half so vigorous on the "bull pup" and the "slugger." Is it weakening? Come, come, waken up and give the world some of your old time sneezers. What is McCabe? Say, learned Theban!

It was a pity that Mr. Seath was not appointed a High School Inspector for he has been making a terrible racket about things ever since. Something might be done yet.

On Monday the Salvation Army had a great display in Toronto. It was their first anniversary, and quite a large number from the localities west of here came by trains to take part in the demonstration. There were street parades, bands of music, the hallalujah lasses, the shouting men, and the other displays common to the "Army." In the evening it was announced that "An exhibition of living wonders" would take place in Shaftesbury Hall, and an admission fee of 10 cents was charged to witness it. These "living wonders" consisted of the "saved" members of the Army, who gave their testimonies. There can be no doubt many of them are wonders to themselves, and to others as well, compared with what they were a year or so ago, before the Army found them out, and the moral results in this connection with such a class of people, as many of them were, are certainly creditable to those concerned. It seems a pity, however, that the over zeal of so many prompt them to make exhibitions of themselves as are calculated rather to bring the whole work into ridicule than to favorably impress the people in its favor. At Shaftesbury Hall hundreds of spectators sat by the hour amused, and sometime, convulsed with laughter, the wild speeches, and sometimes wilder antics of the liveliest of the "living wonders." Few, if any, went away with increased respect for the Army here as a religious movement. TRUTH regrets it much on that account, for any movement tending to reform drunkards, and restore to decency the debased, is a movement in the right direction. It is just possible that some persons whom the churches have not reached, can only be reached by appealing to their highly emotional nature, but surely it is hardly necessary to run the whole thing so deeply into the ground.

It is probable that similar exhibitions were made by some of the men in by-gone days in the saloons and bar-rooms, stimulated by a very different kind of "spirit;" and from that stand point it is more desirable to witness them jumping,

shouting, swinging chairs, or rubbing each others heads, than after the old fashion, but if it must be done at all the great un-saved had better be spared the sight; it does them more harm than good to witness it. Can it be that it was any thing so wild in appearance as this that caused some in other days to believe that these men were filled with wine?

TRUTH does not take any stock in the success or discomforture of the two political parties so earnestly striving for the mastery in this country, but the results of the protested election trials have been most carefully watched all the same. To the truly patriotic Canadian there is a more important matter at stake than the mere success of one party or the other in the courts. It is question whether, after all, under such laws as we now have, honesty is not the best policy, even in a political election,—whether bribery, and tricks, and stratagems, are not likely to do more harm than good to those who resort to them for success. That a good deal of party knavery was prevalent in some constituencies seems pretty evident to those who have paid much attention to the published reports of these trials, but it is quite evident that it has not been possible to bring near as much to light as parties at one time expected. In some instances it may be that a good many worse things were done than could be established from the witness box, but on the whole it seems probable that our present wholesome election laws have done a great deal to give us purer and fairer elections than in former years. Our present ballot system, the registration system, and the provisions for trial of protests in our civil courts, have all been of mutual benefit in stamping out the exercise of undue influences. Even yet bribery and corruption are much too prevalent and much too respectable. It will be a good day for the political morality of Canada when a man found guilty of undue influences at elections will be treated with the same indignation and contempt as the man convicted of theft. That day cannot come too soon for the interests of the people as a whole. So far the only glaring instance of wholesale corruption and fraud were uncarthed in connection with the Muskoka case, and in that instance the punishment on the candidate himself has been of an exemplary and wholesome character. It yet remains to be seen whether others evidently as deep in the mire as himself will escape the penalties of the law. A few such judgements as that rendered on Monday last in the Muskoka case would be of material effect on our legislators and legislation for many years to come.

So the English hangman, Marwood, is dead. He was an efficient public servant, but somehow or other not so appreciated as could be desired. TRUTH has never very clearly seen why there should be such a horror at the execution of the sentence of a judge. A man with a piece of steel with which he hacks and abuses others is honorable. But a man who carries a rope to hang him, and solemnly does his duty to the law, is positively hooted and shunned. Who succeeds King Marwood?