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TEMPERATURE

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, March 4, 1882.

THE SERVANT QUESTION.

While we in Canada are puzzling over the solution of the servant question, and proposing to ourselves schemes of emigration to help us out of the present scarcity of domestic labour, it is interesting to look to the experiences of older nations, and see whether really they are much better off than we.

The servant question is beginning to greatly preoccupy the minds of the residents of Paris, both native and foreign, and so far as the servants of elegantlyappointed and wealthy households are concerned, there is room for their uneasiness. A correspondent of the Continental Gazette says:-There is no being on earth more pumpered or more pretentious than is the valet, or cook, or ladies' maid employed in one of these magnificently-appointed establishments, where from ten to twenty servants are kept. They are dishonest, presuming, and diobliging. Each individual has his or her line of duties sharply defined, and will not step one inch beyond its boundaries to aid his or her comrades or to oblige the mistress of the house. One Parisian lady dismisses every servant in her emp'oy every six months. Her theory is that the constant renewal of her household personnel ten ls to keep her domestics in good order. She gets the cream, so to speak, of their services, and just about the time that they become lazy and impertinent she gets rid of them. But in less exare plenty of good steady girls to be met with, who know how to work and who do their work faithfully and conscientiously. The worst class of the French servants are to be met with in the grandest of Parisian houses; the best keep on the even tenor of their way in quiet house holds where two, or at the most three servants are kept. And Marie in Paris has one overwhelming advantage over over Bridget, Gretchen, or Dinah in the United States; whatever she engages herself to do, she knows how to do it. She has her faults and they are grave ones occasionally, but lack of capacity to perform the service for which she engaged herseif is not among them.

In England domestic service has been for years an institution to which those, Charles Ross, met his death in an attempt intended for it are brought up from child- at robbery of an empty house at Bay

home. The greater freedom enjoyed by children results in a craving for a continuance of that freedom when they come of age to choose for themselves, and the restraints of domestic service are rejected in favour of the freer though less healthy life of the manufactory or the store.

Closely connected too with this is the different relation in which the servant at home and here stands to her employers. Whatever its disadvantages the difference which society and caste have established between classes in England has a distinctly good effect in the case of domestic service. Servants look up to their employers and respect them in a way which is rare indeed in this country. Equality as a principle is very well, but the assumption of equality between servant and mistress never will work in practice. The moral of all which is that what we want in Canada—and for the matter of that in the States-is a better and more correct feeling on the subject of domestic servants amongst the class from which they are drawn. We want to persuade mothers that service with a respectable family is a better and healthier pursuit for their daughters than the excitement and freedom of employment behind the counter or at the factory bench. We want our schools to train their pupils more with a view of the possibilities which may be demanded of them. Lastly we want to teach our young men that good house servants make the best wives. Then and not till then may we expect to see the girls themselves attracted by what now they shun.

THE PREVENTION OF CRIME.

The last of a series of three articles by Richard Dugdale in the Atlantic Monthly deals with the prevention of here in Canada no less than in the States. lating on his own account should suffer The true remedy for crime has long since instant dismissal. been recognized as prevention, and not punishment, and the first step towards such prevention is the removal of such op- that the real way to reduce our assize rolls portunities for the easy commission of is by making the commission of robbery crime as are daily offered to criminals. People are far too apt to consider that the prospect of punishment is in itself sufficient to deter from the commission of ordinary crime, and they lay themselves open to be robbed with perfect reckless-

A case appeared only recently in the city papers, for example, in which a lady, carrving her purse in an unprotected open back pocket, was not unnaturally relieved of it by a passer-by, as she leant over one of the stalls in the market. A similar case to this which occurred in New York was treated by Judge GILDERSLEEVE in a common sense if slightly irregular manner. Without hesitation he discharged tensively appointed establishments there the lad convicted of larceny, and publicly undistinguishable mass. To many this levelcensured the lady who brought the complaint because she made herself the wanton instigator to the off nce, by carrying valuable property where it was absolutely unprotected. In the article under consideration Mr. Dugdale cal's attention to the culpable neglect evinced in the case of several of the recent bank robberies, notably the Manhattan and Newark banks, the cases of which we cannot go into here.

The ordinary want of precaution exercised daily by those who have valuable property at stake is the more remarkable in these days of the telegraph, the telephone and the photograph, all of which could be made to do good duty in the recognition of criminals and the prevention of crime. Mosier, the supposed abductor of

The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is printed hood, and though the influences brought | Ridge, New York. The owner had conto bear upon them are gradually weaken- nected it with his brother's premises in ing, there is yet a class who look upon do- the immediate neighbourhood by an mestic service as the natural course for alarm telegraph, which brought the brother their children to pursue when they come and his son upon the scene in time to preof age to earn their daily bread. On this vent the robbery. By this simple means continent unfortunately other influences the entrance of a burglar into one house are brought to bear to the exclusion of | might be made to arouse a score of neighthe attractions of a good respectable bours, or to bring the police directly upon the scene. A thorough knowledge of the or minal class and their movements by the police is another item of security, much neglected amongst us. What we need to do if we are to stamp out crime at all effectively is to make the difficulties of its commission infinitely great. When the habitual criminal finds that all his movements are known and his actions anticipated; when he finds that instant detection follows upon the attempt, and that the chances of success are very faint, then and not till then will be reflect that it is hardly worth the risk.

Like almost all enthusiasts Mr. Dug-DALE perhaps carries his scheme a little too far. We question how far it will be possible for the philanthropist of the future to convert one by one the criminal population, and eradicate in the next generation the seeds of evil altogether. Still we believe that the reform will follow shortly upon the recognition by the criminal class of the unprofitable nature

of their profession. The special class of frauds to which banks and other fiduciary institutions are liable are due more than all others to the culpable negligence of directors and empleyers. In many instances, we may almost say in most, this trouble originates in stock gambling operations. Cashiers and tellers use the money of their bank for their own purposes and when unsuccessful have to resort to frauds of various kinds to cover the growing deficiency. The custom of the well-known house of Ralli Brothers has been for generations to make their branch managers partners of the house, and to require them to enter' into a contract forfeiting their position the moment they speculate in any way, and recently the New York managers forfeited their position on this account. Such a limitation in the case of all the officers and crime in society. The lesson which is clerks of a monetary institution seems deintended to be taught by the evidence he manded by common prudence, and a brings forward is one which affects us man known to be in the habit of specu-

> The moral of all this of course is that prevention is better than cure," and and dishonesty as difficult as may be.

THE CIVIL SERVICE FROM A WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW.

80. H.

DEAR SIE, -- In my first letter I threatened a with another upon the same subject.

It is a question sometimes debated whether the members of the Civil Service and their fami-Les are not too much "stuck up," and whether they should, in any sense, rank higher than a clerk in a grocery or a dry goods shop; whether the endeavors after gentility in appearance and living are not an evil rather than a good; whether there is any reason, in fact, why the arrizan and officers of the Army, Navy, and Civil Service should not mingle together in an ling doctrine is peculiarly gra eful, nor do those who think thus lack representatives in Parliament. To how many, besides, are the performances of a Hanlan more worthy of reward than those of a Dawson or a Wilson, and those of a cricketer like Grace, or a jockey like Fordham, furnish a more fitting theme of rapture than those of Tennyson or Huxley ! Each of these, in his own sphere, deserves and receives honor, and as long as the world lasts men will decide much according to their own tastes to whose excellence they will give fullest recognition. But, however excellent the fruits or corn of life, let us not hold there is no room for the flowers

Any class, having to a greater or less extent a fixed position, whether as with clergymen, or officers in the Army or Navy, or members of the Civil Service, or professors or fellows of a university, comes to have a certain degree and kind of social culture. Nor is it, it seems to me, a thing to be deprecated. If it be true, as William of Wykeham declared upon the walls of Of course asses and boors are found in the ranks cither, if continually cooped up in a hot room all

of all those who make offensive parade of, or can. not comprehend the rôle imposed upon them. But the Civil Service of Canada can boast of at least a very considerable proportion of studious men, and men of scholarly and social culture. The traditions of the service handed down for many scores of years have left the latter im-press on it. Is it wise to break down all these traditions suddenly! Will the Civil Service be really improved by driving such people out! The Civil Servant likes his little round of society. As a rule, it is by no means of an expensive sort. Even among the Deputy heads and chief clerks, such a thing as a horse and carriage for themselves is almost entirely unknown. Their reunions and banquets are for the most part very quiet and unpretending; yet, because they manage to do their little gracefully, it is made matter of offence and accusation. And chief of all is the scandalous fact that many among them are asked to go to Rideau Hall!

It does seem foolish at first thought, for poor people to do so. And yet it is the last link that binds many of them to " chat state of life to which it pleased God to call them." And did not they learn in their catechism to do their duty in "that state?"

Is it the duty of parents to drop out of the

position their birth and education entitled them

They know in the struggle for wealth they are fir behind their contemporaries, but that one thing they would like to retain for their children's sake. They may be more fortunate.

Are they not exactly in the same rank, socially, with those who have thousands, when they have hundreds! And, thank God! most Canadian men are still above marrying for mere

Another reason is, they can very soldom entertain themselves, and therefore cannot accept nvitations from private individuals. Rideau Hall is, therefore, perhaps the only place they There they see all their friends without the feeling that they ought to return the hospitality. While we feel that every one by honest industry and tolent is perfectly welcome to rise to any rank in life which his energy and ambition leads him, does it necessarily follow that those who were born in the position he has at tained should be torced down into a lower class, without any fault of their own ! Surely there is room enough for all in this large country! We are willing to do without all the luxuries that money can buy, but it is hard not to be allowed to retain the society of the refined and educated.

Are two brothers to hold a different rank, because one, who could not pass his university xamination, has gone into trade and is now a rich man, while the other became a professional man, and because his profession did not give him a sufficient salary the first two years, took a Civil Service appointment, under the impression that that at least has a certainty?

A man in business may fail for hundreds of thousands, pass through the bankrupt court, and never drop one inxury, for he has settled enough on his wife to ensure him all these; he still drives good horses, lives in a large house, and dresses better than a civil servant can do at his best. He can begin afresh, either make a for tune or fail again under the same circumstances He seems to take no standing in his society. A civil servant cannot fail. He must drag on from year to year. If sickness or troubles bring debt, law expenses are added to his liabilities, totally preventing him from saving enough out of his alary to pay his way. One expensive year, illness or death in his family, perhaps, the first cause of his embarrassments.

The merchants of Ottawa talk of hard times, and are what they call "down upon the civil servants." They are very foolish. Is not half their prosperity due to them? are not the farmers also paid for their produce by the civil

It is true Ottawa, during the session, is full of strangers. But with the exception of notels and toarting-houses, 'ew benefit by the influx. The strangers very rarely buy clothing here. Therefore, the better the civil servants are paid, the more prosperous the merchants, tradespeople and farmers in the immediate vicinity will be If there is not some reform soon, educated people would rather engage in any business than enter the service, when they have little or no hope of advancement. They see men who started in life with them, Judges, Generals, and men of fortune, while they are just as they commenced, or woise, for their money does not buy them half the comforts it did formerly. A dread of being superannuated on a mere pittance, or their children left penniless when they die is perpetually bounting them. If fair pay be not given, the people who take office will be of a lower class, or dishonest, who will rob the Government all they can, to increase their income.

They are not over-worked, it is true; perhaps it would be better if some had more to do. It the country cannot afford to pay proper selaries to such a number, would it not be better to dismiss ell the supernumaries and double the

salaries of the efficient ones? It would seem cruel at first, but would be an advantage in the end, as it would be a poor employment that a young man undertook that would not pay him better in a few years than

the one they were leaving. It is a misfortune for any young man to permanently engage in a monotonous routine. knocks the energy out of a fellow," as a young Winchester College, that "Manners maketh friend said. There is no development of the men," it is well to have these schools of culture. mind in much of their work (or of the body