

TRUTH.

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

TORONTO, ONT., NOVEMBER 15, 1884.

NEW SERIES—VOL. V. NO. 215

TO LITERARY PEOPLE

And Others Who have Anything Nice in

SHORT STORIES.

“TRUTH”

Wants Them. Read the Following:

In order to make TRUTH still more interesting, we have decided to offer one lady or gentleman's SOLID GOLD HUNTING CASE GENUINE ELGIN WATCH, worth at retail, about \$100, every week until further notice, for the BEST SHORT, ORIGINAL OR SELECTED STORY, for publication in TRUTH. The following are the conditions of competition:

1st. The story need not be the work of the sender, but may be selected from any books or periodical by any author.

2nd. It must not exceed in length six (6) columns of TRUTH. A little variation in length either way, will not be considered an obstacle to its acceptance.

3rd. Every accepted story will be published in TRUTH in its turn, and the gold watch awarded upon publication.

4th. Every competitor must send in his contribution either printed or plainly written on one side of the paper only, giving author's name and source from which the story is taken, as well as his own name and address in full, attached to the story.

5th. With each story must be sent one dollar for six months' subscription to TRUTH.

Those who are already subscribers will have their term extended a half year for the dollar sent.

6th. The first story will appear in TRUTH for November fifteenth, and weekly thereafter.

The publisher reserves the right to publish at any time any story, original or selected, which may fail to obtain a prize. The sum of \$3.00 will be paid for such story when used.

So far the number of stories received is disappointingly small. We will keep the offer open, however, for a little longer, in the hopes that they may increase.

Address all communications and contributions to
Editor TRUTH
33 & 35 Adelaide St., West,
Toronto, Can.

WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

It will require an official count of the vote of the State of New York at least, before our neighbors can determine who is to be their President for the next four years. Indications, however, point almost conclusively to the election of the Democratic candidate. They also make it evident that the Republican tactics of 1876 are likely to be resorted to again, and if better counsels do not prevail,

serious trouble, if not bloodshed, is imminent. On the whole we think the American people are to be congratulated upon their choice, provided Mr. Grover Cleveland has been elected. A Republican innings of nearly a quarter of a century has, without doubt, left a political Augean stable which sadly needs cleansing, and judging Mr. Cleveland by his public record he is the right man for the herculean task.

The only questions of political economy which have, to any degree, influenced the campaign, have been issues between Protection and Free Trade. The Republicans went to the country as pledged supporters of the present high tariff, but the Democrats by skillfully avoiding a discussion of the question left it to be pretty well understood at the "solid South" that the Chinese wall would be lowered considerably, while throughout the North, notwithstanding the assertions of the Republican press to the contrary, they have not been credited with any serious intention of interfering with the existing fiscal policy. The struggle was carried on almost entirely on a basis of recriminations against the personal characters of the rival candidates, and a memorable and bitter one it has proved.

The readers of TRUTH are, of course, aware of the charges of political corruption brought and proved against Mr. Blaine; and also of the allegations of lewdness and immorality made against Mr. Cleveland. So much has been made public in reference to both gentlemen that, if we judge them by a very high standard, neither would prove eligible for the Chief Magistracy of the Republic. But if TRUTH might venture an opinion upon a subject about which so many differ, we should say. Judge a candidate for a public office upon his public or business record, rather than by his private life. It is, of course, most desirable that he should be a pure and moral man. But honesty, ability and morality do not always centre in the same person; and not unfrequently the public is forced to decide between a candidate of mediocre public capacity and irreproachable private character and one of splendid talents, but charged with private vices. The trouble with our neighbors has been to choose between acknowledged abilities but soiled public record on the one hand and on the other an honest, fearless and independent discharge of public duty, but a private character alleged to be bad. In the election of Mr. Cleveland, we think our cousins will have chosen the least of two evils.

The vote recorded was not a strict party one by any means. Many of the best men in the Republican party refused to support Mr. Blaine by reason of his corrupt public acts, and a large section of the Irish element of the Democratic party deserted to the standard of the Republican leader, because of his alleged Anglo-

phobism, and because it was asserted that British gold was being freely spent to elect Mr. Cleveland in the interests of English capitalists and Southern free traders. It is not improbable that the result of the contest will be the blotting out of old political lines and the formation of new parties. Abraham Lincoln owed his election to a split in the Democratic party, between the advocates of Slavery and the opponents of the system. He was swept into power a second time upon a wave of war issues. Those issues also secured for General Grant two terms of office; but upon the expiry of his second term they had lost their force; the ranks of the Democratic party had closed in, and Tilden defeated Hayes, although the Republicans succeeded in fraudulently "counting out" the former. In 1880 the Republican bribery fund, it is alleged, proved too much, for Hancock and Garfield carried the day; and now, in 1884, Grover Cleveland, deserted by a large force of his party following, has carried the Democratic person to victory, through the assistance of the honest men of the Republican party who are sick of bribery and corruption.

To us, in Canada, it makes little difference whether a Republican or Democrat is the tenant of the White House, but as it has been found impossible to arrange amicable trade relations upon a just basis with the Republicans we can at least hope for better treatment from their opponents. So far as the American people, and the world at large are concerned, the greatest requirements for the Presidential Chair at present, are honesty, fearlessness and independence. Grover Cleveland has already proved himself the possessor of those qualities, and if he is but wise and consistent during the days of his administration, he can so establish his party in public favor that a long term of office will be within their grasp.

It is said that a German physician, Schweningor by name, has discovered a new way of reducing corpulency, and one, too, that is more efficacious than any of the methods heretofore in use. The plan is never to eat and drink at the same time, but to let two hours intervene between the acts. Bismarck, it is said, has been cured of obesity in this way. There are now four systems which fat folks may choose from if they wish to reduce their bodily substance. These are: 1. The original Banting, which forbids the eating of anything containing starch, sugar or fat. 2. The German Banting, allowing fat, but forbidding sugar and starch. 3. The Munich system, in which the would-be-reduced fat person clothes himself with wool, and sleeps in flannel blankets instead of sheets, and 5. The Schweningor system, forbidding eating and drinking at the same time. There is a great deal of folly, by the way, both talked and acted about physical fatness. Many otherwise

sensible people harbour the silly notion that a plentiful supply of adipose tissue is essentially an encumbrance and disfigurement, instead of being, as it actually is, one of nature's best adornments. Of course there is such a thing as being too fat, but then it is a disease, and needs to be counteracted as other diseases do. But it is not difficult to distinguish unhealthy fatness from plump, healthy fleshiness, than which nothing is pleasanter to look upon.

The people of Winnipeg got themselves worked up into a wholly unnecessary and quite undignified state of indignation over the admonitory strokes administered to the prisoner who had attempted to escape. It turned out that the report of the affair had been grossly exaggerated. And in any case the man whom the foolish mob burned in effigy and even talked of lynching, was entirely innocent. A more conspicuous example of mob-folly was never afforded by any community. It is too much the case that in such circumstances people make jolly big asses of themselves.

A very small straw can show in what way the wind blows, says the old proverb and a very little incident is sufficient to demonstrate the degree of respect in which men or nations are held. A very apt illustration of this was recently afforded in a town in Havana. An account of the occurrence was sent to one of the Chicago papers:—

"It originated in a street row," said the narrator. A crowd speedily gathered. For some reason the wrath of the mob seemed to be particularly directed against one poor fellow who, entirely defenceless and unarmed, appeared like a dog, when the American consul, before whose house he then stood, quietly descended his steps and enveloped the poor creature in the United States flag, thinking they would at least pay outward respect to that sign. Instead of so doing, the mob continued to advance, yelling and demanding the life of their victim, at the same time leveling their weapons to riddle with bullets the man and the flag together. At this juncture the English consul dashed up, and flinging over the insulted American banner the British colours, stepped back, calling out "Touch that who dare!" Like a flash the disturbance ceased, and the English consul, unresisted by a single man, bore off to safety the covering object against which threats had but a moment before been so boldly hurled.

Everyone will admit that the incident is a very striking one, even making some allowance for exaggeration. The British flag has not yet lost its power of making itself respected.

An astonishing occurrence is reported from South Carolina, being nothing more nor less than a praying match for \$500 a side between two colored deacons. Reports differ somewhat as to the cause of it, some saying that it arose from personal jealousy between the deacons, leading to a direct challenge from one to the other. Others, that certain godless fellows in the neighborhood made a bet as to which deacon could pray loudest and longest. Happily for the good reputation of the neighborhood, the profane contest did not take place, one of the deacons having yielded the supremacy in favor of his rival.