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THE THAMES' TRAGEDY.

Never in the history of Canada, save in the most sanguinary battles of the War of 1812-15, has such a calamity befallen the country as that which, on the 24th of May, turned a day of national rejoicing into one of lamentation and woe. No element of the deepest tragedy was lacking. In a moment a gay and happy holiday throng became a struggling mass of crushed, maimed, and drowning victims of criminal recklessness. Greater pathos is added to the sad event from the large number of young people in the bloom of strength and beauty who were thus cut off untimely. Many a home is desolate, and to many a heart the returning holiday will bring memories of poignant anguish. The bare record in the papers of bereaved parents seeking for their little children and husbands for their wives, stirs the fountain of tears. Scarce a family in the city had not relations or friends involved in the dreadful disaster, and the whole country is moved to profoundest sympathy. Among the lost are several members of our own Church and readers of this Magazine. God comfort, with the consolations of His grace, the hearts of all the stricken mourners.

The sorrow is all the harder to bear on account of the preventible nature of the disaster and the criminal negligence by which it was caused. We dare not arraign the Providence of God for His mysterious dispensations; but it would be impious to cast upon Him the blame for human recklessness. If commercial greed is permitted to prepare a flaring coffin for hundreds of innocent victims, God will not work a miracle to prevent the consequences. It is the obligation of the law, or

rather of our law-makers, to protect the people against the perils of inland navigation, of which many of them are unaware or forgetful, by the rigorous inspection of every vessel to which human lives are entrusted; and by the prevention, under heavy penalties, of crowding them beyond the limits of safety. In connection with excursion travel on all our inland waters exist conditions which may, any day bring upon the community a tragedy such as has plunged into grief our sister city. Toronto and Montreal are especially exposed to this peril, one with its open and often stormy lake, the other with its rapid river, and both from the number of their summer excursionists. For the past we can only have tears and vain regrets. For the future we should have the most firm and rigorous prevention of the possibility of a disaster, which, after such fearful warning would become not an accident, but a crime.

Once more this sad event speaks with solemn emphasis to each of us, "In the midst of life we are in death." There is but a step between us and the great Beyond. How circumspectly, therefore, should we walk, as on the very edge of the other world, in a state of continual preparedness for the summons, no matter how swift or sudden, from time to eternity.

FROM THE ANTIPODES.

One of the largest and best edited papers we have seen is the *Australasian*, published at Melbourne, Australia. It is a large 32 page weekly, with a 12 page supplement, five columns to the page; equal to about 160 closely printed 8vo. pages. The departments of literature, politics, art, criticism, humour, are admirably filled. Not outside of London we think can be found higher class journalism. Thus Greater Britain in the antipodes promises to maintain with credit the literary traditions of the Motherland.