

TRUTH.

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

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—Written for Truth.

Spinning.

BY NORA LAUGHER, TORONTO.

"Love leads the court, the camp, the grove,
And men below and saints above;
For love is heaven, and heaven is love."—Scott.

A pretty maid
Sat 'neath the shade,
Spinning her silks together,
There was no breeze
To stir the trees,
'Twas lovely July weather!

There chanced that way
A man to stray,
Who knew and loved this maiden,
So fair, so lithe,
Bonnie and blythe.

His heart with love was laden.
The maiden blush'd,
And gently hush'd
The wheel going round and round,
While to her side
Her lover hid,
Sitting near her on the ground.

Without the red
And silken thread,
Love spun the hearts together,
Without the wheels,
Without the reels,
Stronger than they could tether.

Sweet birds listening
Forgot to sing,
Brows bent to hear their story
The sun peep'd down,
But no'er a frown
Shone in his golden glory.

Oh! happy maid,
Life's sun and shade
Will mingle in love's spinning;
Oh! fond lover
Be true to her
When wedding bells cease ringing!

TRUTH'S MUSINGS.

They have civil damage laws in a number of the States, under the provisions of which the wives or other members of a drunkard's family, can sue for and recover damages of the liquor seller for loss of time or support sustained through drunkenness. Recently a Mrs. Bixley, of Burlington, Vermont, sued a liquor seller, under the civil damage law of that State. Her husband bought liquor of him, became intoxicated, and was drowned while in that condition. She was awarded \$380 by the court.

A local paper ventures the remark that it seems like a ridiculously small sum for a husband, but no doubt it was more than he was worth. There is a painful sarcasm in a remark like that. It may be quite true enough that Bixley, if a confirmed drunkard, was intrinsically worth little to his wife as a bread winner, and worth less yet on the score of companionship. There are thousands of women today with drunken husbands who would be well rid of them on any terms, and from an actual business point of view a court would be hardly justified in awarding ten cents actual damages for their loss. But would it have been so but for the results of the drink traffic? In many, many, cases it certainly would not. Heaven only knows the actual loss in all that makes the home desirable sustained by many a wife because of the tipping habits of the husband.

The Germans are in very large numbers in Ohio as well, and there the "German Sunday" is fast taking the place of the orthodox Christian Sunday. Only last Sunday it was announced that a grand base ball match would take place at Columbus, and over two thousand visitors pour-

ed in from the surrounding country during the day to witness the sport. It appears to have been about the first of the kind, and some citizens wishing to nip the evil in the bud, appealed to the Mayor to use his authority to stop it. The Mayor declared himself powerless, as the law stands, and if he is of the average stamp of the politician mayor class it is quite likely he would not have used his power anyway. Probably the Mayor who would undertake to do so would find himself far behind in the next election contest. The system of universal suffrage, and of elective officers to administer the law, may sound very fair and very well, but to say the least of it, it has its serious disadvantages in the great cities where the uneducated foreign citizens often outnumber the more educated, and more moral citizens of native birth. The future of the great American cities, with their large proportion of foreign voters, does not present a very cheerful prospect.

The financial panic in New York is over again and business is going on about as before. It is said that the losses were nearly all among the "wild cat" stock gamblers and jobbers. Stock dealing with many, both at New York and Chicago, has become little else than gambling on a large scale, with stakes so high that somebody must lose so heavily that ruin is sure to follow at some time. Speculators stake their entire fortunes in purchases, hoping by a happy hit to create a "corner" and thus raise or lower the price of stocks so as to make large gain. Of course it frequently happens that the biter is bitten. It is said that the official financial statements go to show that the banks and broker's firms that recently failed in New York had a combined capital of about seven million dollars, while their liabilities amounted to something like fifty-seven millions. Such figures show, on the very face of them, what recklessness there must have been in their business transactions.

In reference to the English cotton trade it is said that of the goods manufactured there 1,131,240 bales went into home consumption in the country, and 2,534,760 bales were exported. The average quantity consumed by each person, of the entire population was about twelve pounds. The average quantity sent from England to the West Indies was equal to one and three-quarters pounds per head of the population, and to China and Japan about one quarter of a pound. The quantity estimated consumed in Europe averaged six pounds per head, and in the United States it was about the same. The average in Canada has always been considerably less, as in this country woollen goods are much more generally used for clothing, because of the greater severity of our climate.

In regard to the sources of future supply of the great article of general use

there is now a good deal of speculation. Time was when the Southern States were the great fields for a very large proportion of the whole cotton production of the world, and that very fact led the people to much over rate their importance, and had something to do with the considerations bringing about the Great Rebellion. "Cotton is King," was a popular saying among them; "the British people must have our cotton and their self interest will prompt them to throw their influence with us in the great contest." But that day is past. India now supplies the cotton mills of England with much of its raw material and as it takes in payment so much of the manufactured article, it is a very desirable customer to deal with. The Soudan is said to have one of the finest climates in the world for cotton raising and a good soil for the purpose. It does not produce much now, for expert because of the want of a better and more stable government for the country, and for want of better transportation facilities. It may turn out, in the order of Providence, that both these wants will be met as the necessary outcome of the present "Egyptian difficulty," and that an All Wise Hand may so order it that English possession and rule of the country will be the inevitable. If this proves the case Central Africa may soon become one of the grandest cotton fields of the world.

The recent revolutions in connection with the crime of Newbold, alias Neville is additional painful evidence of how lightly many women are inclined to rush into matrimony. The criminal is evidently a worthless fascinating rascal, without character and without property, and yet he managed to get at least nine respectable young women to marry him in a few years. Of course not one of them had taken very much pains to enquire into the man's character or antecedents, and in most cases the confiding girls had been acquainted with him but a few weeks at most. The man's penitentiary and gaol record could have been easily ascertained had much enquiry been made, but not one of the unfortunate victims appears to have attempted such an enquiry as any female should who is about to place her happiness for life in a man's keeping. It is the old story of woman's over-confidence and want of caution in the most important event in life, and the old story, too, of the willingness of too many rascals in male form to blight for life the happiness of others to satisfy their own momentary passion. Surely the many instances of bigamy brought to light during the past few weeks ought to be a warning to all interested. Truth wonders that the pulpit does not more frequently raise a warning voice to parents and to children against the dangers there appear to be of becoming victims to misplaced confidence.

The frightful situation in which the young girls were placed during the fire in

the Mail building on Saturday last directs attention again to the urgent importance of good efficient fire escapes in connection with every large building. It is a mercy that six or seven young girls did not perish before the eyes of thousands of people anxious to afford them relief but unable to do so. Such a fate would have been a disgrace and a horror to our city. Thanks to the good luck of an available adjoining roof, and to the pluck of a few gallant men, that it did not occur. Thanks, too, to the presence of mind of the girls themselves. Little thanks to the architects and the owners of the great building. The lesson should not be lost. A single day should not be allowed to pass unnecessarily before the large buildings in Toronto, and elsewhere in the country, should be amply supplied with fire escapes. No one can predict where or when the next accident may occur, but every laudable effort should be made to be prepared for it.

Sir Richard Cartwright is a high authority on matters of finance and has a reputation for finding out, for himself personally, much more about details and figures in connection with his particular Department than probably any other gentleman who has filled the office of Finance Minister since the Dominion had an existence, as such. He is pretty careful of his reputation, too, in regard to the correctness of the figures he usually gives. In his Opera House speech last week Sir Richard stated that since Confederation the people of this country have paid in customs and excise taxes the enormous sum of three hundred and thirty million dollars, and to have incurred debts to the amount of two hundred and twenty two million dollars besides. These figures look enormous for a mere handful of people—four and a half millions including the aborigines. We certainly have a good deal to show for it all, in the way of canals, railways, and other public works and public buildings. It is just possible that it may yet appear better for the interests of the country had the people showed a good deal more disposition to kick pretty vigorously against increase of taxation, and increase of debt at the same time. There are worse evils in a country than large debts and high taxation but yet these are evils to be avoided if practicable. According to Sir Richard we commenced at Confederation, in 1867 with a population of 3,375,000 and a yearly expenditure of \$13,500,000, and in 1881 with a population of something less than four and a half millions the yearly expenditure having reached \$31,000,000, being over seven dollars per head of the population. There are, however, very satisfactory explanations for a very considerable part, at least, of all this increase. Sir Richard must not forget that there was no small increase in his time, though he is stout in the denial that he was responsible for it.