

**A HINT FOR THE WEALTHY.**—We note with deep interest the appreciation of the noble work which McGill University is carrying on, as evinced by the recent princely gifts to that institution from men who have the educational welfare of the Dominion deeply at heart. Never before in all the history of any Canadian College have such handsome subscriptions to educational work been recorded in so short a time. Within a fortnight two donations, one of \$60,000, the other of \$100,000, were received, and were well followed up by a cheque for no less a sum than a half-million. We heartily congratulate the Faculty. All friends of the University will rejoice to hear of her prosperity, and the warmest wish for her future can but be that it will be worthy of her past.

**NOT HONORED IN THE BREACH.**—Our American friends have outgrown the solemn practice of universal fasting which their ancestors enjoined. In the State of Massachusetts it has ever been the custom to set aside one day of each year for purposes of fasting, humiliation and prayer for the welfare of the nation. April 6th was chosen this year for the solemn observance, but greatly to the disgust of Governor Russell, it was observed rather in the joyous light of a public holiday. A census of church and theatre attendance, taken in the city of Boston, shows that the theatre-goers numbered ten to every church-goer, and that in the majority of churches no service was held. It would be better, perhaps, to do away altogether with the day of devotion, rather than that it should be so openly neglected.

**PROGRESSIVE WINNIPEG.**—A new tax experiment is being tried in Winnipeg, where the people have in a measure resented the taxes on personal property and stocks of goods. The new tax will be levied upon the rental value of the premises in which business is carried on, and it is thought that the rate will not rise above ten per cent of the rental value. The chief objection to the former tax was that the burden of it fell too heavily upon the wholesale merchant, who paid both his tax on personal property and on his stock of goods, while real estate and commercial agents, bankers, lawyers and doctors were but lightly rated. The new Act does not affect the assessment on real estate, which will remain at its previous rate of about two per cent. The experiment will be watched with much interest, and, if successful, will probably be tried in other Canadian cities.

**ANOTHER BRIGHT PROSPECT.**—The trade prospects for Canada seem exceedingly bright just now. Not only is the new Australian line encouraging our manufacturers to secure an Australian market for their goods, but great efforts are now being made in Great Britain to put the Canadian produce trade on a better basis. The project is to connect Manchester, which is the heart of one of the most densely settled districts in Europe, with the sea by a ship canal. By means of the new water way produce would be carried direct to the market and would not, as at the present date, be subject to heavy railway, cartage and commission charges. It is thought that the new canal will be of great value to all parts of the United Kingdom as well as to Canada, and that its establishment will open up many branches of British industry which are now languishing on account of heavy freight and other charges. Mr. John Dyke, the Canadian Government Agent at Liverpool, has been acting as a true friend to Canada in the matter. His evidence before the select committee of the House of Lords has evidently weighed with that august body, and his opinion on the subject has been sought by no less an authority than the *Canadian Gazette*. Our hearty good wishes are with Mr. Dyke and the promoters of the mammoth ship canal.

**HOW THEY DO IT IN JAPAN!**—The Japanese House of Representatives and the Home Government have been enjoying a protracted civil warfare during the present session of the Assembly. The members have demanded a thorough-going reform in all matters relating to Governmental administration, and in particular have called for an investigation into the financial statements published by the officials of the Royal Navy. The necessity recognized by all political parties for the extension of the navy has rather prematurely called for the present crisis, the Opposition party vigorously protesting that they will pay no special navy tax until they are satisfied that the money will not be diverted from its proper channel. According to the usages of many countries the affair would have ended in a vote of want of confidence, but not so in Japan. The Emperor himself thought it best to step into the quarrel, and by issuing an Imperial Rescript to settle the matters in dispute. The Rescript sums up the dispute with great impartiality, rebuking alike the men of both parties, who, in losing sight of the far-reaching reforms which have been begun and carried through by the Government, have precipitated the quarrel. The Emperor promises that all unnecessary official positions shall be abolished, but in his own time and by his own methods. The disputed naval tax he at once settles, not, however, by promising a naval reform and allowing the people to assume the obligation, but by pledging ten per cent of the income of the Royal Household for the next six years, and by imposing a similar tax on the salaries of all officials drawing pay from the Royal Treasury. As this percentage will amount to two and a half million yen annually the whole naval tax is now removed from the non-official residents of the kingdom. Oddly enough, all the native papers, whether favoring the Government or not, are charmed with this solution of the trouble, and have nothing but the highest praise to give the high-honored and most magnanimous sovereign who has thus come to the rescue of the nation by returning a moiety of the vast sum which they present him with annually.

**TURKISH JUSTICE.**—Matters have been wonderfully quiet in Turkey for the last few weeks, but it now appears that the usual petty intrigue has been going on, and this time in a serious affair. The liberty of the Christian people in Armenia has been interfered with, and an investigation called for by the British Embassy reveals the fact that there are now 1800 Christian Armenians imprisoned on various charges. Many Christian women have also disappeared from the district, and it is known that in some cases they have been kidnapped by the Turkish authorities, and that justice has been denied the relatives and friends who have been intimidated into silence. An investigation carried on by the Secretary of the United States Legation has resulted in the discovery that the Christian College at Marisovan was not burnt by the Armenians who are now undergoing punishment for the crime, but that it was the direct work of the Turkish Governmental officials. The Turkish Government will be compelled to make amends for the shameful treatment of a class of most reputable citizens.

**THE IRISH DEFENCE UNION.**—A lively interest is being taken in Ireland over the establishment of the "Defence Union," an organization which is to include the whole body of Unionists throughout the Emerald Isle. The "Defence Union" is somewhat akin to the late Irish Land League, although its efforts are to be exerted in contrary directions to those of other organizations. The main object of its existence is to keep alive an ardent opposition to Home Rule for Ireland, and to prevent by force, if necessary, the establishment of an Irish Parliament over Ulster. While it is to be regretted that it has been thought necessary to form another hot-headed league, it is far better that the league should exist than that turbulent dissatisfaction should be shown by irresponsible men in many sections of the country. There are many thoughtful experienced men on the executive staff of the new order, who will protect the honor and good name of the league, which would of course be held responsible in the event of any uprising of its members, and there is always a certain protection from hasty or rash movements in a society of this kind if a regular procedure is decided on, and excited leaders are calmed down by hearing their schemes fully discussed in council. On the whole, the new organization promises to do more good than harm.

**THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET.**—So far as we have been enabled to follow the discussions as to the cause of cholera, into which the medical world of Europe has been plunged, we consider that the most forcible arguments and most striking illustrations have been those advanced by the physicians who affirm that the germ which causes the disease has been contained in the food or drink of the sufferer. There seems to have been little or no cholera where the proper precautions have been taken, and where pure drinking water is in use. In our Provincial cities we are fairly well supplied with drinking water, which by boiling and filtering may be rendered absolutely pure, but in the country districts the need of a pure water supply is most pressing. "The old oaken bucket, the moss-covered bucket, that hangs in the well" has been responsible for much disease in the past, and its mossy-covering, although pleasing to the aesthetic eye, has never been appreciated by sanatorists, who have regarded it as the result of filth and green slime. Too often the farm-house well, "which was good enough for father and grandfather before him," is not in a proper condition. If the water looks clear its purity is thought to be assured, although germs of hideous diseases may be afloat in transparent form. The drainage from barns and cesspools may be constantly tainting the water without the faintest suspicion of the farmer being aroused. We should be vigilant at all times to protect our families from disease, and especially during this summer we should make every effort to obtain for them a proper water supply. If the well-water is to be used, constant care should be given to the cleanliness of the well, and the much-be-sung bucket, and the boiling and filtering of the water for drinking purposes should be attended to.

**A PLEA FOR THE CHILDREN.**—Many parents accept without misgiving the fact that their daughters are not nearly so robust as their sons. They are of the opinion that nature is responsible for the difference which their own artificial system of bringing up has created. The boys of the family lead out-of-door lives to a far greater extent than do their sisters. A public holiday, or often a simple Saturday, means that a fishing excursion, a tramp through the woods, or a stirring game of foot or base ball will be engaged in. What wonder is it if the red blood pulses more quickly through the veins of that joyous young animal—the healthy boy. After school hours the young daughters of the family, for the most part, lead sedentary lives. They esconce themselves in snug corners near radiators, and pore over their story books. They play quiet doll games and strum exercises on the piano at a time in their lives when they need fresh air and plentiful exercise to give food to their rapidly-developing bodies. Many little girls who romp with their brothers out of doors are yet not properly protected from the weather. Their clothing is of finer, daintier material, but is often actually lacking in warmth, and almost without exception their boots are thin-soled. These children cannot indulge in the amusements of their brothers without paying a heavy penalty in colds, coughs and aches for the enjoyment. A more rational method would be for parents to fit their girls as well as their boys for an out-of-door life; to clothe them warmly and sensibly, and encourage them in all ways to take active exercise. A few years of such treatment would result in the laying of the foundations for a happy, healthful and useful womanhood.

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