

The readers of TRUTH will be sure to admire the pretty little song which forms the musical selection for the present week. It is simple, attractive, and "catchy," and is sure to please whenever sung. It forms the current issue of TRUTH's "Standard Series," price 5 cents, the cheapest series of popular music ever offered to the public.

The time for the crowned heads of Europe playing at soldiering in the way of military reviews, etc., has come round. When will the time come when the good sense and inherent appreciation of justice in mankind, who put down all that anarchy and barbarism in which so many seem at present to take such insane pleasure? It is long in coming, but it will come all the same, in spite of all the Bismarcks, Moltkes and Bonapartes in the universe.

The cotton manufacturers of the Dominion are forming a ring to do away with competition, and to regulate prices at their pleasure. What is this to be called?

The battle of the books is very keen, and becoming always keener. There must be any amount of money in what can stand so much advertising and fibbing, for falsehood there undoubtedly is, somewhere.

The cyclone in Minnesota was all over in 15 minutes, yet in that time more than thirty lives were lost and more than half a million of property destroyed. Worse than even a very big fire, by a long way.

It is really seriously denied that a great many working men spend a large portion of their wages in whiskey and tobacco. TRUTH has always regarded this as so beyond all reasonable denial that anything like a counter assertion has the air of novelty and strangeness.

Who keeps up the grogeries in this city? For the most part the workmen. Does any one believe that one fifth of these places could exist if all the wages-receiving part of the population were becoming total abstainers? Of course not. One might as well question the existence of the sun at midday as question such a fact, and closing the eyes won't put out the sun any more than lusty denials will prevent its being a fact that hundreds of workmen in Toronto and everywhere are kept on the very verge of starvation and at the beck and call of employers, simply because of their improvident and dissipated habits. They might be the most independent and influential section of the community. Why are they not? The tavern keepers can tell, and they themselves might. If TRUTH could manage even to provoke them into giving up drinking it would be a great thing, and it has too great a regard for their welfare to see the favor of any by concealing or distorting the facts. If people, instead of suspecting this one and that of writing about them, and abusing those who, as likely as not, have nothing to do with the matter, would only sweep before their own doors and try to avoid becoming wasteful sots, it would be a great matter. TRUTH knows right well and rejoices in the fact that many working men are as sober, upright and intelligent members of the community as could be desired. But that there are too many others the reverse needs no witchcraft to discern. If any one desires the evidence he has but to look round.

And now we are threatened with another Poorhouse Investigation in which the sickening details will out-Towksbury Towksbury. Wheeling, W. Va., is the new

claimant for notoriety, and it is said that the horrors which an investigation will reveal will overshadow anything already made public, or indeed dreamed of.

When a troublesome interviewer used to come to Cetywayo during his stay in England he would send word by his interpreter, "The King sleeps." "The King sleeps," thought the Jingo party and those who have all along secretly favored the suzerainty and final annexation of Zululand, when they heard of Cetywayo's death at the battle of Ulundi. They were prepared to sing as of Napoleon—

He sleeps his last sleep, he has fought his last battle,
No sound can awake him to glory again.

But Cetywayo is alive and his existence keeps the Zulu, if not the whole South African, problem before the British public still. There is no doubting this, that for a savage, Cetywayo in his days of undisputed sovereignty ruled wisely and well, and it is the duty of the British Government to give him at least their moral support and not by withdrawing their countenance encourage Cetywayo's enemies and those colonial agitators who would like to destroy the king's life and power in order to occupy the country themselves. Between these two sets of people anarchy will reign in Zululand and the Zulus be reared with a taste for blood which will long outlive the factions of Cetywayo's time.

Raising a hue and cry—the French in Annam.

TRUTH ON MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

In 1880 the Executive Committee of the City Council vetoed a recommendation of the Committee on Works to construct a new sewer on Murray street at a cost of \$3,000 out of general taxes, on the opinion of City Solicitor McWilliams that the City Corporation was not liable therefor, as Engineer Shanly had ascertained that the existing sewer was not constructed for the purpose of carrying off the waters of University creek, which had been obstructed by owners of properties filling up their lots. Prior to that, Lieutenant-Governor Robinson, who was then a senior partner of the City Solicitor, and who is related to him by marriage, complained about the waters of the creek flowing on his property, known as "Sleepy Hollow," and located on Yonge street avenue immediately north of the north end of Murray street, but the City Solicitor reported that the Corporation was not liable for the cost of constructing a larger sewer on that street. Mr. Paull, an owner of property on that street, claimed \$300 for damages caused by the flooding of his premises. Lund, the foreman of the ward of St. Patrick, after a month's delay, ascertained that the sewer was choked up by a plank at the intersection of Caer-Howell street, whereupon the City Solicitor reported that the Corporation was liable to pay the \$300, and stated that had the flooding been caused by the sewer not being large enough, there would have been no liability, thereby showing that the sewer was sufficient. As usual, he carefully omitted to report who was to blame for leaving such an obstruction so long in the sewer, as also did Commissioner Coatsworth, though Mr. Paull told Craig, the burnt contract secretary of the committee, that the sewer was choked up. In December, 1880, the City Solicitor again reported that there was no liability on the part of the Corporation to construct a larger sewer on that street, but in 1881 a change "came over the spirit of his dream," when a man named Irwin, who has erected a large number of houses in the city, proposed to purchase the "Sleepy Hollow" property on condition that a larger sewer

was constructed on that street. The City Solicitor was induced to swallow his previous reports, and to give the opinion that the Corporation was liable to construct a larger sewer on that street. An item of \$3,000 was accordingly smuggled into the estimates of that year, and Ald. Boswell, who is now Mayor, supported it on the ground that a small lake of water had accumulated in "Sleepy Hollow." Ald. Kent had a motion prepared to strike out that and several other items, but was precluded from doing so by the adoption of the "previous question," on motion of Ald. Baxter, who paid the penalty for raising the rate of taxation that year to 10½ mills, as he was rejected at the next election. Craig, having loaned money to Irwin, who erected several houses on part of the "Sleepy Hollow" property, which he purchased, aided the City Solicitor and Aldermen Baxter and Boswell to get this grab item passed, and he has since bought them in at an auction sale held by virtue of a power of sale contained in his own mortgage, Irwin being unable to pull through with his large liabilities incurred by reason of the large number of buildings he had undertaken to erect. As a trunk sewer is proposed to be constructed along the line of the University creek, and as the one on Murray street is to form the outlet therefor, it is but fair that from the statutory proportion of the cost thereof, which the general taxpayers are liable to bear, that grabbed sum of \$3,000 be deducted, and also that the "Sleepy Hollow" property be assessed for a proper proportion of the cost of the new sewer.

The City Fathers have virtually voted a want of confidence in themselves by enacting a by-law, which reduces the quorum quantities of their committees from six members to five.

Cleveland, with a population of 210,000, has engine pumping power to the extent of six millions of gallons of water per 24 hours, and is securing further power of 12 millions of gallons, while Toronto, with about half that population, has similar power to the extent of but 12 millions of gallons. The committee on water-works has had three tenders for an additional engine before them for a considerable time, yet have delayed action on the ground that expert should report on them, though one of the tenders by a Toronto firm is about \$15,000 lower than the lowest of the other two, and though the style of engine offered by them is far in advance of the others. Under such circumstances, it would be folly to incur the cost of employing experts, especially as those who have a knowledge of hydraulic engineering are scarce. The committee should have more confidence in mechanical engineer Venables at the Engine House, who has had a long experience in connection with all such engines, and who has selected the one offered by the Toronto firm as the best of the three.

In order to make the crib at Hanlan's Point sufficiently substantial to withstand the ice which forms around it during winter, it must be protected by an outer crib at a distance of five feet, to be composed of closely driven cedar piling, and the space between must be puddled with blue clay. This will cost \$750, which can be taken from the \$10,000 for contingencies, as contained in a by-law for an issue of \$75,000 of debentures, which was passed last year. As the contractors for the harbor piling have the appliances for doing the piling, and the clay can be got from the Church street sewer, in course of construction, the committee on water-works

should not delay this essential work any longer.

At the last meeting of the City Fathers, Ald. Farley, chairman of the committee on fire and gas, asked what should be the price of a private drain constructed on a certain street, whereupon Ald. Turner, chairman of the committee on works, replied in his ancient style, that if the Corporation would pay him \$10,000 a year, he would be prepared to fortify himself with such details, but would decline to do so, and the worthy enquirer could go to the office of the City Engineer and find out. Ald. Farley retorted that Ald. Turner ought to know all about it, as chairman of that committee, and the latter responded that it was none of his business to be versed in such particulars, and that Ald. Farley would not be able to answer a like enquiry at next meeting regarding his department, whereupon the latter said he would, and did not want \$10,000 for doing it either, and challenged Ald. Turner to pepper him with interrogatories at next meeting. Their respective constituents should be present to witness the contest between these windy warriors at that meeting.

"Canned and Cuffed" was the apt heading of a paragraph in one of the city dailies, in which it was stated that Police Magistrate Demison had donated a silver-headed cane to Ald. Love, and a set of cuff-buttons to ex-Ald. Henderson, for services rendered in doing the work of the Magistrate on the Police Court Bench, during his recent trip. His Worship is strangely inconsistent in obtaining the aid of these aldermanic adjudicators, who are unlearned in the law, to help him earn his fat salary of \$4,500, as he is well known to be possessed of a cordial hatred towards the Yankees, their flag and their institutions. Yet to satisfy his craving for cavalry corps and pleasure trips, he is content to swallow the bitter pill of an elective Police Court judiciary despite his wild Yankeeophobia. Not that he hates that system less, but that he loves his costly craving more.

Mr. Harman, City Treasurer, having drawn the attention of the Executive Committee of the City Council to the fact that a motion by Ald. Irwin, and seconded by Ald. Clarke, authorizing a transfer of \$2,000 wherewith to construct a sidewalk on the Island, which had been adopted by that body, was illegal, as it transferred funds which, by by-law, must be expended on the Island Park. Ald. Clarke, who is chairman of that committee, tried to condone the illegality by alleging that the whole Island was comprised in the park. But the Treasurer at once closed up that little loophole of attempted escape by reading the limits of the Park, as defined in the by-law creating it, showing that the sidewalk was outside those limits, and he also pointed out that a mere resolution could not override a by-law, and, therefore, he could not pay the accounts so illegally incurred, until the illegality was cured. There was no alternative, therefore, but to refer the matter to City Solicitor McWilliams for his opinion, which was done, but at the next meeting that official, in order not to offend the mover and seconder of the illegal resolution, reported he was given to understand that there were certain surplus funds from which the \$2,000 could be taken, and that was silently acquiesced in by the committee, though it does not cure the illegality. The Treasurer has gone off for a month of holidays, the accounts will probably be paid, and such illegalities will continue to be