

# TRUTH.

OLD SERIES.—21st YEAR.

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## TO PRINTERS.

Having just placed in our office a new web printing machine, we have for sale several Improved Cottrell Presses. They are in excellent condition, and are equally well adapted for job or newspaper work. Having no further use for them, these presses will be disposed of at a very low figure, and any publisher contemplating such an addition to his plant can get a decided bargain. Correspondence requested.

## WHAT TRUTH SAYS

Secretary Proctor and General Schofield, of the United States War Department, are making a tour of inspection of the frontier forts. Canadians are kindly advised, however, not to feel alarmed or even annoyed, as the *New York Star* informs the public that the reparation of old forts and the construction of new ones are to be made in view of the "possibility of war with England." This movement of the military authorities is quite in keeping with the utterances of several officers of the United States Army, who have expressed the wish that war with Britain might arise in order that they might have an opportunity of advancing their standing in the army. But if the American taxpayers are wise they will think twice before adopting the plans of these enterprising gentlemen, to whom personal distinction is everything, and the welfare of their country, nothing. So far as England is concerned, there is no need for our neighbors to make unusual haste, or to expend great sums in strengthening their fortifications. England has no desire to engage in war with the United States or any other power. Her policy is one of peace and not of strife, while her energies are being devoted to the promotion of trade and the development of commerce. Believing that a free trade policy is at once philosophically sound and commercially expedient, she has opened her ports to the products of all nations, free of duty, and thus, notwithstanding the ungracious and, oftentimes, uncivil conduct of scheming politicians of other nations who have not hesitated for temporary gain to discriminate against their magnanimous sister nation. Under her liberal regime her own people have prospered amazingly, and in so far forth as others have followed her example they have been equally benefitted. As a result of her policy of peace her "standing army" is a mere police force, costing her people but little aside from expenditures for armor-plated ships and ordnance. The influence of her policy has affected the other nations of Europe which have long been burdened with the maintenance of enormous military establishments. Already Emperor William of Germany has expressed an earnest desire to reduce his army, while the feeling grows apace among the European nations to substitute for large armies an international board of arbitration to settle all disputes. Nor is the policy of settling international problems by arbitration without friends on this continent. Indeed to the United States belongs the honor of originating the idea. And were it not for the commanding power of "party exigencies" we should never have occasion to refer to such expressions as that at the head of this article. But even this kind of thing may be carried too

far, as President Cleveland learned to his cost. Some day those politicians who are ever ready to seize an opportunity "to twist the Lion's tail" will wake up to the uncomfortable fact that in seeking to win the Irish vote they have estranged the thoughtful Christian people who are not so void of sense and conscience as to believe that "the end justifies the means."

Appropos of the burdens with which the German citizen is weighed down, a contemporary paints the following interesting and somewhat amusing picture:

"On waking in the morning the German artisan drinks a cup of coffee on which the Imperial Treasury has levied a duty of 20 pfennigs, or about 5 cents, a pound. The sugar with which he sweetens it has been taxed at 10 pfennigs a pound, and the bread at 3 pfennigs. On leaving home for work his wife provides him with a crust of bread (on which the duty is 3 pfennigs a pound), spreads it with a layer of lard (duty of 5 pfennigs a pound), and sprinkles it with salt (duty 6 pfennigs a pound). During the course of his morning's work the man will probably take a small glass of brandy (duty 26 pfennigs per quart). At noon he will return home to dine with his family off a soup made of flour (duty 5 pfennigs per pound), with a slice of bacon (duty 10 pfennigs a pound), or a piece of beef (duty 10 pfennigs per pound), or, perhaps, a herring (duty 1 pfennig a piece). In the evening, after his work is over, he will probably refresh himself with a glass of beer (duty 1 pfennig per quart), accompanied by a piece of cheese (duty 10 pfennigs a pound), a little butter (duty 10 pfennigs per pound), and a slice of bread (duty 3 pfennigs a pound). Afterward, by light of his lamp, on the oil of which a duty of 6 pfennigs a quart has been paid, he will smoke his pipeful of tobacco, taxed at the rate of 25 pfennigs per pound, and will then retire to sleep, which is apparently the only thing that the Imperial Government has omitted to tax."

In addition to these indirect taxes, which are purely for Imperial purposes, the German citizen is obliged to contribute direct taxes to the Exchequer of the particular State to which he belongs, and likewise to pay heavy communal and parish rates. Moreover, he is called upon to devote the three best years of his life entirely and exclusively to military service. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the young Emperor, who has shown unusual sympathy for the working men, should exert himself to bring about a reduction of their burdens. The hopeful feature in the case is that Germany is not the only European country under the military wheel. France, Russia, Italy, all stiff in armor, are groaning under their self-imposed loads. Self preservation must soon force them to adopt some means of relief. No one who seriously contemplates the situation can fail to pray, "God speed the Kaiser in his humane and beneficent work."

The recent despatch of Lord Salisbury to Secretary Blaine re the Behring Sea difficulty will render it difficult for the astute and wily American politician to reject the proffer of the British Premier, and at the same time retain the respect of right minded citizens, who are above prolonging a dispute with another nation merely for the sake of catching votes. While denying that England ever admitted the Russian claim to marine jurisdiction and the exclusive right of fishing throughout the whole of the waters from Behring Straits to the 51st parallel, and that the right to fish and catch seals in the high seas can be held to be abandoned by a nation from the mere fact that for a certain number of years it has not suited the subjects of that nation to exercise such rights, the despatch concludes: "If the United States

Government continues to differ with Great Britain as to the legality of the recent capture, Her Majesty's Government is ready to refer the question, with the issues dependent thereon, to impartial arbitration." Referring to the proposal to arbitrate the *New York World*. After admitting the incontrovertible point that the mere fact that for several years British subjects refrained from engaging in the business of seal-catching cannot be construed to be a surrender of a right to catch seals on the high seas, and that rights on the high seas are never lost by non-use, remarks, that "as for the proposition to arbitrate, the sooner it is adopted the better. Party politics and Canadian demands seem to stand in the way of a speedier settlement, and any longer indulgence in bickering would be intolerable." However Secretary Blaine may be disposed to treat the proposition impartial and dispassionate judges must see that Britain desires to act in a manner at once fair and conciliatory. Under such circumstances it seems impossible that the dispute should be much longer continued.

John D. Rockefeller, president of the Standard oil trust, whose generous gift to the Baptist College in Chicago was recently reported in the public press, is again mentioned in connection with a big educational scheme. This latest is to be a national institution and situated in New York city. It is the intention of the promoters of the project to have an endowment at the outset of \$20,000,000. Its chairs will be filled by the ablest professors in every department that can be obtained in this country and Europe. The highest scholars in science and art, and the ablest professors in theology will be secured if possible. No expense will be spared in making the attractions so numerous that college graduates from New England, from the west and the south, and from Europe and Asia will go there to perfect themselves in the studies to which they propose to devote their lives. To spend his money in endowing an institution of this character, where the lamp of instruction will constantly shine, reflects greater credit upon the head and heart of the millionaire president than gilding the registers of his palatial mansion with gold. May his performance in this laudable undertaking equal his profession.

Either the citizens of Toronto are remarkably conscientious in their observance of the regulations imposed by the Council on those who purchase their water from the city, or the waterworks inspectors can hardly be giving that attention to their business that is expected of faithful servants. According to Chairman Hill, though the inspection costs the city about \$10,000 per annum, no case of waste is ever reported from one year's end to another. It would no doubt be pleasant to conclude (for kind thoughts of others always bless the person who cherishes them) that because no cases are reported no violations occur; but the fact that notwithstanding the care practiced by the authorities in reducing the amount for street watering purposes for flushing of sewers, the reservoir has reached a point higher than ever before, makes it difficult to get back the suspicion that in every case some view of the present condition of the reservoir appears to be made by a regular inspection.

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crop, especially in the west and southwest of the island, is a total failure. This means that thousands of the poor natives of these districts will be deprived of their principal food supply, and that unless help is given from without much suffering must ensue. Already famine fever has appeared in the Blasket islands off the West Coast. Those who are familiar with the history of the island forty years ago will not contemplate the present situation with pleasure. The case is urgent, and is withal one in which Canadians can practically demonstrate that one member of the national body cannot suffer without the whole body being thereby affected.

The people of Shelbyville, Indiana, are said to be living in considerable dread these days. And no wonder, when they know not what moment the ground beneath their feet may take to leaping and dancing as it did a few days ago. A correspondent thus describes the occurrence which has alarmed the inhabitants:

At 9 o'clock yesterday morning the farmers near Waldron, this county, were startled by a terrific explosion. When they reached the Ogden Graveyard, which is on a bluff near the Flat Rock dam, they discovered that fully 10 acres of the earth was in a commotion. Geysers were shooting up to the height of six and eight feet, and gas was blazing from ten to fifteen feet above the waters of the geysers. The river bed was torn up and the water had stopped running below the graveyard. Flames are still shooting from different fissures in the earth. The county had not been considered in the gas belt, although local companies have sunk wells. The skeletons of the dead can be distinctly seen in the fractures of the earth. Gas flows freely from the entire surface of the ten acres. Stones were thrown two miles. The whole county was shaken up, and the excitement is tremendous.

Not many persons are so strangely constituted as to prefer living over the mouth of a peat up volcano. And this is about the situation of the inhabitants of Shelbyville.

There is food for reflection in the arrangement which the Salisbury Government, through its official representative, has entered into with the Vatican, regarding the marriage laws in the island of Malta. According to the *Speaker*, the new Liberal weekly, this compact virtually acknowledges the right of his Holiness to decide who are validly married and who are not, and to declare that all marriages between Roman Catholics and non-Catholics are not only to be invalid in the future, but to have been invalid in the past, so that the children born of such marriages since Malta became a British possession are bastards in the eyes of the sanction of the British Government. This interference is a new thing, and is not less the Jesuitical policy of the Holy See.

Those who are not in the habit of reading the *Speaker* will be surprised to find that the new man, the first in the history of the British Empire, is in the habit of interfering with the private lives of the people of a British possession. It is a new thing, and is not less the Jesuitical policy of the Holy See.