

There has lately been broached the idea of having cheap concerts during the winter months. Nothing could be better. There is plenty of first rate musical talent in Toronto to make them a success, and at popular prices, such as ten or fifteen cents, they would be financially as well as otherwise sure to be successful.

It is said that a good many young Englishmen are starving up in Winnipeg. Most of them, it is to be feared, are no'er-dowells of their families, who have been shipped off from home in the hope that they might be able to do something for themselves in the great North-West. For such Winnipeg is about the worst place imaginable. There they have found plenty of drink and idle worthless associates, and the end need not be wondered at, when that end is beggary and starvation. One is mentioned for whom a good Samaritan three several times bought a passage ticket for England. Twice it was sold for drink, and on the third occasion the wretched young fellow cursed his benefactor because the ticket was only a second class one. What can be done with such creatures? If they be the natural product of an advanced civilization so much the worse for the civilization.

After all the old plan of heaping coals of fire upon some people's heads answers best. It is not worth while to bother over the foolish malignant misrepresentation of such folks. They want to make a fuss and be sensational, and yet they will take a quarter at any moment from the very persons whom they have done their very best to insult and malign. The check of such fellows, however, is immense. If they can't beg or borrow it would not be safe to say that they would not steal. All right. Go at it if you don't hurt yourselves, it is all but impossible for you to hurt any other body.

There is every likelihood of the present being a very hard winter upon working men in all parts of this Continent. In Chicago alone it is calculated that fully 50,000 men will be out of employment. In Canada there is every likelihood of a similar state of things prevailing. The boom has passed, and the inevitable recoil and collapse have come. If people would only go quietly and live within their incomes, there does not seem to be any reason why there should be dull times at all. Of course bad crops cannot be prevented, but still if in the times only a greater amount of rigid economy were practised the temporary evil could be tided over without much difficulty.

The Australian Colonies are talking of Confederation. They want to annex New Guinea and the New Hebrides, and Lord Derby says that a good many difficulties in that direction would be removed if they became one strong Confederation.

Wives are often very convenient, especially for bankrupts. They get all the bankrupt's property, especially in houses and other real estate safely deeded to them so that the creditors cannot touch a farthing. After that they keep the poor little dears of destitute husbands.

There are some of this most disreputable class to be met every where. The last flagrant illustration of the iniquity is the Craig case, in connection with the Exchange Bank. The wretched man has actually stolen and swindled, and the wife keeps her grand house with all the accretions.

The United States Government is sending back to Britain the pauper emigrants which have been dumped out in the country during the season. This is as it ought to be.

Craig the defaulting Bank Manager has for a good while past been speculating largely with the Bank's funds. A good many others, it is to be feared, are doing the same thing. Can this sort of work not be prevented?

The Canadian Pacific Railway Syndicate has reduced wages all round. There is great discontent and threats of a strike. But that would be in the last degree foolish. Better reduced wages than none at all, and the Company could easily get all the work they wish at the wages offered. It may be bad to have ones' wages docked. But better half a loaf than no bread.

There are lots of nuisances in the East End of the city. What with cow byres, cattle and pig pens, slaughter houses, soap factories, and other abominations, the citizens in those regions must have lively times, and strong olfactory nerves to stand it all.

Is this threatened jubilee of the city's corporate existence not something like a screaming farce? Is it not likely to degenerate into a mere job, with the useless expenditure of many thousands of dollars which might just as well be thrown down the lake? Who cares for a book with all the portraits, and plates of public buildings, and a great deal of useless speech making and worse than useless guzzling? Before all the play is played out, thousands of dollars will be spent, not only of what is voluntarily subscribed, but of what really belongs to the citizens. What the mischief has any of the Aldermen a right to squander any city money on their nonsensical pranks? Willie McMurrich and Arthur Boswell may make guys of themselves if they please, but let it be at their own expense, and the grand book with its frothy declamations, which is to hand down to posterity names born to be forgotten, may be got up as a private speculation by any enterprising printer that pleases; but as a city affair for the honor and glory of Toronto it is not worth a dollar of any man's money.

If what is written in the London Times about the condition of Nihilistic prisoners is true, or half true, the whole civilized world will cry shame over the abominable iniquity. The treatment of the Neapolitan State prisoners which drew forth Gladstone's celebrated pamphlet, and aroused the whole world to a perfect tempest of indignation, was comparatively nothing to that to which both men and women, but especially women, are subjected in Russian prisons. For its own sake the Russian Government ought to

afford every facility for thoroughly testing the truth of the statements.

It is said that an agitation for annexation to Britain has been begun in Egypt. This is just what might have been expected, and it will be what the whole thing will end in.

Every where the talk is the same; workmen either out of work altogether or operating on short time, with the prospect any day of being turned to the street. In Hamilton, in London, in Brantford, and all over, the same thing is found prevailing. The look out for the winter, especially if it should turn to hard frost, is pitiable for multitudes.

The following receipt for the composition of a first-class scandal is not bad:—Take a grain of falsehood, a handful of rumour, the same quantity of nimble tongue, a sprig of the herb backbite, a teaspoonful of "don't you tell it," six drops of malice, and a few drachms of envy, add a little discontent and jealousy, strain through a bag of misconception, cork it up in a bottle of malevolence, and hang it up on a skein of street yarn; shake it occasionally for a few days, and it will be fit for use. Let a few drops be taken before walking out, the desired results will follow. Altogether that's fairly good.

The last week has been a wild one in the political world. There has been racing and chasing with a vengeance. Many strong words have been uttered, much strong water swallowed, and a good few dollar bills, it is to be feared, pocketed. Each side has protested that every one of its friends was perfectly above suspicion. It was only the other side that was incurably wicked. That the result of the contest has not satisfied all, may go without saying. That it has fully pleased any is more than doubtful. Still, the world will manage to get along whoever may happen to represent West Middlesex, and the shutters will not be put up on the Provincial windows, whether Mowat go or stay. Nobody is quite indispensable, whether he be a Premier or only wants to be one.

The Boys Home has been undergoing repairs and enlargement on such an extensive scale that it may be said to be a new building. The lady managers want to have it furnished as soon as the enlargement is completed. Among other things they want 75 iron bedsteads, at \$5 a piece. Not a doubt of it they will get all they want, and more. Some gentlemen have already pledged themselves for ten bedsteads each. Let others go and do likewise. This is a charity about which there is no humbug. The citizens know all about it. There may be some hesitation about giving money or clothes for the benefit of those who, according to some accounts, spend most of what they get in whiskey. This, however, is not the case with the Boys Home and its inmates. Now then, send in your fifty dollars, and if you can't fifty, at least send five. It will be a pleasure to you to know that one weary little mortal, who may grow up to be a good citizen of Ontario, rests his limbs on a bed which your

money has purchased. Come, it will be the safest and best investment you have made for many a year.

Nor is it only the Boy's Home which ought to be remembered practically in those dull, short cold winter days. Toronto has many charities equally deserving. Let them all get something. There is no use of the charitable throwing away their money by giving to every plausible tramp who says that he is hungry. All who are tolerably comfortable ought to bear in mind that with very many this winter, the look out is very blue, and that it will take every available farthing to enable individuals and charities to pull through. Don't allow any old clothes to lie merely to be consumed by moths. Send them all to any of the places mentioned in TRUTH a week or two ago. They will all serve some good purpose by helping to keep somebody a little warmer. And surely every one of you knows some decent, struggling family that is trying to get along without public help. Why not interest yourselves in such? It would do your own hearts good, and it would cheer others in the somewhat trying battle of life they have to fight.

There is no use of you husbands trying to get out of liability for your wives debts. You can cry down the honest woman's credit, by publishing far and near that you will pay for nothing not ordered by yourself. Otherwise you will have to pay. Why, man alive, your wife is part of yourself, better even than an agent. An old hunk of a farmer tried lately to get out of his responsibility, but it was no go. He wanted to repudiate his wife's purchases of household necessaries, part of which it was proved he himself had eaten. Think of that, the old scaramouch. Served him right to have him cast with costs, both in the first instance and on appeal. There are some people so mean, and at the same time so hard hided and so hardened faced that there is no possibility of making them ashamed.

The university at Edinburgh, Scotland, is going to celebrate its 300th anniversary by spending thirty thousand pounds on additional buildings. This is something like the thing. To be sure a 300th anniversary does not come often.

Good teachers are not over numerous. Quite the reverse. And they are not so encouraged as to make it worth their while to continue in the profession. They are continually dropping off to other employments. And who can blame? A few dollars less of salary will often cause the dismissal of a competent teacher in favor of one practically useless. If good teachers are to be encouraged to make teaching their life work, they will need to be better treated and better paid.

"Our Fritz" must have had a good time in Spain. He staid longer than was expected and, barring the bull fight with its abominations, seems to have enjoyed himself.

Sir William Taylor Thompson, for many years the British Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Persia, has by his will left £30,000 to the university of St.