

to be remedied? That is a question more easily asked than answered. In any case let those who really and honestly do the public good work get credit at any rate for their work, and let Municipal office be regarded by the respectable as one of such honor as to be coveted, not of such a scaly character as to be shunned.

Is Christianity decaying so much as is said? If the statements of some are to be believed it never was in such a tight box since ever it had any existence. Evidence in support of such assertions, however, is not forthcoming. How anybody who knows anything of the history of the past can make such assertions is past all thought. There is much wickedness abounding everywhere, but surely it is not to be contended that things are nearly as bad as they were a hundred or fifty years ago. The England or the Scotland or the France even of to-day as well as the Canada is far better in every way than what was the case at any former period. This continued cry out about the former times being better than these is a poor, played out *fad*.

There are few scoundrels who better deserve a long rope and a short sentence than those who under false pretences get money from clerks, governesses and working men on condition of securing them situations. We have a few of such fellows turning up occasionally in Canada. Well if they got such sentences as some of their fellow-operators receive in the old country, where one was sent to cool his heels in penal servitude and another got nine months of hard labor. Served the scamps right even if there had been more of it. It is to be hoped the good example will be followed in Canada in any case.

The public house is the poor man's club. He goes there for company and sociability as much as anything else, at least in a great number of cases. If coffee houses were provided half as plentifully as public houses, and were made half as comfortable and home-like, the drinking would be wonderfully decreased. There is no use in thinking to put down the one evil without providing the corresponding good. Now this other is not provided, not even in the few coffee houses that are actually in existence. They are simply eating houses, not places where friends can meet, exchange the news and have a friendly chat. When the two coffee houses that are in operation in this city were started this was put prominently forward as the ideal to be aimed at. But it has not been. They are mere eating houses, and shabby ones at that, if not always becoming shabbier and less attractively conducted.

Quite a talk has lately been got up over the way in which strangers are welcomed to our churches, especially if they have not the gold ring and the gay clothing. There is too many cases a good deal of truth in what is said, but surely the evil is exaggerated. We know some churches where there is a regular diet of hand-shaking at the door. All and sundries, young and old, have to pass through the ordeal every Sunday morning, whether strangers or not. Is this

not carrying the thing too far, and does it not tend to formality as cold as it is offensive? A Russian lady once said that she would sooner be beaten than kissed for mere form's sake, and we do believe a good many would say the same of hand-shaking at church doors. What do people go to church for, anyway? Is it to have a regular fuss made over them, or to worship God? or to say, God be merciful to me a sinner. or what?

So the standard bearer of the Grits in Lennox has fallen, it will of course be said by the indiscreet zeal of his friends. Indiscreet, indeed! But surely a great deal that is said in extenuation of such practices is pure undiluted bosh. It seems that Lennox is a great place for trading in cats, especially at election times. Its morals at any rate are evidently going to the dogs. It is simply a shame and a scandal that such things should be, and that both parties should go on so much in the same way. The party that would be willing to lose every elector rather than bribe to the extent of a quarter, would continually come out best, all the outcry to the contrary, notwithstanding.

We have received a long letter from British Columbia, protesting against some views expressed in TRUTH in reference to Chinese in that or any other quarter. The reasoning of our correspondent does not convince us, though we are quite willing to say as we have done already, that all Chinese who do not come deliberately of their own accord, and at their own cost, but are brought out under contract by the companies as so, far slaves ought not to be allowed to land, any more than negroes on slave ships ought. But if Canada is a free country then any man of every race under heaven who is without crime or contagious diseases and is neither a lunatic nor a pauper, but can pay and work his own way, ought to be allowed to come and go as he pleases, so long as he obeys our laws. As to amalgamating, what does our correspondent mean? Is a man who goes to a country obliged to marry and take up the habits of the country? If he choose to remain a bachelor, and live meanly, why not? Many do. They are many Irish, Scotch and English, to say nothing of Germans, Italians, and what not, who are very undesirable accessories to our population. But what is to be done? They are dirty, vicious, and drunken. Yet if they commit no crime, and jog along in a miserable, half-starved fashion, what are you to do? There is not a Chinaman, for instance in Toronto, but what charges as much for laundry work as any white man or woman does. They are never before the police court, some of them are certainly making money. If they choose, when they have made "their pile" to go back to China, why not? Many white people have the idea of going back to Scotland and England aye, and even Ireland, when they are able to return. They are merely encamped here in order to make money. This is no doubt to be regretted, but it is to be supposed they gave good value for all the money they have made. It is theirs, and in that case surely they can do what they like with their own. It would be fun if very young fellow when asked when he comes (say) to Toronto: "Well, what are

you after? Are you going to settle down here and marry one of Toronto's daughters? Do you mean to make this your permanent home? If so, it is all right. If not, the sooner you make tracks from this the better. We suffer no such wanderers here!" That would not do, would it? Why? Such refuse to amalgamate.

Some people say that in this age men have lost the power of conversation. Instead of that we think they have come into its true possession. What conversation could there be with those interminable talkers of other days? What man of any spirit or self-respect could get along with a maudering monopolist of talk, like Coleridge or a brusque, over-bearing wind-bag like Macaulay? Such times are to a great extent passed and oh what a mercy it is that they are! Carlyle too, with his insolent, overlasting talky talk. Why did people stand it? No doubt it was very good, but God pity the poor mortals that listened, say we, even though Thomas was a fifty times bigger man than he was. Let even the greatest Conversationist (save the mark) when he or she has harangued for about an hour make a visible pause to see if any of the rest of the company has any remark to interject. Even yet there are fearful specimens still extant of what must be regarded as a surpassing nuisance and a snare.

If a determination of words to the mouth be, in some respects as threatening a symptom as determination of blood to the head, what shall be said of determination of letters and appeals to the public? Simply that it is awful. We know one or two men—and we know them to our sorrow—who are overlastingly writing letters to newspapers on all imaginable subjects in order apparently to keep their names before the public. They manage to make themselves infinite bores by the process. They have such an air of wisdom about them in all that they say, a sort of resigned feeling of evident superiority with a style as dull as dullness, and suggestions as stupid and commonplace as can be imagined. They have always some proposal to make and are pleased as Punch with the idea that they are leading everybody and guiding everything. Oh, dear! Oh, dear, If they would only be content with the "little place" for which they are fit what a mercy it would be! And if friends would only keep pen, ink and paper from them! Well! well! What is it this week? A plan for disposing of the sewage of great cities? Or is it the federation of the Universe? or what? Oh to think of it! Oh to speak of it! Give us all a rest for a week say—

Cholera is making great headway in France. It is in Paris and is daily becoming more widely spread. In all likelihoods it will be on this continent before the winter is over. The evident duty in view of such a possibility is for every one to clean up, cultivate great moderation in eating and drinking, &c., and not to allow anything like panic or fear even though the danger do come. Curious that while all profess to believe in the God of the Bible as a wise, generous, loving Father, for anyone to recommend trust in combined with prayer to Him as a due complement of all judicious care and

all sanitary effort, is generally voted fanatical or sneered at as absurd. It is a great deal more than curious. It is ominous for it shows that many who have plenty of Christianity on their lips, have little or none of it, either in their hearts or their lives.

It is a pity that the "Bible in Schools" should have been a stalking horse for political partisans to use for their own purposes. It is quietly taken for granted that those who are not willing that Bible reading in schools should be in every case enforced by legal enactment, are against religion of all kinds, are bad people, incurably bad, when, as a matter of fact, it is notorious that they are nothing of the kind. But it is expected that in this way some grain will be brought to some political grist mill. That Mowat will perhaps be embarrassed, and so on. Now is this nice? Is it fair? Is it honest?

Britain's Greatness.

Some of the papers of the United States speak out frankly and fairly in praise of Britain's greatness and in support of the fiscal system which has helped so materially to bring this greatness round. For instance, the *Chicago Herald* in a late issue says:

Let us not delude ourselves with fictitious greatness. There is another country at whose greatness we may well pause for contemplation. Its area exceeds eight and a half million square miles. The basis of its power is not land but water. Its greatness is maritime, and its coast line is twenty-eight thousand five hundred miles long. It lies on both sides of the equator, and its boundaries touch the extremes of heat and cold. Its uncultivated area, which can be made to feed unbroken millions without the help of the United States, covers millions of square miles. It contains one hundred thousand square miles of forest, which are being jealously preserved while ours are being ruthlessly sacrificed. Its population amounts to 315,000,000 souls, including pretty nearly all the races known to man. Its revenue for government amounts to more than a thousand million dollars annually, only one-fourth of which is levied in direct taxation. It has nearly a million men under arms. It has one policeman for every sixteen square miles of its entire area. Its 216 war vessels are all in commission, not rotting in harbors. Its merchant navy consists of 80,060 ships, manned by 270,000 sail. Its sea-going tonnage amounts to eight and a half millions. It surpasses in steamers all other powers on the globe, and nearly equals their combined total in sailing vessels. Forty-nine per cent of the carrying power of the world is under its flag. Nearly half the entire yearly cargo of the world is under that flag. More than half the ship earnings from freight and passengers belong to it. Two-thirds of the tonnage annually built belongs to it. The banks of that empire transact one-third the business of the entire world. Its manufactures comprise one-third those of all Europe. It uses 30 per cent of the horse power of the world. Its enormous debt, which it uses as the most profitable investment of its own earnings, amounts to only nine per cent of its wealth. It is the wealthiest state in the world, and its wealth has been made by its exports. Its name is Great Britain, and it abandoned after a full and fair trial, the economic policy to which the United States fatuously clings. It sends its ships to every clime; it offered its wares in every port; it asked no tax on articles offered in exchange, and the cargoes its ships carried back to their wharves enriched it as much as those they had borne away.