

TRUTH.

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

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TRUTH'S MUSINGS.

Rev. Dr. Wilson has been brought into a great deal of popularity as well as notoriety by the treatment he has received from the hands of his Dean at Kingston. He has severed all connection with the Dean and the Bishop and is now in Kingston taking his leave of old friends and winding up his affairs in his old home. It is understood that he is, for the present, without any charge, and will probably remain for a time, in Toronto, but a gentleman of his address, ability, and zeal, need not consider himself disengaged for any length of time.

Last Sunday the reception the Reverend Doctor received at the Salvation Army Barracks in the afternoon and at Shaftesbury Hall in the evening was simply an ovation. At both places there were immense audiences drawn out by the announcement that Dr. Wilson would speak and from both places hundreds went away unable to gain admittance at all. The impression he created was certainly a very favorable one. The Doctor reaffirms, with great earnestness, his determination to stand by the Salvation Army as long as the Lord stands by it and continues to bless its labours for the good of men as He now does.

The practical article on the preservation of some forest, printed on another page of this issue of TRUTH, is well worthy of attention. It is from the practical pen of Mr. Phipps who has been by the Ontario Government given charge of the new Forestry branch, the object of which is the prevention of the too rapid stripping of our wood lands.

Even some of the Ottawa editors are beginning to write some pretty plain things about the unnecessary pomp and expense in connection with the establishment of the Governor-General. The truth of the matter is keeping up a representative of Royalty in Canada, even on a small scale, is a pretty expensive luxury and the thing must be drawn pretty mild, or some fine day the tax payers of Canada will revolt and declare that the game is not worth the price of the powder. Under our existing state of things a Governor-General seems to be a necessary officer, but it certainly is not necessary for every gentleman so appointed to import out with him a retinue of Old Country flunkies, with expensive Old Country ideas, to be paid for out of Canadian taxes, when there are plenty of men and women in Canada glad to catch on to some such sort of an easy job. If flunkeyism is just what is needed, goodness knows we have a supply in Canada quite equal to the demand. If the "old families" of Britain cannot stand both the climate and associations of Canada it would be better to leave the jobs in the hands of those sufficiently strong of nerve to do so.

TRUTH much fears that some Governor-General, in attempting to outdo a predecessor in brilliancy, may outdo the patience of the Canadian tax payer, and bring the whole business into disgust.

The Imperial Parliament was not opened by the Queen in person this year, nor has it been for years. The Queen, though regularly performing her other duties, has ceased to make it a custom to deliver the Speech from the Throne. It is simply read by some member of the Government in the Queen's name, and it is well enough understood that the "Speech" is also written by some member of the Government. Would it not be better for the same system to prevail in Canada? Surely nearly every sensible man must be disgusted with the display of tom-foolery exhibited in connection with the opening of the Dominion Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures.

It is quite probable that Queen Victoria, like the sensible woman that she is, got unwilling, long ago, to make a mere exhibition of herself as a sort of fanciful figure-head at the Parliamentary openings. Such formal openings in person she saw were not necessary, or even desirable. Of course there are no such grand displays of millinery on the floor of the House as there once were, and the flunkies have no such opportunities of showing off, but no man will say that the actual legislation of the session will not be just as valuable to the nation as it would have been had there been an extraordinary display of fuss and feathers.

One of the leading American papers thus speaks in regard to the situation in the Great Republic:—"It is declared that if the present tariff is not materially changed there will be a surplus in the Treasury, in January 1891, of \$500,000,000. The ringsters and jobbers, will, however, not be at a loss for schemes to divert a large part of this sum to their own pockets. They even feel happy over the prospects; the tax payers alone wear the shoes that pinch."

A movement is on foot to erect a monument to the memory of the late Thomas D'Arcy McGee, but it makes wonderfully slow progress. Mr. McGee was an Irishman of the first water and was ambitious to be a champion of his people. The wonder is that the Irishmen have been so slow to pay fitting tribute to his memory. TRUTH knows of some Irishmen who would have contributed largely and promptly had the great orator turned his attention to blowing up the Parliament buildings or shooting the Governor-General.

It is announced that the Toronto Semi-Centennial celebration will take place about the middle of June. A respected

correspondent suggests that the first week in July would be a much more preferable time, both for the convenience of the farmers and for the American tourists, as well as those from across the Atlantic who may visit the British Scientific Association at Montreal. In that case Dominion Day might be taken in as one of the days of the celebration adding, no doubt, largely to the number of the visitors to the city. The suggestion is certainly well worthy of the careful consideration of the Committee.

A Boston paper says, truly enough, no doubt:—British Columbia proposes to limit the importation of Chinese, by charging each Chinaman in the Province \$100 annually, for the mere privilege of living there, which is decidedly more than it is worth.

It appears that there are some strange anomalies in the United States tariff as well as our own. Last year, it will be remembered, our Government put tariff of roses on the free list and added considerably on the duty on agricultural implements. At Washington they have so framed the tariff as to charge 10 per cent. duty on diamonds, 25 per cent on fine laces, and from 50 to 90 per cent on agricultural implements and mechanics tools, and even a larger amount than this on coarse cotton goods. Such things look curious enough on the face of them, but the wise heads who make our laws say they are all right.

The *Canadian-American*, of Minneapolis, has this to say about Dominion affairs:—"The *New York Tribune* congratulates the Dominion upon the state of its Treasury. It says that a national surplus may have its inconveniences when it is very large and offers temptations to corruption; but in Canada's case it is "an unmixed good in a political sense." Had the recurring deficits of a few years ago continued much longer, the *Tribune* believes they would have led to the dissolution of the bonds of Confederation. Of course, during recent years the public debt of Canada has been largely increased: but massive public works of various kinds show that the money has been well spent.

The *Globe* of Monday assures the public that the great dust being raised by the Tories in the Local House, about the Algoma scandal, is intended for the purpose of drawing off attention from the "atrocities" now being committed at Ottawa, in connection with the Pacific Railway loan. The *Mail* of Tuesday gives the public to understand that the reason the Grits are raising such a hue and cry about the pretended railway scandals is to draw off attention from the Algoma and other rascalities. So it goes. Surely that kind of political "discussion"—if any such name can be applied to it,—is about as demoralizing and harmful as

the lowest of the yellow covered literature ever prohibited from passing through the mails.

The "Algoma Scandal" is about the worst thing yet brought to light against the Mowat Government. It appears that during the Rat Portage difficulty last summer a trap was laid to see what telegrams, and possibly what letters, were passing between the Ontario Government agents at the Portage and the members of the Government. The contents of these private telegrams were carefully copied and are now being used to the best advantage by the Leader of the Opposition in the House, and by the organs of the party throughout the country. It may be a nice thing for the Ottawa Government to consent to send a man to a particular post-office on purpose to intercept private communication passing through, but whether that was right or not does not affect the case so far as the Provincial authorities are concerned.

One of the telegrams sent to the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands from the Government Agent was for the purpose of informing the Minister that his Agent was bargaining with the local paper to support Ontario's claims in consideration of \$500 in cash, to be paid down. The Agent wanted the cash at once as the "other side" were also bidding, and the Editor was evidently intent to make the most out of the situation. It does not appear that the money was sent, or even promised by the Government, but the fact that its Representative entered into such negotiations, knowing well the character of his duties there, had a very bad look on the face of it.

The fact, too, that the *Globe* and the other leading Grit organs cannot now see anything amiss in such a proposed method of spending the public money, is even more damaging to the good reputation of the Party than the telegrams themselves were. Had such negotiations been repudiated by the Ministers and by the Organs, there would not have been any party odium in the matter. As it is the Party are making themselves responsible for the business.

Another Agent telegraphed that he was on his way up the lakes from the Portage, and things were moving on "gloriously." He wanted \$1,500 of public funds, at once, for "legitimate purposes." The time and place of sending was so near the then election excitement as to give the whole thing a very suspicious look. The Government evidently considered it so, for they did not send the money, nor do they appear to have even answered the telegram. If they did so they are not now willing to acknowledge it. It would have been to their credit had they promptly sent an answer refusing the request, in case they considered the demand unnecessary.