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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

WE have inadvertently delayed too long in calling the attention of our readers in the City to the noble work that is being done by the "Children's Aid Society." The special aspect of this work which just now demands attention and merits liberal encouragement is that carried on by means of the "Fresh Air Fund." The object of this fund, which is now a branch of the work of the Society, is, as our readers are all no doubt aware, to provide free summer excursions for poor children, to whom, but for this admirable charity, a breath of country air, a run on country soil, and a view of country scenery, would be unattainable delights. Ten cents is, if we remember correctly, the average cost of providing one of these excursions for one child. Consequently, if any one of our readers has not already the pleasant consciousness of having been the means of contributing in this way to the health and happiness of some of the poor waifs, he is hereby reminded that for one dollar he may make himself the benefactor to that extent of no less than ten. From a circular appeal just issued, we learn that already this season seventeen excursions have been had, in which about five thousand poor persons, most of them young children, have had an outing with free lunches, etc. The funds are now exhausted, but we are sure the kind-hearted people of Toronto will not let so good a work be hindered for want of a thousand dollars. With regard to the larger work in which this Society is engaged the whole year, it may well be doubted whether there is any charity wiser or more truly beneficent and patriotic. In fact, it must be evident to everyone who seriously considers the subject that the main hope of effecting any marked and radical improvement in the social and moral condition of the degraded and vicious classes in the cities, is in getting hold of the children, rescuing them from their degrading surroundings and training them for good citizenship. That is, as we understand it, exactly the work in which this Society is engaged and for which it exists. It is, therefore, a work in which every good citizen should delight to have a hand,

THE death of Sir Daniel Wilson leaves a large vacancy in the ranks of Ontario's foremost educationists, but a still larger blank, and one which it will be still harder to fill, in the ranks of Canada's distinguished literary and scientific workers. The story of his life will, no doubt, be adequately told elsewhere. Here it must suffice simply to note the sad fact that the honoured President of the Provincial University, the talented author of a number of valuable literary and scientific works, and the large-hearted and genial philanthropist, whose face was once so familiar at gatherings for benevolent and philanthropic purposes, has gone from our midst to return no more. While it is much to be able to say of the departed that he possessed some of the attributes of greatness, it is even more pleasing to know that he was characterized in still larger measure by many of the nobler qualities which we recognize as goodness. In the intellectual sphere, Sir Daniel's highest achievements were undoubtedly made in the domain which enlisted his interest and enthusiasm to a greater degree than any other, that of Archaeology. This seems to have been his first love, for his earliest works, such as "Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time," as well as those later and more valuable, *e. g.*, "The Archaeology and Pre-historic Annals of Scotland," "Pre-historic Man," etc., deal with this class of themes. All these, and especially the two last named, are works of acknowledged scientific value, entitling their author to a place in the front ranks of students of the dim records of the buried past. But Sir Daniel was known also as a diligent student of history and English literature. His well-known "Caliban, or the Missing Link," while valuable as a Shakespearian study, also marks his fondness for scientific investigation and speculation. His numerous papers, especially in earlier days, in leading English magazines; his weightier contributions to the transactions of learned societies in the Mother Country and in Canada; his articles in the earlier and later editions of the Encyclopædia Britannica, as well as his more ephemeral public lectures and addresses, all attest the fact that he was a man of fine literary taste and master of a graceful and often eloquent style. But Sir Daniel was a man of action as well as a student of science and literature. The manner in which, in spite of the growing infirmities of age, he responded to the sudden call made upon his energies by the catastrophe which laid the University in ashes, has placed the students and friends of the University under obligations which should not soon be forgotten. To him probably more than to any other man is due the speedy restoration of the building and the remarkable success of the effort to restore the library and museum. But his best and most enduring memorial will no doubt be the tender and loving impressions left upon the hearts of those who knew him most intimately in the home in which he was beloved, the social circles in which he moved, and the Christian church in which he was a devoted member and a humble worshipper.

THE fatalities from drowning in the Bay and other waters in the vicinity of Toronto, always abnormally numerous, have this season been appalling. Scarcely a day passes which does not bring its record of deaths by drowning. Those who have lived in other cities where there is, in proportion to population, much more of boating and bathing than in the not very inviting waters of our Bay, assure us that they have never known elsewhere anything like a proportionate number of deaths by drowning. What is the cause of this sorrowful distinction which our city is gaining? What steps are being taken to ascertain and to remove or counteract that cause? Is the bottom in the places where the young are tempted to wade uneven and treacherous? Then it surely is the duty of the civic authorities to ascertain the fact and to take proper precautions, by means either of prohibitions or danger signals, or of guards and life-saving appliances, to save the lives of heedless children and incautious adults. Are the boats which are kept for hire unsuitable and dangerous for the classes of persons, often those who know little or nothing of boating, who chiefly employ them? Such a state of the case would point to the need of inspection, and of laws and regulations to fix a proper responsibility upon those who let out boats for hire. May we venture to suggest

that it might be well for the City Fathers to appoint a committee of suitable experts to investigate and report, saying what precautions, if any, can be taken to prevent the loss of so many lives in Toronto waters. The experiment could do no harm, beyond the trifling expense involved, and might result in much good. It would at least suggest that the civic authorities are not indifferent in the matter and are anxious to do all in their power to save the lives of their fellow-citizens and of visitors.

AT the moment when these lines are being written, the announcement which has appeared in some of the journals supposed to be in the confidence of the Government, to the effect that it has been decided to settle the canals difficulty by doing away with the discrimination which is its immediate cause and imposing a uniform rate of twenty cents per ton upon all traffic passing through the Welland Canal, irrespective of destination, is unconfirmed. Assuming, however, as we think we may safely do, that the rumour correctly foreshadows the prospective action of the Ottawa Government, we congratulate the country upon the fact. The only better course possible under the circumstances would be the abolition of the toll altogether, or if the revenues could not afford the loss—which must, however, be insignificant, as but a small part of the traffic seems to have paid the toll without rebate—its reduction by a large percentage. But either course is better than a war of retaliation, which, while it could probably be made to inflict heavier damage upon the commerce of our neighbours than upon our own, could not fail to result in serious injury to ourselves. Were it a question of yielding under menace a clear Canadian right, there would hardly be room for question whether it would not be better for us to suffer the direst loss which the injustice of the United States could inflict, rather than to make an abject surrender to foreign dictation. But, as our readers well know, we have never been able so to regard the Canadian practice. In fact, we believe we have been almost alone among Canadian journals in arguing that the discrimination which has caused the present trouble was really an evasion of the spirit of the Treaty. This is now as good as admitted by some of the ablest and fairest of the journals supporting the Government, in admitting that the tax which the President of the United States is authorized to impose upon Canadian commerce at the Sault Canal is a tax precisely the same in kind, and adapted to operate in precisely the same way, as the policy which it has been devised to meet. That is to say, the Ottawa Government has been applying a rule whose application by the other party to the bargain would be ruinous to Canadian Canal commerce. What need of further argument? It is impossible to congratulate an administration which thus takes up positions from which it is liable to be forced at any moment to recede. The process is humiliating to Canadian national spirit.

IT is objected, with apparent force, that the withdrawal of the rebate for the remainder of the season will work serious harm to Canadian shippers who have made their calculations and contracts for the season on the faith of the Government's virtual promise to continue the rebate. That is a matter of detail with which the Government can hardly refuse to deal in some way, so as to prevent loss to traders through its fault. A more serious question touching the future is that arising out of the failure of the United States to keep faith with Canada in regard to the use of the New York canals. It has been common to hear the virtual closing of these canals to Canadian commerce, contrary to the terms of the Treaty, urged in justification of the policy of discrimination which is now about to be given up under pressure from Washington. The justification fails because, in the first place, two wrongs can never result in the right, and, in the second place, if the canal tolls discrimination was made as a measure of retaliation, the fact should have been distinctly declared in order that it might be understood and have an opportunity to produce its intended effect at Washington. But so far from that being done, elaborate arguments were from time to time framed and put forth to prove that the discrimination in question was not in violation of the obligations of the Treaty. Now, if the Dominion Government wisely does