

kull. The reason why contact by the hand is so much more fatal than through the head, is that electricity travels through the water in the human body. The hair of the head is a non-conductor. You see that when you comb your hair with a rubber comb. Anything that electricity attracts is a non-conductor. The bones were also non-conductors, and in electrical executions like that of Kommler the bones of the skull have to be penetrated. The true way to execute a criminal is to send the current through his body from one arm of the death chair to another. The arms, hands, and fingers are full of blood, which is a good conductor of electricity. Let the hands be properly cleansed and moistened and the charge would pass through the heart, causing instant death." Coming from so eminent an authority on electricity, this opinion ought not to be lightly set aside. It seems unfortunate, indeed, that Mr. Edison's opinion had not been sought when the arrangements for the execution were being made.

Looking at the somewhat unsatisfactory result of the trial, one is led to ask, What is likely to be the effect of the experiment in relation to the new law? One thing is certain, that it will fail to end the controversy that has been waged over the substitution of the dynamo for the gallows. Witness the opinion of Mr. Edison, as also the following from the New York Sun: "The first duty of the next Legislature will be to repeal the electrical execution law and restore the old method of administering the death sentence by hanging. Scientific curiosity has been gratified sufficiently by this one awful experiment." Also this from the New York World: "The first experiment in electrical execution should be the last. Its result strongly condemns this method of putting criminals to death as very cruel and very shocking." It would be matter of regret, however, if the opponents of the new law should succeed; at least, before further test has been made. That the new method is an improvement on hanging, by which, as in the case of the unfortunate Harvey, the poor wretch is frequently put to death by the slow process of strangulation, must be conceded by all who admit any weight to the testimony of the physicians present the other morning. With perfect unanimity they expressed their opinion that consciousness fled at the first charge of the fluid, and never again returned. If civilized nations are not yet prepared to dispense altogether with the death penalty, they are certainly bound to make the exit of the criminal as painless as possible. And that this end was gained by the new method no one seems to question.

The Montreal Witness appears to think that notwithstanding the loud boasting of Canadians of the superior morals of those who live north of the boundary line, Americans could teach us a useful lesson in political ethics. Referring to the great funeral gift to Mrs. Harrison of a cottage, the Witness says: "President Harrison gave him a cottage and gave it to his wife. The first magistrate called him to pay for it. The wife of the President in the Government in the nation, who would

isters and nearly 22,000,000 members. During the year there has been an increase of 8,600 churches, nearly 4,000 ministers and nearly 1,000,000 members. The most numerous denomination is the Roman Catholic, with its 7,500 churches, 8,300 priests, etc., and 8,277,000 population, of whom 4,076,000 are estimated to be communicants. Then come the Methodists, with, in round numbers, 4,980,000 communicants; Baptists, 4,292,000; Presbyterians, 1,220,000; Lutherans, 1,080,000; Congregationalists, 491,000, and Episcopalians, 480,000. The increase in the Catholic population during the year was 421,700. The estimated gain in Catholic communicants was over 233,000. The growth of Protestant membership was 608,000. The Methodists gained more than 256,000, the Baptists more than 213,000, the Lutherans 93,000, the Presbyterians nearly 49,000, the Congregationalists more than 10,000 and the Episcopalians about 9,500. The accession of new members was even larger than these figures, since in every denomination there were deaths of members whose places were filled by new acquisitions. The number of deaths in the Methodist Episcopal body, for example, was reported at 28,300."

Those who are trying to make themselves believe that Christianity is losing its hold upon the people, will derive little comfort from a consideration of the foregoing figures, whose significance will hardly be set aside by the oft-quoted objection, "That an increase of numbers does not necessarily imply an increase of aggressive energy, or of the Christly spirit." On the other hand, those who have the welfare of the church at heart will find much to encourage and inspire in the record of the past year.

To stand where man has never stood, to perform feats which have defied the strength and skill of others is an ambition which many fondly cherish. In this respect two Alpine climbers, now visiting this continent, have just succeeded. They climbed to the summit of Mount Sir Donald, in the Canadian Rockies, a feat that has hitherto defied pedestrians. They have taken observations which they propose to report to the Dominion Government and to their own club in Switzerland. What the advantage of these observations will prove it is difficult to say, any further than that they will likely gratify the curiosity of those who have been wondering what was up there beyond their reach. The success of these visitors, who assure us that the difficulties of the British Columbia mountain are not exceeded by the Jungfrau, is an illustration of the old saying, "practice makes perfect." Why shouldn't they do better than others; climbing in their business?

A letter of application, said to have been written by a young woman in Montreal in answer to an advertisement by an English lady for a servant, has been going the rounds of the press, and as it is quite a curiosity in its way, and eclipses all others of its kind, TRUTH would help to save it from oblivion. The letter runs as follows:

Dear Madam,—I think your place will suit me very well, as I know the advantages of travelling in widening the mind and strengthening the character generally. If I came to you I should require the use of the piano three evenings a week to keep up my music, and on the other three evenings I should wish to go out with a gentleman friend. On Sunday afternoon and evening, when my friends usually come to see me, I should want the use of the dining-room to receive them in. I should not mind taking the children out sometimes when you are especially busy, as I like to oblige, but I could not undertake it regular. Hoping to hear from you, as I am sure we shall suit each other, if the wages are good, I remain,

The genuineness of this epistle may be doubted by those who have never grappled with the servant girl difficulty; but those who have had experience it will find nothing incredible, though, perhaps, a little stronger than anything to do with. Who is to blame things, and how it is to be done, which may well seem from the unostentatious manner in

An important decision has just been rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada on the question, whether or not it is ultra vires of a provincial government to pass a law such as the following, which occurs in the amended Liquor License Laws for Ontario: "In the case of an application for a tavern or shop license by a person who is not, at the time of making such application, a licensee under the Act, or in the case of an application for such license for or transfer thereof to premises which are not then licensed, the petition must be accompanied by a certificate signed by a majority of electors entitled to vote at elections for the Legislative Assembly in the polling sub-division in which the premises sought to be licensed are situated, and the said majority must include at least one-third of the said electors who are at the time of such application residents within the said polling sub-division." Those opposed to the law argue that if the principle of preventing the issue of licenses be valid, it is conceivable that Prohibition should be introduced throughout the Province through the instrumentality of an act of the Local Legislature; whereas to prohibit is the function of the Federal government. The Court, however, did not sustain this view, but held that "the Legislature could properly impose these conditions to the obtaining of a license, and the provision is not ultra vires the Local Legislature as being a prohibitory measure by reason of the rate-payers being able to prevent any licenses being issued, nor is it a measure in restraint of trade by affixing a stigma to the business of selling liquor." The importance of this decision from a temperance point of view will be readily seen. It removes all doubts concerning the constitutionality of a provision which is regarded as one of the most desirable amendments of last session.

The reluctance of the Dominion and Quebec governments, to espouse the cause of the friendless immigrant girl who was seduced and ruined by the man that should have been her guardian, gives strong ground for the accusation of a contemporary, that "were there any political object to be served by prosecuting the case, these two Governments would be quarrelling as to which should do it." The case is peculiar, and sad withal. Seduction, in the eyes of the law, being an offence against the parents or guardian of a minor victim, these must bring the action for damages. But parents or guardians, in this country, the girl has none. Those who come nearest to filling that position are the Dominion government, which assisted the girl hither, and the Provincial government which is the guardian at law of all minors who have neither parents nor guardians. Neither government could proceed against the unprincipled seducer. Therefore to quibble over the question, upon whom does the greater responsibility rest, is unworthy of men who have the honor of their country at heart, and upon whom is laid the duty of putting down injustice, oppression and wrong. The unseemly spectacle presented by two governments, each of which professes to be the champion of the rights and liberties of the people they govern, seeking to evade a work as philanthropic and commendable is not calculated to increase the respect of the people for their rulers, or to create the impression that they are actuated by pure and unselfish motives.

The latest addition to the world of news papers is entirely in Latin, advertisements and all, and its object is to prove that Latin should again become what it was in the middle ages, the universal language.

There is a suspicion in political circles in England that the recent visit of Emperor William to Osborne, where he spent a couple of days with his Royal Grandmother and uncles, has a greater significance than would seem from the unostentatious manner in

which it was carried out. It will be remembered that a former visit in 1888 afforded the starting-point leading to the Anglo-German agreement, by which the dispute between the two nations regarding their African possessions has been so satisfactorily adjusted. And now it is reported that this energetic ruler is contemplating a far greater scheme, and one that affects more intimately and vitally the well being of the workingmen in Germany and throughout all Europe. This is no other than a treaty of peace among the nations of Europe, which would allow of a large reduction of their standing armies. It is reported in official circles that his visit to the Czar is to obtain that Emperor's consent to another Berlin Congress for this purpose. It is not thought probable, however, that the Czar will fall in with the scheme unless associated with the restoration of Russian domination in the Balkans and the permanent satisfying of France. Still, as it is the unexpected that generally happens, who will undertake to say that this laudable project will not be realized? That it may succeed, thousands will devoutly pray.

Last Saturday Mr. Justice MacMahon gave his decision in the now famous case of the Town of Cobourg and others against the Board of Regents of Victoria University. The decision covers three points, viz., the right of Victoria to federate with the Provincial University, the right of Victoria to remove from Cobourg to Toronto, and the control of the fund which is being collected by Dr. Potts for the erection of buildings in Toronto. The decision is a victory for the University, which, after meeting certain specified conditions, will be free to carry out the federation scheme. These conditions are, that the scheme of federation shall be assented to at a properly constituted meeting of the authorities competent to decide, that the Town of Cobourg, in the event of removal, shall be compensated for the five acres of land deeded by it to the institution, and that the subscribers to Faraday hall, who so demand, shall have the amounts of their subscriptions refunded. Whether the plaintiffs will accept the decision and refrain from carrying their course to a higher court remains to be seen.

With only 14,000,000 gallons of water in the reservoir, and a daily consumption of 16,000,000 gallons, the prospect, in case any accident should happen to the waterworks engine, is not particularly cheering. A water famine at any time would entail endless inconvenience and much suffering, but in this hot weather, when so much is required to meet the wants of the sweltering citizens, a failure in this direction would be a calamity indeed. Those who realize the gravity of the situation will earnestly hope that Engineer Brough's assurances concerning the ability of the engine to endure the high pressure at which it has for so long been running, may not prove deceptive. Let the citizens second the efforts of the authorities and economize wherever economy may be practised, and the danger will soon be past.

How much the success of the whole often depends upon the proper working of the several parts was strikingly illustrated by the recent break at the Sault Canal. Though closed to traffic for only 88 hours, the loss the stoppage entailed upon the country in general, is estimated at over \$1,000,000. No less than 182 vessels were congregated at one time; while the total number delayed is 265. These carried a total cargo of 248,484 tons and passengers to the number of 1,362 of whom 1,302 were tourists and 92 locals. The average time for which the total of 265 vessels were delayed is 1 day, 16 hours, and 32 minutes. The loss to vessel owners alone will be \$80,000 per day.