The Toronto World.

FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 14, 1882.

CAPTAIN EAD'S REPORT.

With regard to Captain Eads' report on the Toronto harbor a very mistaken view may easily gain currency. It may be said, as in fact it has been said, that Captain Eads has told us nothing more than good Canadian engineering authorities had told us long ago. But this is not probably true, because we can hardly imagine a man of his reputation undertaking a new local problem without throwing some new light on it, more or less.

The settlement of technical questions of engineering is something for professional men, with this proviso added, that statesmen and capitalists have at last to decide as to what shall be done. Scientific advice must be had, however; without it neither governments nor companies commit themselves to large expenditure. It therefore seems proper that with regard to the Toronto harbor the opinion of a high outside authority should be obtained. To say that Captain Eads' report only confirms much that we knew before is an evasion of the real issue. Admit that he only confirms, and gives us nothing more, is not his confirmation something of value?

The objection is made that the report is too verbose, too long, and that there is too much of it. There may be two ways of looking at this. As something to be read by the general public, Captain Eads' report may be described as profoundly uninteresting. But it may be that for scientific men who have to study details, and decide upon them, he has not written a line too much. Doing justice to the whole case, Captain Eads had to state it very fully. It is not for us to say that he has settled the case: we go no farther than saying that he has given a very full and inclusive statement of the circumstances thereto belonging.

His recommendations as to what is to be done stand on quite another footing. There he may be right, or he may be wrong. But it can hardly be said that he has made up his opinion in ignorance of the facts. We must give Captain Eads credit for mastering the facts and stating them. If it turns out that he has merely advised what Canadian engineers did long ago, that is still something; it is something to have good confirmations.

But, again, in the prospective expenditure for Toronto harbor, is there anything for the country in general and the city, in particular to be alarmed about? Not much we should say. We have to deal with the outflow into the lake of two little streams, the Don and the Humber. Neither of them touches the dimensions of the Mississippi. The thing that we have to do is on a smaller scale. How far laws which govern the movements of large rivers can apply to creeks, is a question. Some people may say that the rule which hold good for an inch is good for a mile, and that the Don throws itself out a good deal as the Mississippi does, only not so very much, let us say. It has not the magnitude of the Mississippi, but within its little bounds, it may act a good deal as the Mississippi does. That is, if it were not for lake winds and currents, which have to be considered. But it is a comparatively small affair that we have to deal with. We need not magnify it or get it up to Mississippi dimensions, because we have asked Captain Eads' advice. We can manage the Don and the Humber, and the lake currents, too, with a little good counsel. It seems to be as well, however, to get the advice beforehand.

A decision of a very practical character is now before the government at Ottawa and the citizens of Toronto. The government may recommend a certain expenditure, provided the city pay part of it. As regards the former, the decision is already made; the work will be done, on certain conditions fulfilled by the city. It really rests with the city to decide. The expenditure proposed is large, though not as large as was talked about; what advice should be taken? Let us suggest a basis.

It is not Captain Eads' report, standing by itself, that we have to deal with. He contributes his statements of facts and opinions, which are afterwards to be pronounced upon by our best Dominion authorities. Scientifically the latter may go right, or they may go wrong, but they decide on the best information obtainable. Perhaps the engineering authorities of the public works department may adopt Captain Eads' advice, or they may not. One thing there is—very elaborate statements on high scientific authority have been obtained. If what Captain Eads' now recommends be merely what Canadian engineers advised long ago, this, we say, so much the more reason for carrying this advice into practice now. Take Eads' report for confirmation and go on.

The common sense view to take of Captain Eads' report is this: It supplements the opinion of our own scientific authorities with one of very high authority from the United States. It seems as if the government had now all they want in the way of scientific information. But we must protest against the idea that this further information was unnecessary. This information is a good thing to have before we begin pitching money into the bay. Suppose the report were nothing more than a means of bringing up, in carefully stated and scientific form the whole Toronto harbor question. An eminent foreign authority gives certain recommendations, but he also lays down an elaborate statement of facts upon which he invites us to make the decision for ourselves. This is the secret of Captain Eads' "verbosity," so called; he might in a few paragraphs have said what should be done, without adding much more. But he was not deciding; he had to state reasons upon which others were to decide. Will it do to read his report in this light?

THE BY-LAW DEFEATED.

The by-law to raise $160,000, principally for waterworks purposes, was overwhelmingly defeated yesterday by the ratepayers. The vote was 767 against, 347 for, a majority against it of 420.

No matter how much these improvements are needed—and their necessity is greatly questioned—the method adopted to introduce the by-law was unfortunate. Full information was not given to the citizens, and part of what was given was only forthcoming at the last moment, and people knew very little of the bill itself through its provisions being advertised in an obscure evening reprint of the Mail.

The Property Owner's Association have scored another victory and the council have again learned that their opinion is worthy of consideration—not of being treated with levity.

We do not suppose that the defeat of the bill will wipe out the intended improvements; but it will result in the plans being modified, the cost reduced, and the need of the proposed works more fully demonstrated.

THE RIGHTS OF GAS CONSUMERS.

Judge Lawrence's decision in the suit of General Sickles against the Manhattan gas-light company is one which will give encouragement and relief to suffering humanity.

The experience of General Sickles in the gas business is that of most persons. In his absence from home, when the house was shut up and the use of gas suspended, the meter professed to keep on measuring with its usual fidelity the amount of gas he was supposed to burn. It made no difference to the meter that he did not burn any; the faithful guardian of the gas company's interest continued its laborious work of registering carburetted hydrogen that never passed through it, and the profound interpreter of the hieroglyphics on its dial made out an average bill which the company, with customary presence of mind presented. General Sickles refused to pay it, because he did not owe it. The Manhattan company gave him his alternative of paying a bill he had not incurred, or of having his gas cut off. General Sickles did what has not been done before. He procured a temporary injunction restraining the company from cutting off his gas. Judge Lawrence has made the injunction permanent.

In other words, the summary proceedings of the gas monopolists to enforce collection of their bills are declared unlawful. If they have a claim they must collect it by appealing to the courts and obtaining judgment as any other creditor is compelled to do. It is manifestly inequitable that these monopolies should be given privileges denied to other parties.

As for meters, the popular belief that they are simply useful as decoys is not by any means destitute of foundation. It is a very grave question whether they are consulted at all. The size of a house is considered, the number of burners guessed at, a general estimate of what the consumer ought to pay a month is made, and, in the absence of any other information, a bill for that amount is sent in. This is the popular notion; whether it is absolutely correct we do not pretend to say, but it is notorious that experiments made in the large cities by individuals who intentionally reduce their consumption for a month in order to test the honesty of the company usually prove that no reduction is made in the bill.

THE MAN OF BLOOD AND IRON.

The numerous and flattering congratulations extended to Prince Bismarck on his sixty-eighth birthday by the foreign ambassadors at Berlin and other personages beyond the frontier of the Fatherland, show that the man of blood and iron is looked upon as the main factor in European affairs. Whatever may be said of Prince Bismarck, he is certainly not a man to be ridiculed. He is a diplomatist of consummate genius, and has exerted a more direct influence over the destinies of Europe than any other living statesman. He has created an empire, has introduced vast changes in the political map of the continent, and has rendered to the Fatherland illustrious services which will occupy the principal place in the most wonderful pages of Germany history. His power for evil, like his power for good, has been irresistible. He has forced upon Europe a system of militaryism, which has been the curse of the last twelve years. In the sphere of domestic politics his influence has been an almost unmitigated evil. He has arrested the development of constitutional government, and has shown an arrogant disdain for parliamentary control. Remembering both his virtues and his failings, it would hardly be an exaggeration to describe him as the foremost man in Europe. The chancellor is said to lament his destiny, and to feel that it is an evil one. It rests with him to alter it. Certainly, he cannot bring back the dead slain in the wars for which he is responsible, but he can do his best to lay the twin fiends of hatred ane jealousy which, under his inspiration, have set nation against nation and unsettled Europe. He might well begin with his own country. He has made Germany great; let him now try to make it happy.

MODERN CONVENIENCES.

Mr. George E. Waring, jr., of Washington takes lance in rest against Dr. Frank H. Hamilton. Dr. Hamilton, it will be remembered, has lately attacked with some vigor what are known as the modern conveniences of lite. Mr. Waring argues that Dr. Hamilton's plan of relegating all plumbing appliances to an outhouse attached to every dwelling is impracticable. He at the same time maintains that while a vast deal of plumbing now is defective and destructive to human life, all plumbing may be made absolutely safe by means of simplicity, perfect workmanship, perfect material, perfect local ventilation and provision against any possible bad effect from unusual neglect. Assuredly the public would prefer to share this more optimistic view. Still, if Dr. Hamilton shall have succeeded in awakening society to a practical understanding of the fact that no conveniences at all are better than those that are imperfectly executed or ill-devised, he will not have frightened it in vain.

THE RECTORY OF ST. JAMES.

We hear on good authority that Bishop Sweetman intends to respect the wishes of a united congregation and appoint Mr. Rainsford to the rectory of St. James. In choosing such a course the bishop will be acting wisely; he will more than ever entrench himself in the loyalty of the congregation; and there will be no shock given to that well-known principle, best expressed in the words "the right to manage one's own affairs." For forty years the congregation of St. James has been a remarkably harmonious one, and certainly very good reasons ought to be given for any act that would be likely to weaken the unity that has hitherto prevailed.

CHRONIQUES.

As usual: the Globe supported the $160,000 by-law and it was defeated.

* * *

The Irish Canadian has been denouncing everything Scotch; now that the islanders of Skye have begun to beat the process-servers of Lord Macdonald and the burg convention to favor home rule the I. C. applauds them and calls them brothers.

* * *

The Montreal Star is the leading evening paper of Canada. On Wednesday of this week it was eight pages in size and filled with good matter.

* * *

The history of street-sweeping machines in Boston is interesting. They met with intense, no less than absurd, opposition at the start, and along during their first years. This existed not only in city hall and among the workingmen of the department, but among various officials. Nevertheless they were continued in the out-of-the-way streets, and at length boomed into success.

* * *

The machines, it is true, have greatly improved, are now exceedingly efficient, and are used in that city by scores; but they were also useful and economical from the beginning. They are now used all over that city, and one man and a horse can readily do the work formerly performed by twenty-five men at least. The machine is now indispensable.

* * *

Let us have some of them in Toronto.

* * *

Speaking of Boston also brings up the fact that apartment hotels are rapidly on the increase in that city. They are occupied, of course, by families. The question is, is there as much real home comforts in them as in detached houses. We cannot answer the question; we only note the fact that these apartment hotels multiply with significant rapidity in large cities.

* * *

It looks as if we might soon have a revival of the Greek drama in our day. If the universities are to continue the study of classics there is no doubt of the fact that one of the best ways to promote it is to revive the Hellenic stage.

* * *

The production of a Greek play might be an event in every year's history of such a university as Toronto. The way Antigone was put on compares favorably with that of Harvard's attempt in the same line. As far as real classical scholarship goes Toronto can hold her own with any other institution on the continent though she has never made any fuss about it.

JAMES CHUTE AND THE CAT.

An Important Point Proven in the Interest of Womans' Rights and Other Matters of Importance.

To THE WORLD: Being a strong advocate of womans' rights, I hold the idea that woman, in a truly civilized country, should control and teach all youth of both sexes to a certain age, separating the sexes as they mature, but still retaining and controlling the education of her own sex at all ages, and under all circumstances; and I think A Rural Pedagogue, in his letters to The World, fully established my idea. He goes on to say, for it would be difficult in leed for any one to find grounds for bringing a charge of immorality against the ladies engaged in our (the) profession. In another letter he seems to advocate the building of a partition between the boys and girls at schools, omitting to notice the importance of a separation between female scholars and the opposite sex of their teachers; and I fully believe, if this idea was carried out by the general public, James Chute's flesh would not have been writhing in agony to-day, under the same circumstances. Therefore it is quite evident the general public is more to blame for the grievous injury done the little girl, by their indiscretions than James Chute, by employing male teachers in preference to female, and at higher salaries, and house the teacher, boys and girls all up together irrespective of sex, age or passions. Then, if any should violate the common order, lay on the lash, &c., is a grievous injustice to humanity. True education may educate human passions, but it will never subdue them, and is a false doctrine the general public seems very desirous to force upon itself; but let them look at Chute's case as a witness, and others of like offences.

Guelph, April 12. R. B.

To THE WORLD: Believing the subjec of the torture by the "cat" had been sufficiently discussed, I had resolved to say no more for the present, but the childish weakness of my friend "Sydney Smith" again tempts me into the arena of argument. I am sorry Mr. Smith persistently refuses to understand that I am wholly in favor of severe punishment for all crime and especially crime (no matter by whom commited) against the modesty and virtue of women. Mr. Smith's great admiration for the "cat" blinds him to the fact that thumbscrew, faggot and cat are primitive instruments of destruction and torture used by the dread ignorance of the dark ages, and that modern culture forbids cruel torture in criminal correction. The much more merciful use of the gallows has been abolished by modern communities, though I much question the policy that would stay the hangman when the crime was murder. By admitting only the casual use of the cat upon "soldiers in the field" Mr. Smith concedes my whole question, though I regret to hear that British pluck is so closely associated with the cruel cat and the illegal and brutal use of "buckle ends" by those who lament the absence of the cat, conclusively shows to what depths of unhuman brutality the disciples of this cruel torture have been brought by its demoralizing agency. "Father" states that himself and kindred spirits are about to make a present to the judge as a token of their appreciation of the terrible sentence passed upon young Chute (whose father by the way is not likely to join in this saturnalian jubilee.) But permit me to hope this present will not take the shape of a hair loom that a future generation will feel ashamed of, and in taking my leave of this unsavory subject I confess to a feeling very much alike that depicted by your intelligent correspondent "J. L. F." Man's inhumanity to man does not cure the great injustice often done to women by it, even the light of pure reason is degraded into the savage blindness of institute cruelty. Thanking The World for the liberal use of its columns for the discussion of the momentous subject of "torture by the cat."

J. ICK EVANS.

To THE WORLD: It is a remarkable fact, and at the same time an interesting peculiarity, that nearly all of those sentimentalists who moralize on the punishment dealt out to criminals, and who spin out long dissertations on evil practices which their far seeing eyes have by their penetrating glance discovered in the household, in general society and in our schools, and our prisons, are of a class who has not had any practical experience in the training and management of children, nor ever felt the pains and sorrows, or the pleasures of a father's care, yet these are the men who would be our teachers and who write essays entitled, How to bring up a family. These tender-hearted sweet little men lay down for our guidance a street-rule of kindness never to be departed from in dealing with either our children or our criminals. It would be interesting to know how these meek creatures would act if by a change of circumstances they found themselves buffeted about in the barrack-room, or placed in that position in life which we often find where the order of the day is to give and take in a manner which detracts not one iota from that manliness of character we all admire. If there be one among these sentimentalists the father of a family, what exemplary children his by right should be so different to his less tender-hearted neighbors. What I would ask is their remedy when kindness fails, for it is useless telling us that kindness never fails to produce good results. Unrequited kindness is of too frequent occurrence among us, and prevents us forgetting the story of the kind-hearted peasant and piper. If no manner of punishment be a deterrent to evil doers, what shall we do with our criminals. Shall we feed them on syllabub. Is there not such a thing as mistaken kindness, when the lash would have proven productive of better results. Some one has stated in your columns that the lash was intended for the incorrigible only. But to apply the lash to the back of a man who was considered incorrigible would be both cruel and unjust, because no beneficial results are expected to follow. Not so with the young criminal, punish him severely, and the chances are that he will not commit another crime. Hundreds of men have undergone a flogging with the cat and proved themselves better men and better soldiers than ever they were before the flogging. If further comments on this subject be necessary, I will produce some testimony of those who speak from experience.

SYDNEY SMITH.

CONTRACTORS AND LABOR.

To THE WORLD: Now that these are at open war, it is not inoppertune to ask what does the public gain by contractors anyhow? Without labor it cannot do, for with material labor is the basis of all construction and progress. But what do contractors do except make or lose fortunes for themselves or others? As a class they are for the most part mere speculators, who go in to win a pile or lose somebody's money. If they are even practical men and well understand the work they undertake, still in contracts of any magnitude there are always parts where estimates can only approximate, and where therefore a margin must be left which may mean loss or gain in the result. If it end in gain, then the contractor makes more than a fair reward; if loss, then he loses his own or somebody else's money. Now witn architects and bricklayers, whose business it is to estimate the value and quality of material, and the amount of labor required, and skiled workmen to carry out the plan, what more is required than simply foremen to see the men do their duty, and for the architects to see that his plans are properly carried out? What is the need of a contractor to come between the owner and the workmen? Designer and laborers to carry out the design should be sufficient without a contractor coming between to increase or lessen the proper cost of the the work. He does not plan, he does not build. He is simply a capitalist who with his own or somebody else's money comes between the owner and workma to guarantee that the work shall be done for a specific sum. And yet it is said that there never was a contract carried out exactly to plans and specifications. Extras are allowed to make up the contractor's losses, or disallowed and he loses. But what is really fair between owner and work is that the owner should get proper value for his outlay, which should be for plans, labor and material. A contractor added brings either increased cost to the owner in the contractor's profit, or less than fair outlay by the contractor's loss.

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Louisiana	22,759 38	Tennessee	15,965 27
Maine	15,722 02	Texas	20,698 00
Maryland	27,775 32	Virginia	14,326 26
Massachusetts	45,830 00	Vermont	1,000 00
Michigan	33,844 00	Washington Ter.	2,000 00
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1867,	513,381 50	1873,	1,664,037 04	1879,	2,155,713 00
1868,	855,094 23	1874,	1,392,235 35	1880,	1,907,922 68
1869,	1,005,062 79	1875,	1,976,421 92	1881,	1,865,745 62

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