



TRUTH FOR THE PEOPLE

OLD SERIES.—17TH YEAR.

TORONTO, ONT., FEBRUARY 13, 1886.

NEW SERIES.—VOL. VI. NO. 280.

DR. BARNARDO'S HOME AT PETERBORO.

We have received a circular letter from Dr. Barnardo, the founder and head of "Barnardo's Home for Destitute Children," and as here is a branch of the praiseworthy institution in this country, we have pleasure in laying before our readers the following facts. The management—at the head of which is the Marquis of Lorne—never send out pauper children; that is to say, children who have been trained in the work-house are not the class sent out, though the contrary opinion seems to have prevailed in certain quarters. All coming to this country from the institution have either been orphans or rendered destitute at an early age. They have all been received first into the institutions in England, have received there a careful industrial and Christian training, and have not been (unless they were very young) sent out to Canada until the management were satisfied that they were fairly trained to become industrious and virtuous members of society. The young people sent to the Colonies are, the head institution says, the "Flower of the Flock." They must always be without physical defect or taint of any kind, thoroughly sound in limb and of good health. They must also be morally without fault. Children are never sent who are known to us to be untruthful, dishonest or vicious, and the management select those who have proved by their residence in the home institutions to be worthy of esteem and respect.

As far as possible, every child has been well trained in some branch of industry,—the girls as domestic servants, the boys in various trades, all of which have taught them independence of character and the duty of self-help.

Dr. Barnardo says: "It is with great satisfaction that I am able to record, after some years' work in Canada, that not one of our girls is known to have become vicious or immoral. Every one of them is, we believe earning her bread honestly, and not one has yet been any charge upon the rates or any expense to the public of Canada. I think this fact alone speaks volumes for our work. Of the boys, I regret to say four have misconducted themselves; two have been dishonest, and two have developed hopelessly lazy and indolent qualities. The first two have very properly been punished for their misconduct. One of them I have since been able to return to England. Of the two who proved to be hopelessly lazy and indolent, I have sent one back to England, and will send the other back also as soon as I can get him, but he has gone off on his own account, and it is not easy to reach him.

"I consider that such a result out of 1,734 already placed out by us in Canada (880 being within the last four years,) is eminently satisfactory, and ought to dissipate the fears of any as to the real nature of our emigration work.

"I invite every one interested and disposed to help, to communicate with the Superintendent of our Canadian Home. His address is: Mr. Edward Duff, "Dr. Barnardo's

Distributing Home," Hazelbra, Peterboro', Ont.

"Christian people throughout the Dominion willing to render assistance to that which is most assuredly Christ's work, are invited to communicate with Mr. Duff or with me. Any donation sent to me will be gratefully received and acknowledged by our Treasurer: William Fowler Esq., M. P., or by
"Your obedient servant,
"THO. J. BARNARDO."

THE COMING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

Beyond the question of the Government's management of affairs in the North-West Territories, we cannot see that there should be any lengthy discussion, and consequent waste of time. But at every session of Parliament there is a notorious waste of time, and three-fourths of the talking is delivered at *Hansard*. Several times it has been proposed to abolish *Hansard*, and those who have made the proposition based it upon the contention that if it were not for the fact that every sentence which falls from the lips of a member is carefully reported and recorded in *Hansard* the ordinary session would be reduced to about half its length. We have seen, frequently, upon the floor of the House of Commons, a member talking for the space of an hour upon some question respecting a breakwater in his county, while not one member was paying the least attention to what he was saying. Some might be asleep at their desks, others writing, and others talking. But this fact would make no difference; the speaker went on elaborating each point, building proposition upon proposition, not for the sake of making the House understand, or agree to, his proposition, but of figuring in *Hansard*, and from *Hansard* having the speech reprinted in the newspaper of his county. Of course if the success of the measure brought up by the honorable gentleman in any way depended upon the length or the quality of his speech, we should not have one word to say in the way of disapproval;—but, since he will keep back the business of the whole country for half an evening, merely that his constituents may be able to read his speech, we cannot but doubt whether the maintenance of *Hansard* is justifiable and wise.

It is a notorious fact that a session of Parliament which lasts three months could do its business in six weeks; and in the matter of quickness of dispatch, rapidity of decision, and genuine work, our Canadian House of Commons could learn a very profitable lesson from the City Council of Toronto. It is true that the questions coming up for discussion at Ottawa are apt to be far-reaching in their operation, and therefore require careful consideration; but where is the justification for an honorable gentleman to arise towards the close of a debate, and for the space of three or four mortal hours repeat to the house views already expressed by other members, and state, with a mighty flourish of wind and

swagger, points already made with emphasis before.

It is true the people from Gander Creek, in reading this speech in the local paper as reprinted from *Hansard*, will not know that the points and the information have all been derived from some other speaker.

One of the most tedious members of the House of Commons is the Hon. David Mills. It is true that he is a man of originality, of much intellectual power, and of vast industry; so that his speeches, if tedious, always repay one's attention. Of course no one could think of accusing Mr. Mills of addressing *Hansard*; for he is manifestly, when speaking, bent upon impressing his views upon the House, and if he can, upon carrying the House with him. Nevertheless Mr. Mills occupies rather too much of the time of the House. This offense in him would be pardoned but that his habit sets a bad example to a lot of gentlemen in the chamber whose heads are full only of wind.

Mr. Blake at one time was very much a slave to the talking habit, and he has not overcome the bad practice yet. His legal training, where talking is the largest and most important item in the professional work, seems to have distended his natural inclinations to quite too large proportions. When addressing himself to a great question such as Commercial Independence for Canada, the Seats' Redistribution Bill, or the Rebellion, one cannot hear too much from Mr. Blake, for his line of argument is searching, the speech is full of information and of worthy sentiment, and there is a literary grace and a logical justness about it, which must be gratifying to friend and opponent. But Mr. Blake has the habit of jumping up from his seat and joining in fiddle-faddle discussion of trumpery matters, thus setting a wretched example, taking away from the importance and dignity of his own utterances, and wasting the time of the House. We do wish he would leave the small matters to the small fry. When we have seen Edward Blake jump into the midst of a fray held by a lot of the small bores, we have invariably been reminded of the story of the big man who one day wheeled out a cannon to shoot a solitary sandpiper.

But one of the most conspicuous sinners, in the way of time-wasting in the House of Commons, is Mr. M. O. Cameron. He is unquestionably a sound and learned lawyer, and when he has taken his seat, if his theme has been one affecting a point of law, there is little more to be said. But the good gentleman's deliverance reminds one of a tireless, ceaseless, dry wind, blowing "from morn till noon, from noon till dewy eve, a summer's day," over a dry, treeless, cheerless, flowerless desert of sand. There is not an atom of humor, not a poetic image, not a flower of rhetoric, not even an exaggeration or a misstatement, to relieve the monotony, or evoke a hand-clap.

Now, Sir Richard Cartwright is always listened to, because, when he arises, he says just enough; and he does not say "just enough" too often. Even the perpetual

song of the bobolink, which delighted at first, by constant reiteration, becomes a nuisance; and the thunder of Niagara which, when first striking the ear filled your soul with rapture and awe, at last becomes so monotonous as to put you to sleep. Familiarity verily does beget contempt; and our frequent speakers in the House of Commons should make, once more, a note of the fact.

When Sir Adolphe was the Hon. A. P. Caron he had the misfortune of prolixity likewise; but the dignity which has since descended upon him may act in the direction of brevity. We hope it will; for in that hon. gentleman's case there was much room for abbreviation. His trouble seems to be that he does not know when he has said enough, or when he ought to stop; and as a number of his speeches are in reply to questions asked by the Government he frequently throws open a door through which an Opposition member is able to have a peep at secret and forbidden corners.

MEDICAL SCIENCE AND OUR SCHOOLS.

Whatever our views may be upon Educational subjects no one, at any rate, will be able to charge us with a desire to overload the curriculum of studies in our public schools. But we divide all subjects for studies into two classes, the good and the indispensable. That is to say there is no subject that might occur to the mind of an educationist to put upon the curriculum that we would not regard as useful and good as mental discipline; but as life is too short to study every branch, or even to obtain the slightest smattering of all, then our aim should be to ascertain those that are indispensable first, and to these add the others that are most useful in human and intellectual economy. There is a subject which has failed to obtain a prominent place, and in the larger number of our schools a place at all, upon the curriculum of studies, and that is a study of the structure and functions of the human body, and of the laws of health. We are at infinite pains to ascertain the functions of "odd legs" upon a certain description of bug, but we are content to allow our own structure to remain a mystery. Pope has said, and his saying has a physical as well as a poetical application

Man; know thyself; presume not God to scan,
The proper study of mankind is man."

We know that at the very first such a contention as ours would be treated by unthinking persons, by the large and heedless herd who "go into the harness of a groove," in this fashion: "What nonsense! Have we not a medical profession to take care of this important matter? and it would be absurd to trench upon the ground of learned science with the crude, quack knowledge derived in common schools. Our public schools are not colleges for specialists;—if medical knowledge be needed, there is the medical college to go to. The same is true of law, and the same of divinity, the same of engineering, and of all the learned professions."

That is true to some extent, but there is