

ceeding, but Judge Tellier decided that the only recourse of the petitioners was to higher ecclesiastical authority for the cancellation of the decree. The case came on appeal before the Court of Queen's Bench, which dismissed the appeal, Judge Hall dissenting. This action of the latter court has just been confirmed by the Privy Council. While no one would think of questioning the right of the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church to arrange their parish boundaries to suit themselves and their parishioners, it is obviously unjust and inexpedient to allow them to redistribute the areas and boundaries of civil parishes. Surely the Quebec Legislature, in view of this decision, will not hesitate to make a complete separation between ecclesiastical and municipal corporations, areas, and organizations.

The Central  
Farmers' Institute.

The annual meeting of this body, held last week in this city, was quite up to the average of past gatherings. Such meetings afford an excellent chance to farmers to pick up new ideas, whether political or economic makes little difference. In either case the community gains by the widening of the horizon of the agricultural class. The most spirited discussion of this meeting took place on the passage in the President's address in which he referred to the burdens imposed on farmers by a policy of protection to manufacturers. The address was referred to a committee which reported adversely to this part of it, and this report was in turn rejected on a motion to approve of it. The result of the vote will be to give a place in the official report of the meeting to the address but not to the report. We cannot help regarding this settlement of the dispute as an error of judgment. The better way would have been to print the Committee's report along with the address, thus leaving each reader to draw his own conclusions. The Central Farmers' Institute can afford to allow free expression of opinion.

Trinity College  
School.

The destruction by fire of Trinity College School at Port Hope on Saturday night last is a calamity in which not only this Province is concerned but the whole Dominion. It is an institution the loss of which to Canada would be well nigh irreparable, and it is gratifying to know that, owing to the energy and enterprise of the School authorities, the disaster has caused no cessation of any part of the educational machinery, and that steps will at once be taken to rebuild on the old and now historic site. It is interesting to note the prompt action taken by the town itself to aid in furthering the temporary arrangements planned by the energetic Warden, Dr. Bethune. Port Hope may well be proud of the School. A large number of the brightest and best of Canada's sons have received the chief portion of their education within its now blackened and ruined walls. The glory of the School was its beautiful Chapel. Its loss is the saddest part of the disaster, and the most difficult to replace of the destroyed buildings. It was as it were the soul of the School, and many looking on at its destruction shed tears. The authorities have our sincerest sympathy in their great trial.

Law  
Reform.

The law Society of Upper Canada has taken up the subject of law reform, apparently in earnest. At a joint meeting of benchers and delegates of local associations a number of resolutions were adopted with a view to having them sent down to the local associations for discussion. It is quite evident that some time must be allowed for a full ventilation of the matter, as there are wide divergences of opinion

among the reformers themselves. Some desire a reduction in the number of County Court districts, with a corresponding extension of County Court jurisdiction, thus lessening the amount of work done in the Superior Courts. Others desire the abolition of the Divisions of the High Court of Justice, thus making it possible to carry disputed cases on appeal at once to the Court of Appeal. It does not follow that both reforms may not be carried out, as they do not conflict with each other at all. It would certainly be an improvement to enlarge the County Court districts, appoint able men, pay them better salaries, and entrust them with more extensive jurisdiction in civil cases. It would relieve very much the congestion of litigation in the High Court of Justice and lessen the expense to litigants. On the other hand there does not seem to be any good purpose served by allowing a rehearing of a *nisi prius* case before a Divisional Court. If it must be appealed let it go at once to the court of last resort, and for all cases not involving constitutional questions let that be the final appeal. The opportunity to multiply appeals discriminates in favour of the wealthy litigant as against his poorer rival.

Gen. Booth's Colon-  
ization Scheme.

Few serious persons will now deny that the singular organization known as the Salvation Army has been, and is, the means of accomplishing much good among the classes the movement is designed to reach. In view of the self-denying zeal of many members of the organization, and the remarkable success that has been attained in multitudes of cases, in laying hold of and reforming those who were confessedly beyond the reach of the ordinary religious agencies, it is entitled to the gratitude of all good citizens. It has fairly won its way from ridicule to toleration, from toleration to respect, and, in many cases, from respect to admiration, and in a measure to the higher tribute of imitation. So, too, General Booth's great scheme for laying hold of the submerged tenth in London and other great cities, and raising them by the practice of industry and thrift and the inspiration of hope to positions of self-respect and usefulness, has passed through the various stages of ridicule, incredulity, and suspended judgment, until it seems to have almost reached the goal of recognized success, so far as success is possible without the facilities for colonization which are indispensable to the realization of the fullness of good which the project is designed to bestow upon both the rescued and the public. Canada has abundant room and unsurpassed facilities for becoming the home of all such as have become really capable and desirous of earning a respectable livelihood by patient industry. We shall, therefore, be glad if some understanding can be reached by which the experiment may be given a fair trial on Canadian soil. But great care should be taken that the foundations of such a colony be laid on sound principles. For this reason at least two of the conditions for which Gen. Booth is said to wish to stipulate should be, it seems to us, either peremptorily set aside, as out of the question, or granted under such restrictions as will, as far as possible, afford a guarantee against further abuse. We refer to the proposals that the Army shall be given a large portion of territory *en bloc* and that no other would-be settlers should be permitted to take up their abode in the colony. Neither of these conditions ought, we believe, to be entertained for a moment. If the colonists have not reached a position in which they can be trusted to mingle with other citizens and profit by their example and spirit, they can hardly be considered desirable or safe immigrants. Furthermore, the time has come when the policy of allowing large tracts of territory to pass unreservedly into the hands