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FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 15, 1882.

A FEMALE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

If the girls of Canada wish to study medicine, let them, but let a school for them alone be established. Co-education is an experiment in less delicate subjects than medicine, and to attempt it in the latter, as at Kingston, is only to court trouble. Toronto has the hospital, the doctors, and the other facilities; let one of the medical schools show its liberality by forming a class for women, especially in connection with the summer sessions that it is proposed to institute.

LABBY'S WIFE AND THE LILY.

The papers are full of a disagreement between Mrs. Langtry and Mrs. Labouchere Our opinion is that the whole thing is a dodge to advertise Mrs. Labouchere's husband, "Labby," who is soon to make a lecturing tour of America. Theatrical managers will tell you that scandal is the best advertiser, and when it is absent it is sometimes made to order, though it may be that the Lily and her friend are not any better than they ought to be. The Langtry is taking her harvest of dollars; after her will come "Labby," a great society journalist and radical combined, and nothing if not a cosmopolite.

THE GAS MONOPOLY.

Montreal has at last been aroused and an active committee of citizens has been formed to secure a reduction in the price of gas. They waited on the gas committee of the council and made a statement of their case, which is at once conclusive against the company and practical enough to secure a better service of light at a cheaper rate. A number of those on the citizens committee were shareholders in the gas company, yet, as Mr. Thomas Workman eloquently and bluntly expressed it, they did not see the reason why a lot of "rich old humbugs" like George Stephen, Senator Ogilvie, Henry Lyman and himself should be making enormous profits at the expense of the citizens. How many Thomas Workmans are there in Toronto? Let a committee of citizens be formed, act in conjunction with the council, and perhaps we will see. Or will the gas company take time by the forelock and make a good handsome reduction without pressure?

THAT SECTARIAN CRY.

We have received two letters for publication, one advocating that a north of Ireland protestant be made a senator, the other pointing out how many officers in the Ontario civil service have not a single Roman catholic employed therein. We must decline the use of our columns to either of the letters. We recognize no claim to office other than that of good Canadian citizenship and capacity for the work. The letters are accompanied by the names of the writers, both of whom have the reputation of being sectarian agitators. Were it not for these kind of men there would be little of the sectarian cry heard, but it is the worst of such agitators to appeal to a sectarian element, to show its members how they are ill-treated in the way of office, and then get themselves appointed if they can. It is only those who trade on these sectarian appeals who profit thereby, the body of the sect or nationality appealed to never gain anything.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY.

One of the most ungracious outgrowths on benevolent festivity is a habit some people have of attending charity dinners for the sake of seeing the children and other favored guests satisfy their appetites. This habit prevails to a lamentable extent on Thanksgiving day, Christmas and New Year's. On these days good dinners are spread for the inmates of certain charitable institutions, and for persons who are invited in from the street to partake of the bounty. It is beyond question an interesting sight to see these persons enjoy such a meal as does not on ordinary days find its way to their tables. To see at dinner a ravenous tramp, who has not enjoyed a substantial meal for a month, is as entertaining as to witness the feeding of a sea lion or other monster of gigantic appetite. But it is neither kind nor polite, even to a tramp, to stand and gaze at him while he eats, as if he were a wild beast in a menagerie cage Some persons go year after year to places where children are supplied with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and gratify themselves by seeing the youngsters eat There are some so full of curiosity that they will not hesitate to go to a Widow's asylum or Old Ladies' home for similar purposes. There is but one condition under which this sort of thing is at all endurable. That is when the spectators hand over solid cash donations to the institutions whose festivities they thus witness. It should be understood by all who go to see the eating of charity meals that the cash donation is but an equivalent for the fun of seeing how the eating is done.

TEA AND COFFEE.

There has been a great fall in tea recently in New York, in wholesale prices, that is caused by the immediate prospect of a very large supply of new crop tea coming in, at a time when heavy stocks were still remaining on the market. The change did not much concern retailers, but the outcook has been considered a serious one for importers and large jobbers. It happens, too, that at this very time there is a semi-panic in the New York coffee market, due to the alleged fact of large supplies coming forward in excess of demand. The New York papers have letters sharply disputing the assertion that there is any over-supply of coffee in prospect, but the fact of a big over-supply of tea appears to be admitted.

Some short time ago the Montreal Shareholder drew attention to the extraordinary difference between wholesale and retail prices of teas in Canada. The figures given by our Canadian contemporary might help to make up some interesting reading, just now, but we have not got them at hand. We observe, meantime, that the Chicago Tribune of a recent date takes up the subject, and gives wholesale and retail prices, showing what appears to be entirely too much margin between them. Supposing the tea trade to be very much alike on both sides of the border, it may interest Canadian readers very much to go over what our Chicago contemporary has to say on the subject of tea prices there:—

The evidence which the Tribune has gathered as to the prices paid for tea by the retailers and the consumers shows that the latter are the victims of an unwarrantable and flagrant extortion at a time when the wholesale prices have been largely reduced. The following statement of the prices of various grades of tea may be relied upon as correct: The importer sells 17-cent tea to the jobber for 22 cents, the jobber to the retailer for 30 cents, and the retailer to the consumer for 50 cents. The 20 cent tea is sold to the jobber for 25 cents, to the retailer for 35 cents, and to the consumer for 60 cents. The 25-cent tea is sold to the jobber for 32 cents, to the retailer for 45 cents and to the consumer for 75 cents. The 35 cent tea is sold to the jobber for 50 cents, to the retailer for 65 cents and to the consumer for $1! In other words, the retailer on his 30 cent tea makes 20 cents a pound; on his 35 cent tea 25 cents a pound; on his 45 cent tea 30 cents a pound; and on his 65 cent tea 35 cents a pound! This is simply an extortion practised upon people who are ignorant of the large reduction in the wholesale prices, and the extortion is not confined to tea. It will be seen from this statement of relative prices that the present high prices paid by consumers are not the fault of the country, or the manufacturers, or the farmers or the producers, but of a set of greedy middlemen, who are not only putting the legitimate profits into their pockets, but also the actual reductions, and then try to excuse their greed by claiming that while they have made no reductions in prices they are selling a better quality. As the old saying is, this will do to tell to the marines. When the millennium comes the public will believe that retail dealers improve the quality of their goods. Meanwhile, if there are any retail dealers of teas in this city who want to make more money than they do now let them advertise in the daily papers that they will sell their 50-cent teas for 40 cents, and their $1 teas for 80 cents, which will still yield them 10 cents profit on the one and 15 cents on the other, and they will be surprised at the business they will do.

ARGUS AND BANK "BUFFERS."

(To the Editor of the World.)

The childlike simplicity of Argus when dealing with bank officials and banking matters is truly refreshing. One would think he had never heard of certain officials flagrantly violating laws (which even they have not the face to deny), enacted for the good of the banks collectively and the public welfare; nor of at least one bank manager manipulating the stock of his bank (exposed in The World some months ago), and evidently gambling in stocks wholesale. One would think Argus did not know the difference between bank officials doing these things and neglecting their duties, nor the difference between the illegal, nefarious and pernicious operations in question and legitimate business transactions. He speaks of their subterfuges for evading the laws, as if they were bona fide institutions, when in the case of one of the banks this has been publicly denied, and the manager of that institution knows better than to deny the denial. Argus would have the public believe that the officials in question generously and magnanimously act as "buffers" between the banks and any loss that might occur, and thus risk all they are worth or the capital of institutions that have no capital nor a "local habitation and a name." Of course bank officials are in the habit of risking their wealth to save shareholders from loss. The City of Glasgow bank directors acted as buffers, and generously disposed of their stock in the institution so that they would be untrammeled. These gentlemen were model "buffers," but no doubt ours would prove quite equal to them in case of an emergency. Argus grows quite pathetic over the injustice done the officials in question, and his childlike simplicity is only equalled by his plausibility. In style his article is so like the one in the Monetary Times that started this controversy, one would think the same person wrote both, only for the simplicity displayed in the former. Not many years ago in the States an insurance company was vigorously attacked in one insurance paper and as vigorously defended in another, and it subsequently came out that both series of articles were written by the same person. Perhaps Argus possesses an equal versatility, and uses it in the same way. Whether he does or not, the skeptical public will conclude from his article that certain bank officials begin to realize that they are duffers as well as "buffers." OBSERVER

THE NEAREST THING TO A CURE.

(To the Editor of The World.)

SIR: The Globe of to-day has an article on the suppression of the social evil alluding to some recent remarks of the Winnipeg Sun on this subject blaming the Globe for its one-sidedness as to the punishment of the sexes. The Winnipeg Sun says the Globe did not discriminate as to the punishment inflicted—urging the punishment of the keepers of disorderly houses and their female inmates but not the male intimates therein. The first article in the Globe was not explicit on this matter. Its article to-day is, yet not showing how men who visit such houses are to be found out, detected or punished. The Globe thinks it is possible to establish a censorship of sexual morals—or morals among the sexes. Such morals are like all others—only in part control able. Is it possible in any country to stop the drinking habits of the people. Was it ever done in any country? Even Noah, immediately after leaving the Ark according to scripture, got foolishly intoxicated. It has been so ever since—in all countries more or less—especially in the moral country of Scotland. I do not approve of intoxication nor of immorality among the sexes, but I do say it cannot be stopped by raiding such houses, especially when only the females are punished. The course, therefore, pursued in Toronto by Mr Fenton is only a mockery of justice in this matter. In all large cities if you put down known and fixed houses, it increases assignation houses or rooms, such as are as common as they can be in the most thronged cities of Europe or the American states. Or it increases immorality among servant girls or sewing girls, who abound in every large city. Can nature, natural inclinations, be made to yield to moral lectures? We have to take society as it is—human nature is the same in all times, present and past. Moral education and strict discipline by parents can and will always moderate vices, but not eradicate. Will the Globe tell us why such cities as Glasgow and Edinburgh in moral Scotland are not free from sexual immorality? Why the great cities of London, Vienna, Berlin, Paris and New York have not been controlled with their model police forces? Was Jerusalem, Rome, Athens, Babylon or Venice ever controlled as to such vices. Then it may be asked what is to be done? Why, take human nature as it is, educate it in common sense principles, encourage marriage and family life, family morals, and let a high standard of morals among women prevail. Let them discard (not, as they do too often, encourage) rakes, and in their dress and manners—in their theatre-goings—dances—show men that they do not encourage bad inclinations in their minds. Scenes are taking place often in our theatres and operas in this city worse than can be seen in houses that are raided—scenes I mean of immodest dress, dances and songs.

Toronto, Dec 14, 1882. COSMOS.

"CO-EDUCATION AT KINGSTON."

(To the Editor of The World.)

SIR: It is certainly most unmanly in men to fear competition from women in any branch of professional work. In every profession, as well as in almost every trade, there are departments in which women will excel, and for which they are specially suited. Equality in education will merely elicit the special fitness of each sex.

But there is this to be said for the Kingston students: Some may have objected on the ground that if scientific facts were to be clouded in ambiguity of expression from false deference to ill-timed modesty, and lecturers to be kept in a state of trepidation as to the plainness of language they might safely use, the scientific knowledge attainable from such lectures could not be either full or accurate. Co-education to be education at all must be thorough. Students have a right to demand this thoroughness, as of the first importance, and specially so to the medical profession where the lives of others are at risk.

Still, granting all this, it proves nothing against co-education. If merely proves that there may be some women, as there are some men, who after having pursued their studies or certain length, find their love of science and its uses not strong enough to support them through the task. As it is quite impossible to imagine that the lecturer would use language not needful for correct instruction, the women students must not feel hurt if some should attribute their recoil to the reason indicated. No anatomical or physiological truth is in itself impure when knowledge is sought for the sake of the good it will enable us to perform. That it requires some nerve and much force of will on the part of sensitive men or women to grasp and hold this view, makes it all the more needful that some consideration should be shown towards those who shrink with horror from aspects of truth to which they are not accustomed. The first shock over, surmounted by friendly encouragement, the love of truth for its own sake revives, and steadies the shaken sensibilities. The best medical men are not always those who are most callous. If this be true of medical men, why not also of medical women? No true student, imbued with love for the healing art will jeer at the timidity of the novice.

Women who have deliberately chosen this profession must surely have foreseen that plain facts of science would have to be plainly described to them. To women entering the medical profession, in face of the opposition so long encountered yet now well nigh vanquished, there is every encouragement to stifle any expression of the very natural recoil experienced, for the sake of those who shall thus the easier follow the path of which they are the pioneers. On maturer reflection they will no doubt do so, and with that womanly purity of thought which purifies all they touch refuse to recognize or see aught but purity in scientific truth. Convinced as many are that co-education is best and most just to both sexes, especially in the medical profession, where equality in public confidence can best be gained by a certainty that the curriculum has been exactly alike, separate colleges or even separate lectures must be depreciated by all who desire to see women placed at no disadvantage, as compared with men, in their efforts to attain true usefulness to society. Those women who are fit for the medical profession will, with a little encouragement and sympathy from friends, fellow-students and the public, find themselves able to face the needful training. Let them remember however that every seeker after truth must alone, unaided by any human power, face the piercing eye of that "dweller on the threshold" so vividly described by Bulwer Lytton in "Zanoni"—that eye which pierces the very heart, and only ceases to terrify and disturb, when for Truth's sake, all thought of self, all fear for self is given up. The "dweller on the threshold" thus passed becomes a guard, companion and faithful servant.

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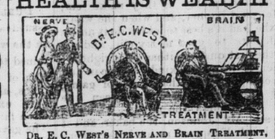

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