

London Advertiser.

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London, Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1897.

Punishment of Criminals.

Hon. David Mills, the new Minister of Justice, has a great deal of his time occupied with the consideration of applications, personal and by letter, for the release and pardon of convicts or the reduction of their sentences. Mr. Mills is a man of kind heart, but it has not hitherto been his habit to ignore his duty to the whole people in order that he might give ear to the plaint of those who are suffering their just deserts. Speaking of his duty in the premises, the Minister recently said:

"I hope I may always have sympathy and mercy for the murderer or convict, but I hope I shall also always have sympathy with the victim and mercy for the public. These letters, asking for pardons, refer largely to the worst criminals, and emanate, in many cases, from women and women's associations."

As a thorough believer in the British system of administering justice, it is most probable that the verdicts of juries and the sentence of judges will not be interfered with by the Minister except in very rare instances, where the best of reasons can be shown for reconsideration.

The object of punishment, let it not be forgotten, is the protection of the public, and we trust the day will never come when either the courts or the executive will permit the impression to go abroad that crime can be committed with impunity, and that punishment will not be swift and certain, and imposed without respect to social status or the persistence of friends.

Because of uncertainty in the punishment of criminals, and the law's delays, the crime of lynching has become so prevalent in the United States that it is a national scandal, and has brought that country's good name into grievous disrepute. We do not want that state of affairs duplicated in Canada. We know that it is the intention of the Minister to prevent its establishment by every means in his power. Criminals or those contemplating crime may as well understand it.

If those tempted to murder, or to steal, or to commit any other crime, do not desire to meet the fate of the felon, let them stay their hands in time. Punishment should not be vindictive, but it ought to be certain, and we feel assured that that is the view entertained by the present Minister of Justice.

There is a new party in the United States. It is called the billibynam party. What it wants no one has undertaken to fully elucidate.

London Collegiate Institute.

Principal Merchant, in requesting that an additional three teachers should be appointed to the Collegiate Institute, really made the only reply possible to the objections to the proposal. The pupils are in the school; there are not enough of teachers for the number of scholars; the board has either to add to the staff or take means to discourage the attendance at the institute.

Some idea of the enormous increase in the number of scholars which has taken place in the last ten years may be gleaned from the report of Principal Samuel Woods for 1887, and Mr. Merchant's verbal report last night. The last-named gives the attendance for the year now closing as 679; Principal Woods gave that of 1887, or considerably less than one-half that which it now is.

The London Collegiate Institute is one of the best attended and best of the kind in the Dominion, but the yearly increase of pupils has recently been so great that its teaching staff is inadequate to the work to be done, if it is to be performed efficiently. That is the situation in a nutshell. We now have ten large public schools feeding into the institute yearly an average of 30 pupils each. On the 26th inst., London West school will be added to the number, and as the population of the city increases, the numbers will not become less, because the London Collegiate Institute has a good name, and there is a growing tendency of outsiders to come and enjoy its facilities for providing a first-class education. Some send their children in and pay the non-resident fees. Others become residents of the city for the purpose of participating in all the benefits of civic life. In either case, they are heartily welcomed, for all help to promote the welfare of the community at large.

Independent Testimony.

Independent outsiders invariably praise the management of Ontario's public affairs by the Administration now in power. The other day we quoted from distinguished English authorities the strongest testimony to the efficiency with which our chief seat for the imparting of expert agricultural knowledge is managed. Now we have an independent Quebec educationist, Mr. E. W. Arthy, superintendent of the schools under the Protestant board of school commissioners, Province of Quebec, referring in these terms to Ontario's educational system and its head: "If we could have a minister of education like the Hon. Mr. Ross in Ontario, who has managed to have every detail of the whole system in that province at his fingers' ends; who has shown the greatest ability, and who has accomplished a great deal for the cause of education; then I would say that the appointment of a minister with full powers would be a great benefit."

Cattle Market for London.

Someone has suggested that the cattle market in Toronto be extended, at very considerable cost, and leading cattle men are asked to lend assistance. Western Ontario cattle-raisers and dealers will probably find it more to their profit to co-operate for the establishment of a cattle market and shipping depot in this city, which is the center of the rich cattle-producing district of the West. With direct connection with three great trunk lines of railway—the Grand Trunk, the Canadian Pacific and the Michigan Central—there is no better point in Canada from which to ship cattle, general products of the farm, and manufactures, and a cattle market here would not only be a great convenience, but if properly managed would prove a paying speculation from the first.

There is nothing so tiresome at long range as the slang-whanging of a bye-election.—Goderich Signal.

Why fight a bye-election at long range?

It is lucky for President McKinley that a change of government has taken place in Spain, and that a somewhat enlightened premier is in power. The change lets Mr. McKinley out of a tight hole, made possible by his pre-election declarations. The new Spanish Government certainly make many promises of better treatment to Cuba. If they had offered the Cubans the fair play that they now tender, three years ago, there would have been no rebellion. But autocrats learn to respect the liberty of the subject very slowly.

Woeful Whitney.

In his speech on the address in the Legislature, Mr. Whitney does not seem to have expressed any satisfaction at the announcement that the public accounts of the province for the first ten months of the year are ready, and that the figures for the last two months will be presented within a few days after the first of January. It will be remembered that, during his recent stumping tour, one of his most terrible tales was to the effect that the accounts were to be withheld from the public by the "twisted Government now in power" as he termed it.—Ottawa Free Press.

Of course, Mr. Whitney should be a happy man to find that all his fearful forebodings are doomed to disappointment. But he is not. The reason is obvious. He was manufacturing campaign powder when he was indulging in his pessimistic onslaught. Proved a false prophet, he is the most unhappy man in the Legislature. The Opposition leader has been pretending that the early session was held in order that he might be stopped talking on the stump. This is not the case, but if it were so, Mr. Whitney's friends should pass a vote of thanks to the Ministers for saving them further humiliation. Mr. Whitney now finds that he has talked too much. It does not improve matters that, when cornered, he invariably blames the reporters of the Mail and Empire for not reporting his speeches correctly.

The editor of the Canadian Manufacturer exclaims, "Let us saw our own logs." Certainly; saw your own logs; and when you have done so, come and saw ours, too.

London claims to be the healthiest city in the Province.—(Toronto Star.) London not only claims to be the healthiest city in the Province, but it makes good its claim by the official vital statistics. Indeed, it is the healthiest city of its size on the continent of America.

Hon. Mr. Balantyne's Illness.

Very many admirers of the honorable gentleman in Western Ontario will regret to hear that Hon. Thomas Balantyne has been compelled by ill-health to retire from the contest for the Legislature in North Perth. Mr. Balantyne has not been well for some time. He tried the mineral springs, and a cessation from exciting employment for a time, and he is now somewhat better, but his medical advisers say that it would be as much as his life is worth to engage in a midwinter campaign, therefore he reluctantly gives up the struggle, which promised to result favorably to the cause which he espoused. Mr. Balantyne's absence from the next Legislature will be generally lamented, for he was one of the best-informed, and among the ablest of representatives. On Friday, Dec. 17, the Liberals of North Perth will meet at Milverton to put a new candidate in the field. A good man is in sight.

The Ottawa Journal quotes the Montreal Star as exhibiting great anxiety to know what the bill-of-fare to be placed before the Dominion Parliament at its ensuing session will be. Here is the conclusion of the exciting article:

"By all means, let us have the programme, and the whole programme, and see what it looks like, the interior, buried in the freestreet."

Our contemporary demands that which is impossible of accomplishment. The news from Ottawa is that the "freestreet" was destroyed when the last fire in the West Block took place.

A LONG, LONG WAIT.

[Bystander, in Toronto Sun.] "Revolt against free trade is dawning in England." Such is the gleeful heading of an article in our great protectionist journal. The dawn has been going on for a quarter of a century at least, but has not yet brightened into day. Since the adoption of the free trade policy by Great Britain, her wealth has been doubled, perhaps trebled, so that it excites the envy of all nations, and this in spite of enormous losses by foreign investment in

face of such a fact, is it possible to persuade any community of rational beings that free trade is a failure? Other countries may have rejected free trade, but can they be shown to have profited by the rejection? If they cannot, where is the value of their verdict? Spain would be rolling in wealth if a protective policy could enrich. These furries of protectionism in Great Britain which fan the hopes of protectionists here are not national, but merely local. They occur in the seat of a single industry when that industry is depressed. Bradford was visited by one of them some years ago. Its single industry, which is the woolen, or rather the worsted trade, was suffering from temporary depression. But the movement did not extend to Leeds, whose industries are mixed. So conscious are the British protectionists of the unpopularity of their policy that they dare not breathe its name. They call it, not protection, but fair trade. The patience of our protectionists will be tried if they mean to wait till the dawn of protectionism in England becomes broad day.

The December Atlantic is as usual of high literary flavor. The strictly literary articles are "The American Historical Novel," by Paul Leicester Ford, who is essayist as well as novelist; "Literary Revival," by J. S. Tinsley; "Some Unpublished Letters of Dean Swift" (continued), by George Birbeck Hill, and a second paper on "The Coming Literary Revival," by J. S. Tinsley. Serials by F. Hopkinson Smith and Kate Douglas Wiggin are continued in the number. The "Making of a Novel" by J. Zangwill, and H. B. Fuller. Verse by P. H. Savage, who is a son of Rev. Minot J. Savage, and by Ellen Glasgow also appears in the number. Several of the most interesting and most successful of the month's articles of interest to the readers of this admirable monthly.

The magazine number of the Outlook for December is its ninth annual book number. It contains a great variety of illustrated matter relating not only to the books of the season, but to topics of general interest to all who care for books and reading. A leading feature consists of three articles grouped under the general title, "The Making of the Books." The pictures accompanying these articles include some unique specimens of little-known, antique types, and fine bindings, both ancient and modern, while as illustrations to Mr. Edwards' article there are printed ten full-page pictures showing by fine examples the work of many successful American illustrators. Many pages are devoted to a consideration of the important holiday books of the month. Illustrated articles include the final installment of Mr. Justin McCarthy's "The Story of Gladstone's Life," which contains several recent photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone and their family; and an extremely readable paper on Miss Jane Barlow, the writer of Irish stories, illustrated from photographs taken near Miss Barlow's home by the author of this article, Mr. Clifton Johnson. (\$3 a year. The Outlook Company, 13 Astor Place, New York.)

What would you do if war should be declared tomorrow between the United States and a European power? How would it change your home life, the lives of your brother and other relatives? How would it affect your business connections and business? What changes would it make in financial, city, state and national affairs? It is these interesting problems which a writer in the December Cosmopolitan has undertaken to sketch under the heading of "Brief History of Our Late War with Spain," at the same time vividly describing the exciting scenes which would attend the opening of hostilities. This same number of the Cosmopolitan has an article on "The Well-Dressed Woman" and other timely contributions by noted writers.

A CRUSHER.

Verdict Against the Brantford Street Railway Company for \$280,000.

Brantford, Dec. 8. — The Canadian General Electric Company have issued a writ against the street railway company of Brantford for \$280,000 on an old construction account, and judgment has been secured for the amount and placed in the sheriff's hands for execution.

CHARGED WITH SHOP-LIFTING.

Toronto, Dec. 8.—Rev. W. W. Bates, of Thornhill, who was arrested last week, charged with shop-lifting, at T. Eaton's store, appeared in the police court again yesterday morning, and was remanded for a week. He pleaded not guilty, but declined to elect.

ON ACCOUNT OF A COW.

St. Thomas, Dec. 8.—Mr. J. H. Smale, farmer, Yarmouth, has entered action against Mr. Robert Zavitz, also a Yarmouth farmer, claiming damages for slander. Messrs. Smale and Zavitz attended the sale of Mr. Padgett at Yarmouth Center last week, and left for their homes together, one having eight cows and the other six cows in charge. When they reached a point where their ways parted they separated their cows. Mr. Zavitz, however, reached his residence with seven, instead of eight, cows, and it is alleged that he accused Mr. Smale of making away with the animal.

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No other remedy possesses such perfect cleansing, healing and purifying properties as Burdock Blood Bitters. It not only cleanses internally, but it heals, when applied externally, all sores, ulcers, abscesses, scrofulous sores, blotches, eruptions, etc., leaving the skin clear and pure as a babe's. Taken internally it removes all morbid effete or waste matter from the system, and thoroughly regulates all the organs of the body, restoring the stomach, liver, bowels and blood to healthy action.

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Great December Sale.

The Big Store was never so well provided for the biggest kind of holiday trade. Barely three weeks till Christmas. The Big Sale was brought on just in time. No wonder people are buying; no wonder this store is the center of attraction, with its immense stocks all bright and new and at prices everybody can afford. We invite all who can to visit the store and see for themselves the endless assortment of holiday goods. With so many things demanding mention it's only possible for us to notice a few in our limited space.

FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS WE HAVE:

Fur Capes, Fine Table Linens, Elegant Silks, Gloves and Hose, China Sets, Fancy Neckwear, White Quilts, Candles and Toys, Silk Umbrellas, Fancy Glassware, Toilet Sets, Purses and Pocket Knives,

Silverware, Handkerchiefs, Tapestry and Lace Curtains, Shoes and Slippers, Ornamental Lamps, Hair Brushes, Fur Caps and Mitts, Dolls of All Kinds, Fine Table Napkins, Lunch and Tray Cloths, Eider Quilts.

And a hundred and one things suitable for Christmas presents at December Sale prices. Here's a few hot ones for the next few days:

Hosiery and Underwear.

Ladies' Black Cashmere Hose, selling at 35c, regular price anywhere 45c.

Another lot Ladies' Black Equestriennes, selling at \$1.

Ladies' Extra Fine All-Wool Open Drawers, selling at \$1.

Just in—Our last lot of Ladies' Vests and Drawers, selling (for suit) \$1.

Eider Comforters, 5x6, selling at \$3 75, regular price \$5 25.

Eider Comforters, 6x6, selling at \$5, regular price \$7.

Fine All-Wool Blankets, selling at \$2 50, regular price \$3 25.

Large Double-Bed All-Wool Blankets, selling at \$3, regular price \$4.

Heavy English Shaker Flannel, bright and dark colors, selling at 50c, worth 80c.

72-inch Flannel Sheet, white and gray, best make selling at 50c.

Fancy Goods.

Silk Table Drapes, choice, selling at \$1.

Silk Net Ties, deep lace, frill ends, handsome goods, selling at \$1 50.

Silk and Satin Ribbons for fancy work, all widths and colors, selling at half price.

Fancy Handkerchiefs, 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c and 25c—not one of them but is worth double.

Clothing.

Men's Suits, in all-wool tweeds, light and dark colors, selling at \$5, regular price \$8 45 and \$9.

Men's Suits, light and dark colors, odd sizes, selling at \$2 65, regular price \$4 and \$5.

Men's Overcoats, in beavers, meltons, tweeds, etc., velvet collars, checked lining, selling at \$3, regular \$5, \$6 50, \$7 50 and \$8.

Men's Heavy Storm Ulsters, dark colors, sizes 36 to 44, selling at \$3 75.

Men's Heavy Undershirts, selling at 25c, regular price 40c and 50c.

Men's Cheviot Shirts and Drawers, ribbed and extra heavy, selling at 90c a suit, regular \$1 25.

Men's Heavy Wool Socks, selling 3 pairs for 25c, regular price 12½c a pair.

Runians & Butler.

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