

certain it is that any paltering with the ecclesiastics will be fatal to their power, even if they eat their own words and sell their liberal friends. There is only one honorable course for them to pursue, and that is, to settle the Manitoba school question on the lines already agreed upon. To make any further concessions to the hierarchy will be fatal to them at the next election, which in such a case may occur sooner than perhaps they expect.

### Prisons of Ontario.

Inspector Chamberlain's annual report has just been presented to the Legislature. The inspector makes a feature of the abuse of prisons in using them for the accommodation of aged paupers, sometimes to the serious detriment of the criminal discipline. It certainly is a disgraceful thing in any supposed-to-be civilized community that comfortable provision should not be made for aged and impecunious persons. Practically, such a community does deliberately what the missionaries sometimes—though generally falsely—tell us the semi-barbarous heathen occasionally do—leaves its aged members to starve to death or be killed by dogs or ruffians. To send them to prison to mix with the scum of the earth is fully as bad as to leave them on the banks of the Ganges for crocodile food. Surely a Christian community like that of Ontario could afford to keep its aged poor alive in comfort without sending them to jail. It might even stretch a point by saving some of the blankets, rum, and tobacco sent to Africa to convert the heathen in order to support its own paupers. Considering that the report for the Central Prison shows that the gross cost per head of the prisoners in this very expensive establishment is only 45 cents per day, surely it should not be a difficult job to provide reasonable accommodation for these poor old people without subjecting them to the degradation of prison life, and prison discipline to the resulting laxity.

### Prison Statistics.

Mr. Chamberlain gives these details of the nationalities, religions, etc., of the Ontario criminals:

NATIONALITY.			RELIGION.		
	1895.	1896.		1895.	1896.
Born in Canada .....	5,413.	5,310	Roman Catholic .....	3,071	3,007
Born in England .....	1,368.	1,310	Church of England .....	2,771	2,607
Born in Ireland .....	1,203.	1,196	Methodist .....	1,526	1,507
Born in Scotland .....	420.	367	Presbyterian .....	1,184	1,107
Born in United States ..	672.	625	Other religions .....	828.	777
Born in other countries.	304.	250			
SEX.			HABITS.		
Male .....	8,196.	7,886	Temperate .....	3,461	3,477
Female .....	1,184.	1,172	Intemperate .....	5,919	5,409
SOCIAL CONDITION.			EDUCATIONAL STATUS.		
Married .....	3,113.	2,886	Could read and write ..	7,889	7,657
Unmarried .....	6,267.	6,172	Could not read .....	1,491	1,407