

The year 1892 will be ever celebrated for its exhibitions. A South African and International Exhibit is to be held at Kimberley. Imperial Federationists are rejoicing at this sign of unity, for it is hoped that the colonies of the various nations will unite in the peaceful arena of arts and industries. Natal has already sent a contribution of £500.

The United States are cheerfully contributing to starving Russia. Miss Hapgood has already forwarded \$5000 in contributions to Count Tolstoi. A Philadelphia committee has sent a large vessel with food, and another, with a similar freight, is to leave shortly. We are glad to note that some practical sympathy has already been shown in Halifax towards the distressed peasants, who, though separated from us by natural boundaries and habits, are still, in very truth, our brothers whose keepers we are.

The Government of Australia is considering the advisability of constructing a trans-continental railway with branch lines east and west. This would open up the interior of Australia, a portion of the country, which, owing to the absence of rivers, has been little explored. The inland mineral wealth will readily be brought to the sea coast, and agriculture and sheep-raising would be greatly stimulated by the proposed introduction. Another plan is to fertilize the desert regions by means of artesian wells. If the schemes as laid down are carried out, the future of the Island continent is assured.

Where do the diamonds come from? Scientists now claim that they fall from the stars, concealed in meteors, and what we suppose to be natural diamond mines are a snare and delusion. The diamond leads in Africa are funnel-shaped and descend perpendicularly. Perhaps because the meteor has descended with such force that it plunged through the earth's crust. This gives a narrow limit to the diamond fields, but grand possibilities arise before owners of property, for who knows on what day a magnificent diamond-bearing meteor may descend—it may be in our humble editorial backyard to brighten our path through life with its scintillating rays.

Since the arrest of Ravachol, the Parisian dynamiter, the boom which the destructionists seem to have experienced has ceased. It is comforting to know of Ravachol that he is not a brutal man, but a human animal whose hydrocephalus head shows an absence of moral qualities. In fact, the configuration of his brain is that of an idiot. Any heroic glamour which may have appertained to these destroyers of peace will be speedily dissipated, now that the French Government has decided that all dynamiters, whether successful or not in their exploits, shall be treated as criminal, not as political, offenders, and that the penalty for any such attempt is to be death.

For the past month the action of Dr. C. H. Parkhurst, President of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, has been criticised closely by the New York press. The Dr. has investigated thoroughly the haunts of crime—the saloons, which are open on Sunday—the flaunting houses of prostitution—the gambling companies, who ply their disgraceful business in the very face of the public. He denounces Tammany as the controlling demon of the municipal government. Dr. Parkhurst's crusade has the sympathy of all right-minded people. The question of the prevention of crime is not for New York alone, but for every city where temptations are set before the young. His effort to purify the moral atmosphere of New York should be emulated on every side.

A curious crisis has approached in the affairs of Greece. King George is a strong-willed man, and although he is the ruler of a constitutional monarchy, he proposes to have his own way. Delyannis has been Premier of Greece for the past year, succeeding Tricoupis, who was overthrown by a majority of the Legislature. A great amount of paper money is now in circulation, and the King maintains that Tricoupis alone will be able to manage it. Therefore, he has dismissed Delyannis and appointed a provisional ministry until a new election can be held, when he hopes that the Legislature will recall Tricoupis. The act of the King is not a little tinged with tyranny, and though few doubt that he has the welfare of the kingdom at heart, yet he should not interfere with the provisions of the constitution.

The protection of minors is the duty of every State, still, it is not always accomplished with the fraternal wisdom which we expect. The new Betting Bill before the British House of Commons is a striking illustration of well-meant, but unfair, legislation. The bill has some striking passages. According to its terms, it is forbidden to mail, supply or give any circular to a minor, which may induce him to bet or gamble, and a fine of \$100 or three months' imprisonment is fixed as the penalty for such infringement. It is also proposed that any debt contracted by a minor shall be declared void. It is to this clause that the chief objection rises. While protection is given to the young gambler, the same law repudiates the honest debts of minors. Take, for instance, the numbers of young men who graduate from colleges on borrowed money, what right has the State to interfere in such a case? Is the debt not a just one, and should its payment not be encouraged by the State instead of the legal right to disown it being given? Countless young men are set up in small ways of business on borrowed capital, and the proposed law will either shut them off from procuring the usual capital or furnish a loop-hole for a dishonest transaction. It is to be hoped that the bill will be thoroughly amended before it is allowed to become law.

Lord Salisbury has made a popular choice in selecting James Anthony Froude to fill the Regius Professorship of English History at Oxford, in the place of the late Edward Freeman. Mr. Froude has done good work for his generation in his twelve volumed "History of England," and his "Short Studies on Great Subjects" have been read even more widely. Although the worthy gentleman is now in his seventy-fourth year, we hope that he may still preside for many years in his new and dignified position.

Spain will not be behindhand in celebrating the achievements of Columbus. An "Historical American Exhibition" will be opened at Madrid in September to illustrate the first 250 years of life in the New World. The Spanish Government makes itself responsible for all loans, pays all expenses of curiosities or goods sent, and if a generous response is received from America, hints the possibility of transferring the whole exhibit to the World's Fair. This would give a unique interest to the great American celebration. By the way, no one need fear starvation on the Chicago grounds, for already 115 dining rooms, 27 restaurants, and a legion of cooks are arranged for, while a cow in the dairy department is said to have udders of such generous proportions that streams of milk will flow for the thousands of thirsty sight-seers.

Sober Germany has been surprising Europe by suddenly becoming enthusiastic, to a ridiculous degree, over the Abbé Kneipp. The Abbé has been a hard-working, beloved priest, and not until now, in his 70th year, has he awakened to find himself famous. He is an ardent believer in the water-cure for all diseases, and has written many pamphlets on the subject. He recommends throwing to the winds such unnecessary clothing as gloves, boots, or socks, and considers a bare-footed trot through the snow as beneficial. He commands his disciples to wear no wool clothing next their skin, but to attire themselves in a coarse cloth, similar to grain sacks. Kneippism also demands that food rich in nitrogen, such as milk, cheese, beans and meat, should be used, and all root vegetables and fruit swept from the bills of fare. Coffee is allowed, but alas, it is coffee made of acorns only. Of his books, 300,000 have recently been sold. Kneipp Institutions for the promulgation of his theories are found in all parts of the Empire, and to add the finishing touch to his celebrity, a Kneipp almanac is circulated through Germany, France, Hungary and England.

A crying grievance is before the French Government. The birthrate throughout France has so decreased that the population has become stationary. A few weeks ago the French Minister of the Interior was commissioned to investigate and report on the care given to the infants of the country. It was found that out of the small number of births one-third of the children died from improper treatment. Since then legislation has been enacted that infants under one year shall take no solid food unless by prescription from a medical man—nurses and mothers are forbidden to use nursing bottles with rubber tubes, and an active crusade against the system of baby-farming has been begun. Although a grave trouble, it is not without its comic side. Fancy the pompous state officials inspecting nurseries and pronouncing grave opinions upon the phenomena of baby life. Why does not the Republic offer the royalty on triplets and quadruplets so recently found unnecessary in our British domains, while perambulators and bassinets might be offered as premiums to less enterprising parents. But seriously, it is a sorrowful day for a nation when the baby voices are silent in the land.

The time nuisance endured by the travelling public in the Maritime Provinces has almost reached a stage beyond being borne, and if Mr. Schreiber wishes to preserve the good-will of even a few of our people he should be reasonable and not continue to foist upon this section of Canada a time standard that is unscientific, unnatural and extremely annoying. For the benefit of our readers let us state the present condition of affairs, and let them judge whether this state should be silently endured by the press and people of these Provinces by the sea. Commencing with London, the time of London is taken as the standard time that applies to any place lying within seven and a half degrees east or west. In the same way the standard or true time at the sixtieth degree of west longitude (near Sydney) has been taken or adopted by a large number of places lying within seven and a half degrees east or west of Sydney. This is known scientifically as the sixtieth, Sydney or Intercolonial standard. Halifax and Nova Scotia have adopted this standard. So far so good. Now, what have the railways of the country done. Instead of trying to follow the standard which alone scientifically and naturally applies to these Provinces, the railway magnates adopt, as the railway time, the standard of the seventy fifth degree of longitude, an hour behind our true standard, and this eastern standard time is made to apply to two sections. As a consequence, instead of our standard being one and the same, we in this Province have two standard times, while in New Brunswick local time is introduced so as to add to the confusion. If our representatives at Ottawa wish to save their supporters, as well as those opposed to them, endless calculations in addition and subtraction, wish to have one uniform time for railways and people, wish to have our time reckoned on a system that is at once scientific and natural, and desire to abolish these abominable time perplexities, let them visit Lord Schreiber and pray his excellency to be reasonable, or if he cannot be that, pray that Toronto may adopt our true standard time and try how that will work. Our Provincial Legislature should make the use of any time but the true standard time illegal in this Province. Perhaps that would have some weight with his lordship.

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