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OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE. A NUMBER OF CORRESPONDENTS EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

Current Affairs Freely Discussed-The Military College-Philosophy of the Social Evil, Etc. SOCIAL SINS AND THEIR CURE.

SOCIAL SINS AND THEIR CURE. To THE WORLD: The adjourned public meeting of the "social immorality" con-ference, held on Tuesday afternoon, was fairly attended; probably forty were pres-ent. It was also fairly unanimous. Its fanimus having become plainly visible, those not prepared to coincide with the special method of its efforts would natur-ally cease to attend. Its whole aim is still directed towards legal measures of restill directed towards legal measures of re- that all must be held as innocent until pression, and not one iota of attention is yet bestowed by them upon moral or ration-al methods of cure. Some condemnatory remarks were made by Principal Caven and others present regarding the "perni-cious and evil views" promulgated by cross and evil views " promulgated by writers to the press on this question; and considerable disappointment was expressed by other speakers at the lack of sympathy and aid in the work, not only on the part of the police commissioners, but also from a large section of the public. It was even complained that this was said to be a clerical movement, while yet it was the fact that very many of our city clergy were conspicuous by their absence. said to be a cierical movement, while yet it was the fact that very many of our city clergy were conspicuous by their absence. Permit me then further to explain why Dermit me then further to explain why Permit me then further to explain why public opinion is averse to any attempt to accomplish moral reformation by legal penalty. All history is against it. Ec-clesiasticisms have always inevitably wrought their own downfall when they tried to utilize the strong arm of the law to eafforce their precepts Jehovah himself when, veiled in humanity, He walked on earth never appealed to any law but His own perfect life to enforce that divine truth of which His outward form is the very embodiment. And just because there are many christiansamong us, and an increasing ing number, therefore it is that an increasing aversion to any attempt to make man virtu-ous by act of parliament, is daily more and more felt, and certain laws and penalties lapse into deserved obscurity and disuse. they have it not by heart. The ventilation this question has had will do no hurt. We must have air and light or we stifle. If the views I advance are capable of refutation, then let those who oppose refute them. I have but little lessure and my avocation and natural talent alike prevent any platform discussion, but if any member of the "Social immorality conference" will show wherein the purinciple lapse into deserved obscurity and disuse. Not so many ages ago there were legal enactments of penalty attached to any breach of any and every one of the ten commandments. In our present civil and criminal code there are ally four of the ten commandments so embodied, viz: "Thou "shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." The latter indeed is only crim-inal when such "false witness" is given as evidence in a court of law. We thus retain only three and a half of the ten. We re-tain these because they are needed to pre-tain the pre-t serve and maintain the individual liberty requisite for any attempt to keep, in spirit and letter, the other six and a half. These six and a half are universally recognized as moral laws only—laws of the will or life within man, capable of enforcement only by moral means. The other three and a half are both moral and civil laws. feet liberty to give it to any varys. care to show me the error of my ways. J. L. F. MAJOR RIDOUT AND KINGSION MILITARY SCHOOL.

To THE WORLD: I notice an attempt on the part of a section of the press to champion the cause of Major Ridout, and to speak disparsgingly of General Luard and Colonel Hewitt, for no other reason, appar-ently, except the very doubtful one that the former is a Canadian born officer, while There did once exist criminal laws against the worship of the Virgin Mary based upon the first and second commandments; laws against blasphemy and profane swearing, based on the third; laws on Sabbath keeping and aburgh attendance based on the fourth. his military superiors happen unfortunately while his military superiors happen unfortunately to be strangers and British. Some papers, like the Evening Telegram (whose editor possesses a knack of disposing summarily of every subject which comes under his ken as though he were a born oracle, ad-vects to this connection a know-nothing

where equity and justice, mercy and consideration for others, are far from unknown. There at least gave me, of prayer, supplication, personal consideration for others, are far from unknown. There at least chivalry has not wholly died out; and not appeal, entreaty, command. Sinners may be led to a higher and better life, never driven. Raid the houses of ill-fame as you chivalry has not wholly died out; and not every man is guilty of the mean and das-tardly lie, "the woman whom thou gavest to be with me, tempted me, and I did eat." There are manly men, not perhaps altogether sinless, who cannot yet listen unmoved to the Lord Jehovah's rebuke, "He that is without sin among way lat will, introduce the ducking stool if you choose; whip your fallen ones at the curt-tail if it please you; the outward aspect of affairs may be changed, but the inner and hidden state of society will become a seathing hell showing the main showing the seething hell of abomination upon abomination. H.

MR. MEREDITH'S PALTRY EXCUSE.

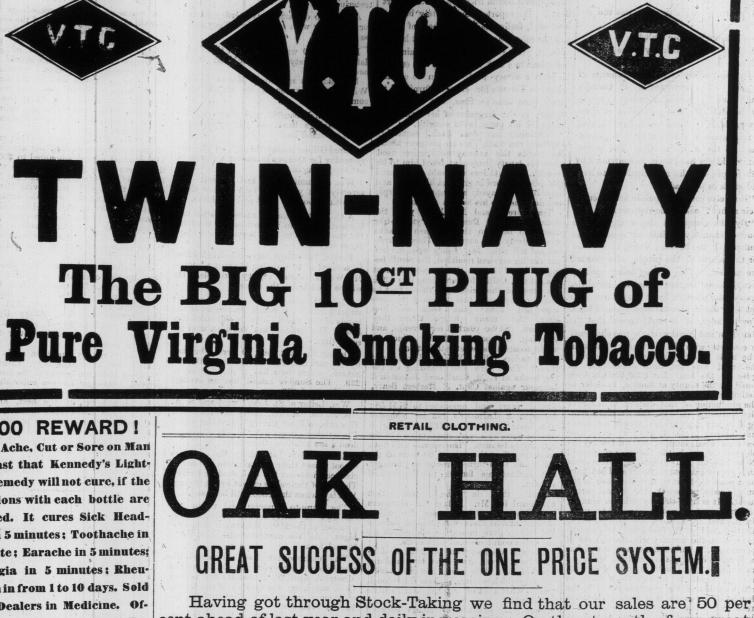
TO THE WORLD :-- In his address to the onservatives of South Brant the other day, Ir. Meredith said he considered the boundary award was a fair and just one, but the other provinces had a right to protest And this is the paltry excuse he makes for the unpatriotic position he has taken on the floor of parliament respecting it. Mr. Meredith, as the leader of the opposition in the molecular of optimic hear the parliament the parliament of Ontario, has sworn to protect the interest of not only his con-stituents but of the whole province. But he has proved himself unfaithful to his trust. And recreant to his vow, he has turned his attention from this province and its interest to that of other provinces. They have a right, he says, to protest. Very true; but who gave Mr. Meredith the right to protest on their behalf ; to plead their cause to the disadvantage of his own province ; and, at the same time dare to call Hon. O. Mowat a traitor for being true to his trust? That uprightness and independence of character co in the premier of Ontario is totally absent from the leader of the opposition. He has not the manliness to stand up for what he himself believes to be a fair and just award, but humbly swallows his convictions and stultifies his principles at the command of Sir John A. Macdonald. SYDNEY SMITH.

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and church attendance based on the fourth : mother, however, unworthy in character and habits either of respect or obedience. But there is one exception, there never existed a criminal code which included a penalty for that immoral desire called construments. Paraibly never may them ovetousness. Possibly never was there found a majority large enough either to en-act or enforce such a law--nor is there yet, even were it desirable. Imagine it enacted to-day! What a sudden check would be put upon most of our legitimate (?) business enterprises ! What is the reason then that such laws have lapsed? Is it not simply because light from on high is teaching men gradually more fully the perfect law of liberty? and it is perceived that the function of legal enactments is neither to make men virtuous enactments is neither to make men virtuous nor yet to execute the vangeance of society upon the evil door; but merely to maintain such individual freedom as will make it possible for men and women to live aright, according to the moral law, none daring to prevent or make them afraid. Thus civil and criminal law is relegated to its true place, to guard the free will of each man from physical compulsion to evil at the will of others—to place each man securely in possession of lordship over his own will, affections, thoughts, and deeds, in all things regarding himself, so long as he does not affections, thoughts, and deeds, in all things regarding himself, so long as he does not interfere with a like liberty in others. This is to "do unto others as we would that they should do unto us." To kill, to steal,

theless. As an old officer, and one who had the honor of serving with a not undis-tinguished Briton in Major Ridout's regi-ment—one Garnet Joseph Wolseley, then a lieutenant—permit me to say that Major Ridout never acquired the notions of mili-tary discipline he has been developing at Kingston while he served in her majesty's Scots. That regiment had in my time a hand book called the regimental standing hand book called the regimental standing orders, in which what is called the chain of responsibility from the lowest to the highest rank was very clearly defined. Perhaps Major Ridout has a copy of it as revised by the late general, then Colonel Slade, who not only saw that a link of that chain was missing, but tested them all--link by link-to see that not one of them was weak. Had Major Ridout acted to-wards Colonel Slade or any of his successors in command of that distinguished regi-ment, as he acted towards his commandant at Kingston military college, 1 can safely to bear false witness, are direct interference with the liberty of others without the conat Kingston military college, I can safely aver that his services would have been dissent of their will. To commit adultery is to infringe the free will of at least one party infringe the free will of at least one party to a legal contract. Therefore these are rightly included in our criminal code. There are other forms of adultery, viz., impurity between unmarried partners, or that "professional prostitution" which is the matter in question. This is as much a pensed with in such a manner that he would not have had an opportunity of trying to make political or personal capital out of his disgrace. The of polloi in Eng-land, I should say, take small stock in the grievances of officers or soldiers who forget that their first duty is obedience, and who that "professional prostitution" which is the matter in question. This is as much a breach of one part of the moral law which says "thou shalt not commit adultery," as is the worship of more gods that the one (whether it be three or a dozen gods that are worshipped) a transgression of the first commandment. It is as wholly immoral as covetousness itself. But if consent be held a chattined, and an equivalent muare punished if they seek to usurp the are punished if they seek to usurp the functions of their superiors or undermine their authority. I predict, sir, that when Major Ridout rejoins his regiment, as ordered, he will say little about his esca-pades at Kingston. He knows perfectly well that what he did there he would not have dared to attempt in any regiment, college, or head quarter staff in England or in any of her colonies outside of Canada where it seems he counts upon making a little political, personal, or perhaps-heaven gave the mark ! military capital. If the latter, I say in sober seriousness, God help the promising young officers of our, as yet undeveloped Canadian army, if their notions of military discipline are to be acquired from him. EX-ROYAL WELSH. covetousness itself. But if consent be asked and obtained, and an equivalent mu-tually acceptable le given and accepted, no principle of mutual freedom is infringed, any more than it I covet my neighbor's house and he covets my gold, and the covetousness of each prompts to an exchange. Such transfer, though based on immoral covetousness, civil law will ratify. While it does so, it dare not, in common honesty, do aught but wink at the other. In the one case it is true the con-sequences may be, and often are, heredit-arily fearfully disastrous, but cannot te-come so except with the free consent, asked and obtained, of some other individual of opposite sex, whose liberty of choice also law carefully guards by its enactments

THE SOCIAL EVIL.

of opposite sex, whose liberty of choice also law carefully guards by its enactments against rape and seduction. The cure for such evils as willing prostitution can only be found in fortifying by moral means, which are always religious, the will within man to know and recognize temptation so as to be able to resist it. For the reasons stated, and many others which might be adduced, legislation which either foiters or provides for prostitution, or, on the other hand, treats it as a which might be adduced, legislation which either fosters or provides for prostitution, or, on the other hand, treats it as a criminal offence, is alike erroneous in principle and practice. Both methods must inevitably fail to attain their aim. The one method can never succeed in rendering this social sin safe, nor avoid, nor even migitate, the natural penalties which must result from it, any more than the other can accomplish aught else but to drive those who will com-mit the sin in spite of law, into still more hideous crimes in order to conceal it. If an ostensible christianity has lost faith in the undying life-giving influence of love and mercy, and the restraining, enlighten-ing. power of wisdom and knowledge, to kill out evil and error, and has no confi-dence in aught but legal or even brutat penalties to accomplish moral reform, they haster has left "the church." But more than ever is life and light from the "spit of righteousness" abroad in "the world,"

vocate to this connection a know-nothing policy and demand the withholding of the public funds for the salaries of British officlaims. Directions in Eleven Languages. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS AND DEALERS cers "whose only use seems to be to in-sult our people and ill treat our officers," all of which is sorry *fustian*, provocative of a smile when one considers the source, A. VOGELER & CO., anch re, Md., U. S. A RESTAURANTS but to a certain extent mischievous, never **RESTAURANT FRANCAIS**, J. E. CLUB BUILDINGS. KING STREET WES NOW OPEN. EUROPEAN STYLE MEALS AT ALL HOURS. eatly-fitted Ladies Dining-room with private J. QUINOLLE & F. ARNOLD, HOTEL BRUNSWICK KING STREET WEST, (Next Mail Office). Choicest Selected Lot of the Celebrated CANADIAN MALPEQUE OYSTERS, Just received this day from Prince Edward Island served on the shell; try them. GEO. BROWN, Late of the Americar Hotel. SHELL OYSTERS ! SHELL OYSTERS First of the Season. Fresh and Fat at the 24 **ST. CHARLES RESTAURANT** 70 YONGE STREET. ODORLESS EXCAVATORS. WM. BERRY, **ODORLESS EXCAVATOR** AND CONTRACTOR, Residence, 151 Lumley Street; Office Victoria Street, Toronto. -SANITARY. The Excelsior Odorless Excavating Company, with their new and improved apparatus (awarded First Prize at the Centennial Exhibition), are prepared to execute orders for removal of night soil in a more satisfactory manner than any other firm in the Do-min'on. Head office, **9** Adelaide street east. York-ville office, J. Alberry, saddler, opposite Severn's Brewery. S. W. MARCHMENT & CO., 246 Authorized City Contractor FURNITURE FURNITURE. FURNITURE. ed on liberal terms. We have some very handsome designs in PARLOR SUITS DINING AND **BEDROOM SUITS**

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