

How sentimental we all grow when the proper chord is but touched! There appears to be in every human heart feelings of tenderness, though often they lie buried very deep. The poet is popular who has the power to touch these feelings, and the orator who can do so possesses an enviable gift. When Dr. Talmage lectured here recently, his rare skill as a speaker was best displayed by his power in reaching the tender feelings in each breast. In his word paintings when he referred to the kindly old grandmother with her furrowed face and her generous heart, and then to the baby whose little shoes were set aside because its busy work was all over, many women present used their handkerchiefs. But if you were there, dear reader, did you notice how the hard visages of some of the hard men of the world began to soften when he pictured out the familiar scenes, so dear to memory, of the game of blind man's bluff in the old home,—of the time when the old folks retired to another room, the chairs were all set back, the blue-eyed cousin, the visitor was blindfolded, and all took part? It was really a study to see faces of men, hard and stiff before, soften down and look child-like again, as childhood remembrances came up. It was truly pleasant to see the great big tears filling up eyes that tried to suppress them, and that may not often be moistened in that way. What a blessed thing it is, all through life, to have the remembrance of a pleasant childhood! God pity the poor child to whom all these pleasures of a dear home, and all the loving acts of parents are total strangers! There is a grand mission of goodness open to every one who wishes to labor in it in scattering seeds of kindness and of happiness to the poor children, the orphan children—to the very street Arabs. It is not only food and clothing that such need, often they need more than even these—the kindly acts, the friendly touch and the fireside games that others more highly blessed usually enjoy. Let us try the experiment of making these happy at times, by unbending a little and opening our hearts, yes our homes too, for an evening, as well as our purses. It would be a grand sight to see a family room in some rich man's home cleared away for an evening for a game of blind man's bluff to the neglected ones gathered in from the by-ways and hedges. It might soil the room, but it might do more good than a mission service. Send TRUTH a full report of your first experiment in that line. It would be pleasant reading.

In England the price of meat has been so high for many years that it is a luxury in food only the rich can afford to indulge in. Many well to do laboring men, and even good mechanics rarely have a taste of meat. It appears that matters are fast tending in the same direction in the thickly populated sections of the United States. *Harper's Weekly* says that in New York prices of food have continued to go up for years, and have never come down. A serious matter is the gradual advance of all meats at retail, which will, within a short period, unless it is checked, put meat wholly beyond the reach of half a million persons in New York who are dependent on laboring men. Why meat should be so dear in a city in direct

railway communication with the great cattle growing regions of the West is something strange. America may yet become a harder country for the poor than Europe. The winters are longer and require more food and fuel, while labor is more difficult to perform even when any can be found obtainable.

We have not been without some most deplorable instances in this city of the dangers of too free a use of pistols placed in the hands of policemen. In the cities of our neighbors south of us, instances are still more numerous. In England greater caution is taken. The policemen of London are not allowed to carry revolvers at all, lest they might, in time of excitement, be tempted to use them unnecessarily. There has been a recent consideration in regard to the whole question of arming the London police, and the decision has been against doing so. The only new weapon furnished them is an improved call whistle. Whether the roughs of London are less dangerous and desperate than our own, or whether the authorities have less regard for the lives and safety of their peace guardians, is an open question. It is a matter of doubt with many here whether it does not rather increase than diminish danger, to allow a policeman to go armed when on duty. One thing appears pretty evident: If policemen are not allowed to carry such weapons, a good deal of care should be taken to prevent any one else from doing so.

Politicians are supposed to be wiser in their generation than ordinary children of the world. It was a noted American ward politician who was credited with this observation: "It is a good adage in politics never to do to-day what can be put off till to-morrow."

The general supposition in Canada is that Sir John A. Macdonald has found his way out of some of his worst perplexities among the office seekers by a faithful adherence to this remodelled adage. The story goes that some of the North-West Indians became so much wearied with official delays during the time he administered the Department of the Interior as to fix on him the significant title of "Old To-morrow." Probably the story is not true, but it has been very industriously circulated.

In England it is evident that the old martial spirit has not died out of the hearts of the people, though the policy of the country has not been, of late years, to indulge so freely in foreign wars as in other times. A large number of the intelligent citizens are bitterly opposed to the present policy of the Gladstone government because it is not more aggressive and war-like towards Egypt. It is evident that nearly all hands would like to see a crushing military blow struck. A few days ago a conference was held in London of some of the leading members of the Peace Society, when a resolution was submitted assailing the policy of Gladstone as too war-like. Even in that body, of all others, there appears to be men quite willing to see the dogs of war let loose more freely. There arose a fierce war of

words at the conference and it broke up in confusion. Peace is very fine in theory and very pleasant to talk about, but the average Englishman even of this day in the nineteenth century would enjoy seeing such a misbehaved and misgoverned people as those of Egypt soundly trounced and brought under military rule. It would probably be a good thing for that ill-governed historic country.

A leading journal has been cogitating over the fact that one of the great dangers to which we are now exposed, arises from the existence, in the drug stores, of the stupid "deadly prescription clerk" who makes up the wrong drugs in his prescription and the victim is poisoned before he discovers the mistake. The remedy prescribed is a novel one, but probably about the best that can be thought of under the circumstances. It is the *Mail* that makes the suggestion and it is well worthy of thought. It is to this effect:—"It is not improbable that the day is not far distant when the business of making up prescriptions will be largely in the hands of women. They are careful. They are free from the vice of intoxication, the fruitful parent of so many fatal errors, the work is light and cleanly, and well within their mental grasp and physical capacity." The suggestion is evidently made in all good faith, and every word said in its favour is correct. Attendance at the drug stores is all but a new sphere for woman, and a very appropriate one it is to those of education and intelligence. The young men must take better care of their habits as regards alcohol and tobacco in order to keep their heads clear or women will yet elbow them out of the important business of prescription compounding.

Almost every day large numbers of Canadians are going West by the leading railway trains. It is something painful to witness the almost incessant outflow from our country in that way. Probably very few of those moving from Ontario—farmers especially—will yet have good reason to commend their wisdom for going. According to American authorities the number of Canadians reported to have become settlers in the United States between July of last year and April of this is no less than forty thousand, seven hundred and thirty five. Even this number, large as it is, appears to have been over four thousand less than during the corresponding nine months of the previous year. A large number of these have gone from the Province of Quebec, but Ontario, too, has furnished a large quota. Is it not possible to devise some more effectual means of persuading Canadians to remain and help build up Canada?

About Liquor Licenses.

The *Mail* is not always inclined to favour the plans and schemes of the prohibitionists, but it seldom fails to take credit for its party when anything has been done by it calculated to lessen the sales of liquor, or the number of liquor sellers. On Saturday last it referred very approvingly to the fact that the Dominion Board of License Commissioners for Lennox refused to grant licenses to hotels at Napanee

station, and one or two other railway stations in the County, so as not to defeat the efforts put forth by the Grand Trunk to suppress the sale of liquors along the line, as a measure of safety to the travelling public, as well as to the employees of the road. The Grand Trunk is doing a very wise thing in trying to suppress the sale of liquor near any of its stations and the Lennox Commissioners, headed by Judge Wilkinson, did a very commendable thing in so far co-operating as to refuse applications for houses lying in immediate vicinity. It would be well if every license board in the country would adopt a similar policy. Every year a large number of inebriated men are killed along the railway tracks, and every year a large number of serious accidents occur because of inebriated railway employees. Several inebriated men have been either killed outright or maimed for life within a short distance of the Napanee station though probably the most of them did not obtain their liquor in that immediate vicinity. At nearly every principal station in the Province similar deplorable accidents have happened, and they surely will continue to occur just so long as the legalized drink traffic continues. It would add much to the public safety all round to refuse all applicants for licenses near the stations, as requested by the Grand Trunk, but it would be a far safer thing to apply the more heroic remedy of refusing licenses any where in Canada. Until that is done a great deal of drunkenness, and a great many distressing accidents in consequence, may be surely expected.

The *Mail* makes capital for the Dominion License Act in pointing out the fact that while the Lennox Dominion Board refused the railway station licenses the Ontario Board afterwards granted them. No doubt the point is well taken, so far as that locality is concerned. TRUTH would be glad to chronicle the fact that in every locality the Dominion officers gave similar indications of a desire to lessen the number of places where liquor is sold. Will the *Mail* make comments appropriate to the occasion on the acts of the Dominion Board in granting three licenses for the Island front of Toronto, where none existed before, and where the Provincial Board refused to grant any? Complaints are also made of an increase in the number of unnecessary liquor shops in other parts of the city in consequence of the action of the Dominion Board here. TRUTH would be glad to see the *Mail* and other leading journals handling these questions altogether apart from mere party considerations. But this need hardly be expected. It will tell seriously against the popularity of the McCarthy Act if it is to be used as a means of considerably increasing the small retail liquor sellers, as appears to be the case so far as Toronto is concerned.

Exit, Sir Charles.

Sir Charles Tupper, it is announced, has at last resigned his seat in the House of Commons, and his position in the Government as Minister of Railways, and will now return to England as full fledged Agent-General of Canada. This will take few by surprise, as it was generally