

etc.? TRUTH will not incur the indignation of any of its readers by enlarging on this very fascinating but somewhat risky topic. Very likely a good deal could be said on both sides.

Some time ago a prize of a hundred guineas was offered for the best essay on Christian Missions. The adjudicators have declared the Rev. Dr. Paterson, of New Glasgow the successful competitor. Of course the essay will be published. It was with this view that the prize was offered. Some how or other prize essays have never added much to the wealth of the literature of a country. It is to be hoped that this will be an exception.

The Provincial Board of Health is always doing useful work by publishing weekly bulletins of the state of the country in the matter of epidemics. It is to be hoped that all are giving the attention to these reports which they deserve, though it is to be feared in a good number of cases they are left unread. Come now, all of you, read, think and inwardly digest what the guardians of health say on their important specialty.

There are given some terrible accounts of the French doings in Tonquin. But why cry out about what is essentially horrible and barbarous? All war is of the nature of butcherly brutality any way one likes to take it. It is all very well to talk about the chivalry and what not of warriors, etc. As Sir Harry Smith said after a pretty lengthened and varied personal experience, "The business of the soldier, gentlemen, is a damnable one." It is just that and no mistake, let poets rant and pedants declaim to the very top of their bent, in the opposite direction.

It would not at all be a matter of surprise if the French and English drifted into war over the Madagascar business. It has been an infamous business all through—a clear case of the wolf and the lamb. But then, has Britain never played a similar game? and has she any business to interfere? In the meantime Missionary Shaw has got quite a considerable in name of indemnity for his treatment, and this, it is said, without any pressure from the English authorities. So far so well. It is to be hoped that things will turn out better than at present they appear to.

The amount of gambling going on in bank shares is simply enormous while the infamous struggles of the bulls and bears in the Stock Exchange are simply the doings of highway robbers, neither more nor less. Men's property is being sacrificed to the demon of greed and gambling, and the owners are helpless.

There will be plenty of work for all the charitable societies of the city during the coming winter. On this account it is the more necessary that resources should be husbanded and that all work in concert so as to detect and discourage imposters. The fraud class grows very rapidly and cannot be warned against with too much earnestness. TRUTH is glad that a movement for the winter has already been made, and that it is determined, if pos-

sible, to help without pauperizing. If the whiskey shops could only be stopped nine-tenths of the battle would be gained. Idleness, imprudence and drink! what ruin this redoubtable trinity is working!

There is nothing more necessary than some well defined rules for the protection of fish and for such rules being carried stringently out. As things are at present there is really no "close time" for any class of the finny tribes, though it is pretended that there are some ten days or a fortnight. As with forests, this foolish imprudence will one day be regretted and sooner than many people think.

TRUTH is glad to learn that the eldest son of the Prince of Wales has gone to Cambridge, it is to be hoped to actually study, not to fool away his time as one with his prospects may very easily be tempted to do.

By all means let all Ontario people go strongly in for showing forth the glories of the Kakabeka Falls. They are as fine in their way as those of Niagara, and let the hope be cherished that they will never be desecrated as the latter has been. A great future awaits Algoma in the not far off future, and therefore the more reason that this Province should hold on to every inch of that now celebrated territory. Any of the inhabitants of Ontario who talk of giving it up ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Is it reasonable that the bad workman should be paid the same wages as the good provided he be member of a union? It does not seem so. On the contrary such a plan must cut off all motive to excellence and improvement. Yet this is exactly the case so far as TRUTH has been able to ascertain in the Plasterer's strike. Why should a man not worth a dollar a day be paid two, because he is a brother? He is a pauper if he receives more than he really earns.

The Edict of Nantes was promulgated in 1598 by Henry IV. It gave the Protestants of France a guarantee that they would not be disturbed in the free exercise of their religion. This continued in operation for 87 years and was then suddenly revoked by Louis XIV. with most disastrous results. Above half a million of the most industrious inhabitants of the country went away and a great many more would have followed had they been allowed.

It is 330 years to-day since Michael Servetus was burned at Geneva as a blasphemer and a heretic. TRUTH has no wish to enter into all the outs and ins of that much discussed question as to how far Calvin was culpably involved in that transaction. Enough to say that it was a matter ever to be deplored that any one should be put to death for his religious opinions. Pleasant that things have changed for the better since that time, though the persecuting spirit is not yet quite extinct. Though to be sure it is difficult to settle exactly what persecution really is.

Madame Pfeiffer who died this day twenty-four years ago was a very remark-

able woman. She had an ardent desire to travel, and in order to this saved more or less every year from her household expenses till she got all her family "raised" and off her hand. She then started on her pilgrimages, and her doings in the travelling line were as wonderful as could be imagined. She went two or three times round the world to Iceland, Madagascar, Borneo, and a great many other out of the way places. She has left very pleasing narratives of her journeyings. These have had a wide circulation and the proceeds helped her to still further travel. She travelled in countries in which no man could have gone without the certainty of being murdered. One of her maxims was that wherever human beings could live she could, for if she could not use their food she had but to fast a day and then she could, and if one day would not do, then if she fasted another she were sure to be able. A nice idea, but not very pleasant to think of particularly. She was 45 years of age when she first started on her travels and she continued the work till her death, which took place when she was turned of sixty.

Is there any reason why there should be a recognized hangman? Is there any reason why the sheriff should not do the final work in carrying out the law's sentence? TRUTH can think of none. If it be honorable to sentence a man to die, why should it not be equally honorable to put him to death? To murder people as soldiers is thought not only pardonable but positively glorious. How a man is thought to be an honorable heroic character laying about him like a man with a big knife which he calls a sword is more than any ordinary person can imagine. It is as dirty and detestable as the work of a butcher in the shambles, and not half so useful any way one can take it.

It would seem scarcely necessary to tell people not to pick up letters or papers, &c., that may be lying on a man's private desk. But after all there are those who need such warnings. They are regular Peeping Tom's of Coventry. They would look over the shoulders of a man at the very time he was writing to his wife. TRUTH has been told that even members of Parliament are sometimes guilty of such infamy. Any person having the slightest gentlemanly instinct in his body would not read any thing not intended for his eye, would not even hear what it was never intended he should.

The warning against borrowing books is always in order, but always useless. People will borrow, and never return what they borrow. The best way for every one is never to lend, and consequently never to borrow. There is apparently no sort of property recognized in books any more than in umbrellas.

It is said that the Duke of Wellington never allowed a letter to remain unanswered. In this as in a good many ways the "old fellow" showed himself to be a gentleman. By all means answer, however trivial the communication, however insignificant the writer.

TRUTH does not profess to give rules on etiquette. Still there are a great many

things that need to be said in this line if the whole truth is told. Some people for instance have a disagreeable habit of repeating scandals and malicious gossip. Others sneer at persons whom they know, and are continually cracking jokes at their expense. Dear readers of TRUTH, don't. Such ways of doing are poor, paltry, and contemptible in the extreme. Cultivate the amenities and not the asperities of life.

The 400th anniversary of Luther's birthday takes place about the 11th of next month. TRUTH is glad to learn that Toronto is not to be behind others in celebrating the event.

So colored people in the States are not protected by the Civil Right Act of 1875 as they thought. That Act secured them equal rights in hotels and railway cars with their white neighbors. The Supreme Court of the U. S., however, has declared the Act unconstitutional, and it accordingly goes to the wall. This will not prevent justice being eventually done to the colored people of this continent. But that justice will have to come from the enlightened Christian public opinion of the people rather than from any mere legislative enactment. In any case it might be unjust and unfair to other people if anybody with the cash could force himself into a hotel whether the presiding Bonifacio wished it or not. Let the quondam slaves of the States, and the colored people the world over act in a becoming manner, and eventually they will conquer unreasoning prejudice, and secure every reasonable social advantage and recognition.

Murderers have always had, at least lately, great advantages over other criminals. They are coddled and fussed about in a most marvellous and unjustifiable fashion. Now all this gets to be too absurd. Why should these offenders be so attended to? Apparently the greater the crime, the greater to do.

The advisability of doing away altogether with the office of a hangman is being vigorously discussed by various English periodicals. They claim that it is a debasing, demoralizing thing for any man to be a public executioner, and they are undoubtedly right. No one, unless he were a ruffian at heart, could even apply for such a position, and if he is successful in securing it the inborn scoundrelism of his nature speedily reveals itself. The remedy proposed is to make the execution of criminals a regular part of prison routine. Now one official will need to undertake the duty, and now the other. When put into respectable, responsible hands, in this way the argument advanced is that the odium now attaching to the office will disappear.

These little dog-carts drawn by liliputian ponies are really very pretty things. And how many there are of them to be sure! A new one seems to appear on the scene every day. And the little creatures how proud they are to be sure! They evidently feel themselves the observed of all observers, and arch their dainty necks, and stretch their lithe little limbs, and try to show themselves to the very best advantage. And the owners too—how good they feel. What a fine sensation it is to have every one looking at them with a kind of half-envious admiration, thinking of the wonderful things wealth will do!