

TRUTH.

OLD SERIES.—21st YEAR.

TORONTO, ONT., AUGUST 16, 1890.

NEW SERIES.—VOL. X. NO. 515.

WHAT TRUTH SAYS

Whatever may be said concerning the conduct of Lady Dunlo (*nee* Belle Biltou, the music hall singer) in permitting the visits of her manager, whom she allowed also to pay her expenses, the action of Lord Dunlo's father in sending his son round the world with the expectation that meanwhile the wife would misbehave herself, and so, on his return enable the husband to divorce her, can only be viewed with reprehension by every right-thinking person. The world is bad enough, Heaven knows, and its moral sense none too fine, but it is sufficiently educated to perceive the satanic blackness of the spirit that would exult in, or desire the downfall of another in order that its own ambitious schemes might be realized. Little commiseration will, therefore, be felt for the scandalized (?) father in his failure to bring about a legal separation of the youthful pair. On the contrary, the verdict which leaves the young wife Lady Dunlo still, is approved by everybody.

The Anglo-German agreement for the protectorate of Zanzibar has stirred up France to urge her claims to the control of the region between Senegal and Lake Tchad. In order to enquire into the justice of these pretensions a commission has been appointed, consisting of French, English and German representatives. Should its report be very favorable to France, it may be presumed she will consider herself fully "squared" in reference to Zanzibar. This region added to that already under her control would place no mean part of Western Africa under French influence. Practically they now hold a great part of the region south of Sahara from Cape Verde to Lake Tchad. They have pushed eastward and southward, conquering some provinces, making friendly treaties with others, and effecting some wholly new explorations. One of their latest acquisitions is Segu, over which they have held a nominal protectorate for many years, but from which they have been practically excluded till their recent capture of its chief city. As England and Germany have divided Zanzibar between them, and as Italy has strengthened her foothold around Massowah, it seems only fair that the rights of France should be acknowledged in the Western Soudan, where she has expended so much money and energy and with results so brilliant.

The prospect for Europe escaping the cholera is not very reassuring. Contrary to the impression regarding Spain that the disease was dying out, reports now state that it prevails in Valencia, Murcia, Alicante, as well as in the villages where the first cases were found. Reference was made last week to the dread disease having broken out at Baku on the west shore of the Caspian, a point through which the plague has invariably found admission. And now reports come from Mecca, which is at present being visited by Moslem pilgrims, that hundreds are being carried off by the terrible scourge. So that with the plague on the coast of the Red Sea, on the western shore of the Caspian, and in the southern provinces of Spain, it will be remarkable if a large area in Europe does not become infected before the end of the warm season.

Those who are good at "figgers" may find entertainment in reckoning how long it will be before woman will have found her way into all the branches of industry in

which men engage; providing the present rate of invasion continues, and taking the State of Massachusetts as a guide. According to the Labor Statistics of that State, in 1875 the women engaged in "gainful pursuits" was 21.33 of the whole female population; in 1885 the percentage was 29.82—a very marked gain. In 1875 of all persons employed in such pursuits 73.19 per cent. were males and 26.81 per cent. females; in 1885 the percentage of women had increased to 33.38. In 1875 there were nineteen branches of industry in which women were not employed; in 1885 there were but eight. From these figures it will be seen that the field of woman's occupation is steadily enlarging.

An apparently unexpected and unforeseen interpretation of their constitution has just been given by the Supreme Court of Illinois, in deciding the question whether a witness is competent who believes in a Deity but has never thought seriously whether he would be punished in this world or the next, should he swear falsely. The Court held that this lack would have disqualified the witness prior to the adoption of the constitution of 1870, but that the clause "no person shall be denied any civil or political right, privilege or capacity on account of his religious opinions," embraces such a witness within its scope. The effect of this clause, the Court says, is "to abrogate the rule which obtained in this State prior to the constitution of 1870. There is no longer any test of qualification in respect to religious opinion or belief, or want of the same, which affects the competency of citizens to testify as witnesses in courts of justice." Whether the provision of their constitution is to be regarded as a defect, and whether the fear of future punishment has had any appreciable effect in restraining men who were disposed to invert the truth are questions concerning which there is likely to be diversity of view. But though the question, what, if any, effect has such a belief had in securing a more truthful testimony can never be conclusively settled, many will feel that the new provision is a retrogression rather than an advance.

Latest advices from the Argentine Republic encourage the hope that the revolution is over. The resignation of President Celman and appointment of Gen. Pellegrini to the head of affairs gives general satisfaction. The people have gained their end, though it must be confessed the means employed were desperate and cannot entirely be justified. Still the desperate nature of their case somewhat mitigates their offence. With a recklessness seldom witnessed, the government had oppressed them with financial burdens and were contemplating still greater additions to their load. The national policy of Celman and his colleagues consisted largely in the construction of railways and public works by means of borrowed money. So long as the borrowing continued the show of prosperity was kept up, but when the time for paying back arrived the true state of affairs began to be realized. The bursting of the boom has seriously affected the banking institutions of the country, gold being at a premium of three or four hundred per cent. It is thought, however, that the banks will be saved, but the public credit is badly damaged and will be reduced for decades, and distress will be general but will tell hardest upon the poor, while the nation is struggling out of the slough into which it has been led by an extravagant, unthrifty and corrupt Government.

Twenty-seven to ten is the proportion of contested elections in Ontario as compared with Quebec. How is this? Have the politicians of the latter province less money to spend in feeing lawyers, or is there really less bribery and corruption among them, or is their moral sense so blunted that they can witness with complaisance deeds which compel the outraged Ontario elector to declare, "If it costs me my farm I will have this iniquity punished?" Which?

Though the recently discovered plot to assassinate the Czar must be described as "new" it can hardly be called "news," or at any rate, be said to possess the quality of novelty as its distinguishing feature. Attempts in this direction are so frequent that any further plot creates little surprise and calls for little comment. Again it appears the conspirators are found to be connected with the university, a professor and some students together with two officers of rank being implicated. The officers, fearing no doubt the living death of exile, have committed suicide. What will be done with the others doth not yet appear. Strange that it should never be suggested to that despotic ruler to enquire why it is that all the intelligence of his Empire is anxious for his death. One would suppose that he would at least suspect that there is something seriously defective in his character or his title and would seek a reformation.

A significant battle, and one whose result will have a far-reaching influence on the destinies of the province, is now on in Quebec. On the one side is Premier Mercier and his Liberal Ministers, on the other, Sister Therese, head of the Longue Pointe Asylum, and her Jesuit backers. The question at issue is, shall there be a reform in the management of the provincial insane institutions? The recent terrible calamity by which three or four score wretched inmates met a horrible death has aroused the public to a consciousness of the fact that matters are not in a satisfactory state. Mr. Mercier and his colleagues have declared for reform; while the chief government organ frankly admits the existence of abuses, especially in the housing together of curable and incurable patients, of the insane and the idiotic, and in sending lunatics to goal. It admits, moreover, that greater precautions are necessary to protect the liberty of the subject, and to prevent sane persons from being incarcerated either through mistake or the machinations of interested parties. In the carrying out of these reforms the Hon. Premier will have an opportunity of demonstrating the truth or falsity of the charge so frequently made against him, that he is more anxious to please Rome than to promote the good of his province. Many will follow his course in this matter with very great interest.

The following despatch has been received from Calgary: "The Mormon question is agitating the people of Southern Alberta to a considerable extent, and apparently with some reason. Their village or settlement situated adjacent to the Blood Indian reservation and the Indians already call them 'the many wives,' and claim that the Mormons have been telling them how good a thing it is to have more than one wife. The agent and missionaries have been many years to impress on the principles of one wife, and the influence directly thereon. It is suspected among the

Alberta, although no proof can be brought forward, and it will be a hard matter to prove it at any time." This news is neither reassuring nor comforting. The prospect of the festering sore of polygamy being created upon our social body is one which no thoughtful and patriotic Canadian can contemplate with pleasure. Of course the suspicion that polygamy is practised may be groundless. Still, should it be found to have truth as its basis, the fact will not create unbounded surprise. Already we know, on the authority of Governor Royal, that the disproportion of the sexes in the colony is very marked. Besides, after the revelations in connection with the Chapter house investigations in Salt Lake City, one ought not to be surprised to learn that the devoted "Saints" have violated their pledges in order to promote the interests of their church. The case is manifestly a difficult one. To discriminate against these colonists (of whom as colonists, many good things can be said), upon no other ground than that of suspicion, would hardly be in keeping with our professions of liberty. Besides, it would be a contradiction of our traditional policy of assuring that a citizen is true and honest until he proves himself the contrary. Nevertheless, with the knowledge of the history of Mormonism before us, we would not be true to ourselves or our country, were we to allow mere sentiment to prevent us from taking every legitimate precaution against this hydra-headed evil. The colony ought at least to be closely watched, and efforts be made to impress upon the minds of the colonists that if, after all their pledges, any violation of our marital laws is discovered, no mercy will be shown the offender. Public sentiment will not be satisfied with anything less than the severest penalty.

The electrocution of Kemmler, the Buffalo murderer, is at length an accomplished fact. On Wednesday morning, 6th inst., he expiated the crime of killing his mistress, Tillie Ziegler, by surrendering to justice his own life. Being the first execution under the new law in New York State, which substitutes death by means of electricity for the old method of hanging, his taking-off excited unusual interest, especially among men of science, of whom a considerable number were present on the occasion. Concerning the execution, it can hardly be pronounced a complete success. Reports state that after the breaking of the current, which had been kept up for seventeen seconds, signs of returning life were manifested, so that it was necessary to apply again the fatal fluid. For a few moments the doctors and electricians in charge of the execution were in a state of contention that the current was kept up longer, and that there would be no mistake as to the result. Thomas A. Edison, the electrician, the