

We believe that he will be hurled back into the mud he came from. But there is going to be a terrible struggle before victory goes to the elements of society which are stable and decent. It is their own fault for letting go the reins, and they will pay dearly for their infatuation. But in the end honesty, order, and religion will triumph and the regenerated United States will be the better for the blood-letting they will have received.

The Tidal Wave.

READERS of the newspapers have been harrowed by descriptions latterly of terrible accidents by land and sea. The wreck of the Drummond Castle—the awful death of the miners imprisoned by the fall of the rocks at Wilkesbarre—the thirty thousand Japanese and four thousand Chinese swept into eternity by an enormous ocean wave which annihilated every vestige of man along hundreds of miles of coast—the wholesale destruction of human life by the recklessness of one poor engine-driver at Atlantic City—these events all happening in a season when the world is supposed to be holiday-making cannot but leave a strong impression on the mind. The most unthinking person must feel some pity for his fellow-creatures deprived of the joys of life by sudden mishap for which in no way can they be held accountable. Modern society is proverbially heartless. A retrospect at history seems to point to an analogy with the state of Rome in the first century after Christ and the condition of France before the Revolution. The reader of Juvenal will recognize London or New York in Rome. Toronto and Montreal, on a smaller scale, present the same picture. Who, in a city, knows or cares for the wants or griefs of his next door neighbour? In the country the pristine virtues are not quite so extinct. But in the Roman Empire and the Kingdom of France the peasants were as docile and affectionate to one another as they are to-day in Canada or in New York State. In the Roman Empire they had what modern society has not, at least in name, Slavery. In France there was a class which on the American continent does not exist, a haughty and licentious nobility. But in the United States slavery has been replaced by mob rule. Nobles have been replaced by plutocrats. In Canada there is less inequality as there is less wealth. How long Roman society would have continued to exist as it was constituted under the Emperors, had it not been for the Barbarian invasions, is doubtful. The Barbarians from the north by their incursions destroyed the institutions they found just as they massacred or made slaves of the people they conquered. They were the tidal wave which overwhelmed Roman civilization. What is the tidal wave which will overwhelm modern civilization? There do not seem to be any barbarians to overrun Europe like the Huns and the Goths and the Vandals. The Russians seem to answer most nearly to the hordes of Attila. Scratch a Russian and you get a Tartar, but they consider themselves civilized and would be greatly outraged if they were put into the same category with the flat-nosed followers of barbaric chieftains. The Chinese are also not likely to follow the example of their forefathers and throw their millions against the West. The Japanese will not do more than threaten China. So far as human knowledge can predict the age of barbaric invasion is over. Whence, then, is the danger to come to Society as it to-day exists? It seems to us that the danger is one from Socialism. At present, Socialism repudiates Anarchy. At their late Congress the Socialists were careful to keep their skirts clear of the Anarchists. But wherein do they differ?

The Socialists desire to share everything. The Anarchists' aim to destroy everything. If the object of the Socialists is achieved, it is equivalent to anarchy. The rights of property cannot be equally divided among all men. Discontent would reign just as much as they do now. To him that hath shall be given, and from him that hath not shall be taken that which he hath. This is the immutable principle which in its application will overturn society. The rich get richer, and the poor grow poorer. The poorer are educated so that they know of what they are deprived. In a shifting of the cards they have everything to gain and very little to lose. Here is the tidal wave which every day is rising higher and higher. In former days race feuds were the normal condition of humanity. In these latter times they have been superseded by class feuds. The American Union is a striking example of the amalgamation of all nations into one mass. That mass is animated by one spirit—the jealousy poverty bears to wealth. Those who have the wealth endeavour to protect it by tyranny of their own. In European countries the same feelings are kept under by the superior organization of the richer classes. But even there the time is coming when Socialism and Anarchy, hand in hand, will triumph over the constable and the magistrate. No man who watches the trend of events at the end of this century can do aught but feel that matters cannot continue as they are. The most perfunctory examination of the conditions of society reveals inequalities which seem incapable of redress. The physical conditions of the world seem unaltered. Seed time and harvest succeed one another, the sun still shines, and the rain still falls on the just and on the unjust. But when an observer reflects upon the wrongs inflicted by man's inhumanity to man, and hears the wails of the countless thousands who are mourning—when he hears the mutterings and rumblings of the efforts of the submerged tenth to rise to the surface—when he sees the hopeless struggle of myriads to do more than secure a bare existence—then he feels that sunshine is a mockery, that the tidal wave is not far off. If he is a reader of Shakespeare, the old and well-known lines on Shakespeare's monument come to his mind. They are appropriately enough taken from the Tempest, and, old as they are, they bring with them an ever-living prophecy of what seems now not far off:

Our revels now are ended : these our actors
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and
Are melted into air, into thin air ;
And like the baseless fabric of this vision
The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve ;
And like this unsubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a wrack behind.

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Our High Schools.

AN editorial in a Toronto contemporary calls attention to the fact that there is room in our three High Schools for 400 new scholars. It comments upon the statement in the following manner :

"Eleven hundred pupils is the full complement of the three schools. Not only have we accommodation for one third more pupils, but the teaching staff is adequate for the full normal capacity of the schools. Citizens who have children of the proper age and qualification, ought to take advantage of the situation and send them to the nearest High School. Our Public and High Schools cost us a great sum of money every year. Taxpayers owe it to themselves to get the best return they can for the big proportion of their tax that goes to the maintenance of Toronto's schools."