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TORONTO, JULY, 1878.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NOTICES.

We omit editorial matter which we had prepared for this issue, to give place to valuable articles from our contributors.

In Mrs. Slonker's article on "Mythology" in last number (v) of the JOURNAL for "Jo" read Io. The error was our own.

THE Meaford *Chronicle* advises Braden's Meaford friends to appoint a deputation to wait on us and demand to see the originals of letters from which we made extracts. Let our Meaford friends do so, they will find us prepared.

THE fine poem entitled "The Hindu Sceptic," which appeared in the last number of the JOURNAL, was erroneously credited to Mr. George Iles, of Montreal. He is not the author, but gave us the poem and some others equally good which he had selected from periodical literature. "The Hindu Sceptic" originally appeared in the London *Spectator* six years ago, anonymously.

We have received copies of "Interrogatories to Jehovah," by D. M. Bennett, New York; price, \$1. "Anthony Comstock, His Career of Cruelty and Crime," price 25 cents; (the latter is a chapter from "Champions of the Church," noticed in last issue). and "Chronicles of Simon Christianus," price 25 cents. For sale by the publisher, D. M. Bennett, New York, and at this office.

MR. E. A. STEVENS, formerly associated with John McIntosh as editor and publisher of the Rochester *Independent Worker*, the first Secretary of the first purely workingmen's party in New York State, and a well-known labor agitator, who for some months has been a member of our Association, has left this city for Detroit. After referring to Mr. Stevens' work upon that paper, the Rochester *Union* remarks: "He is well qualified by native tact, extended experience, and careful research to take an active

place in journalism, and by his vigorous yet versatile style to handle any current theme in an editorial way. Whatever branch of the profession he may assume he will be found energetic and reliable."

THE JUSTICE OF CANADIAN LAW AS APPLIED TO FREETHINKERS.

("PRINGLE *versus* NAPANEE.")

BY ALLEN PRINGLE.

In connection with the decision recently given in the Queen's Bench, Toronto, in the above case, are some aspects so extraordinary that, as Plaintiff in the case, I claim the right of making some comments and strictures thereon. Though it may not be customary or even judicious under ordinary circumstances to publicly criticise the decisions of the Bench of this country, yet it is presumed that under exceptional circumstances of obvious injustice, as in the present case, it is alike my right under British institutions, and my duty, in the interests of the oppressed minority to which I belong, to do so. I therefore do not feel disposed at the present critical juncture in the progress of liberal thought in Canada to either shrink from the duty or waive the right

For the benefit of those readers who are unacquainted with the circumstances in which the "Town Hall Case" had its origin I will here give a statement of the same. Four years ago, (in Sept. 1874,) having decided to inaugurate liberal and scientific lectures in Canada, we made arrangements with Mr. B. F. Underwood, the able advocate of scientific materialism, to come to Napanee and give a course of three lectures. For this purpose we procured from the Mayor of Napanee a lease of the Town Hall for the evenings of September 15, 16 and 17, 1874, and paid for the same. Though it had always been hitherto the custom and the duty of the Mayor, vested in him by the Council, to lease the Town Hall for various purposes, yet when he let it to us for lectures the bigoted element in this aforesaid Council, being in the majority, at once discovered by some oblique process of Methodist ratiocination that we ought not to have the hall, that the Mayor ought not to have leased it to us, and forthwith commenced the commendable business of shutting us out. Accordingly on the evening advertised for our first lecture, supported by the town constabulary, these puritanic worthies proceeded to the hall and valiantly marshalled themselves against the entrance so that no "godless infidel" would be able to enter the municipal sanctuary, which, under their authority had oft-times been dedicated and sanctified by such highly moral exhibitions as minstrelsy, legerdmain, etc. Mr. Underwood had arrived, and a large concourse had assembled in the market square contiguous to the hall. We approached the barricaded door, exhibited our lease of the hall from the Mayor, and civilly demanded admittance, but were refused; albeit had we felt disposed to encourage the sympathizing crowd awaiting entrance, the possession of the hall would have been ours in less time than it takes to write it. This, however, would have so much resembled an exhibition of religious zeal in the "Cause of Christ" that we forbore. The contract, made by their duly authorized representative the Mayor, was thus trampled upon and our rights disregarded by these Christian Councillors with more zeal than knowledge. This was the laudable sense of justice and notion of equal rights entertained by the Pecksniffs and Dogberrys of Napanee in the year of their Lord one thousand