

TRUTH FOR THE PEOPLE

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

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DRAWING NEAR.

The date for the distribution of rewards in our great final competition is rapidly approaching. Hundreds have embraced the opportunity offered to become participants in this last great allotment of magnificent gifts. The particulars of this competition will be found on page 22, together with a list of a few of the prizes offered. One dollar will secure you a four months' subscription to TRUTH, with the more than possible chance of getting one of the awards offered, and also the privilege of entering the competition for TRUTH Villa, the beautiful Toronto residence. If you do not embrace this opportunity now you will forever regret the ill-luck which caused you to neglect entering as a competitor in this liberal offer of TRUTH publisher.

WHAT TRUTH SAYS

After this week, and until further notice, we shall discontinue all money prizes in the several departments of TRUTH.

An effort is being made to erect a magnificent bronze statue in memory of the late Rev. Egerton Ryerson, D.D., the founder of the excellent common school system in Ontario. Already forty thousand dollars have been subscribed for the purpose, but it is estimated that at least sixty thousand will be needed to carry out the present design. The treasurer of the fund is Mr. W. S. Leo, of Toronto. Contributions will be thankfully received. Probably no man worked more earnestly for his country than did the late Dr. Ryerson, and probably, to, no man is the country so deeply indebted for the high average of intelligence among the people. Dr. Ryerson was an able controversialist and dealt out many a hard blow to those who crossed his path but now that he is gone few care to call into question the purity of his purpose, or the success of his educational efforts.

Monday of last week was a Roman Catholic Saints' day of some kind, and consequently a holiday in the Province of Quebec. The House of Commons did not meet that day in consequence. Wednesday following was Dominion Day, and consequently a legal holiday, but the House of Commons went on with its usual business all the same. TRUTH may not be as well posted as it should be regarding the holiday business in connection with Parliament, but on the face of it there is the appearance of both sides trying again to show due deference to the French support. So much of that kind of thing has been practised that people are growing sick of it. On a recent occasion Grip represented Sir John and Mr. Blake as both prostrating themselves before the French voter and asking him to kindly step on them. Most people felt that Grip had pretty well caught the spirit of the party leaders. So long as the English-speaking Canadians persist in quarreling among themselves and always dividing about evenly, so long will the united French minority hold the balance of power and so long will it be favored.

Henry Ward Beecher is now an old man, having passed his three score and ten years. He appears to be living long enough to modify all the views of his earlier ministerial life. His last modification is in regard to tobacco using. He has been a strong anti-tobacco man, and once held that the use of tobacco would lead to rum and ruin to sheer. He now says from Plymouth pulpit that he does not think so any more. Not long ago he announced his modification of all his old views about theatre-going, and for the rest of his life he intends to go whenever he can. It is some time since he modified on total abstinence, and on eternal punishment, and several other of his earlier views. At the rate things are going he promises to live long enough to modify about all the views of any marked importance he ever held regarding social and moral reforms. Whether his congregation goes on modifying as fast as the pastor, TRUTH is not informed.

An honest attempt is being made in the United States to protect the laborer as well as the manufacturer, and it remains to be seen how far such an effort may prove successful. For years past the manufacturers' products have been protected by a high tariff. One strong plea in favor of such a policy was that manufacturers and laborers in America should not be compelled to compete against the "pauper laborers of Europe." That policy, however, did not prevent the pauper laborers from immigrating to America and glutting the labor market here. In order to meet that difficulty a law was enacted last year in the interest of the laborers, making it a penal offence to bring laborers to the United States under contract, or to assist in the payment of the passage of such. This, of course, was levelled at the manufacturers, the employers of labor. The Nation, of a recent issue, states that ten Irish girls were under detention at Castle Garden, New York, because they came under contract to work for somebody who advanced the money to assist in paying their passage. Of course that is one of the legitimate fruits of such a law. Bartholdi's grand statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" on its lofty pedestal at the entrance of New York Harbor, would be an interesting object to these Irish girls. If they are to be sent back to their native land under the provisions of the existing law they ought to be shown the site, at least, of the great statue on their way out.

According to recent amendments to the postage law in the United States, which went into force on the 1st inst. a single postage letter may weigh one ounce instead of half an ounce, as formerly. It is high time that a similar amendment should be made in Canada. An ounce is a light weight for a letter anyway, and to make a less weight a dividing line always creates a good deal of trouble and confusion. Our letter postage is three cents against two cents among our neighbors, but in Canada newspapers are carried post free while they are charged one cent per pound across the line. In view of the fact that the post office, as well as every other department, ought to be self-sustaining, as far as practicable, it would be

just as well to deliberate pretty well regarding the matter before letter postage is reduced here, though TRUTH can see no valid reason why the weight of single Canadian letters may not be increased at once.

The very loose laws in many of the American States regarding divorce are surely producing their deplorable results in regard to an equally loose state of things regarding the marriage relation. Last week an Illinois woman of nineteen years was married for the fourth time, and the second time to the same husband. All of the men she has married are now living, and one of them, at least, has one or two other living wives. What are the possibilities of numerous husbands to an enterprising young woman like that, under such marriage and divorce laws, time alone will tell. There seems to be something unbecoming in the people of Illinois inciting a crusade against polygamy in Utah when such a state of things exists at home. It is evident enough that people enter into matrimony very lightly when they know that divorces can be procured on such slight pretenses. In some States the annual proportion of divorces to marriage has been as high as one third. Hundreds of people are being yearly re-married to those from whom they were previously divorced. Matters appear to be growing from bad to worse. In the interests of society there ought to be a movement against divorce as well as against polygamy in the Great Republic, or society must begin to fall to pieces.

Spurgeon, the great London preacher, has just been creating quite a sensation by writing a very strong article over his own signature in regard to the abominable sins of men in high places in England. A prominent judge died a year or so ago in a house of prostitution in London, but the matter was pretty well smothered up. Spurgeon boldly intimates that a good many other men who have attained to places of position and honor are, morally, just as filthy and degraded. London of old, he believes, saw no greater moral iniquities among its leading men than does London of to-day. Such startling assertions from a man like Spurgeon are enough to stir the nation. Is it possible that in the reign of the pure Victoria so much rottenness exists immediately under the polished surface? Possibly, in the light of to-day, such iniquities are much more clearly set forth than ever before. The old fashioned practice of saying nothing about the private sins of a public man is, happily, becoming discarded both in England and Canada, and it is well for the interests of morality that such is the case.

Amicable arrangements have been made for the continuance of the fishery treaty between the United States and Canada until the end of the year, so that the serious confusion of breaking it off in the very midst of the busy fishing season has been averted. It begins to look probable that the present Washington Government will show a disposition to enter into a new treaty on favorable terms, and also into a general reciprocity treaty with Canada. It has been long sup-

posed that a Democrat Government at Washington would be favorable to more liberal trade relations with Canada. We shall soon have the opportunity of seeing if such is the case. How long a high commercial fence wall shall be maintained between the two countries is a matter of a great deal of importance to all classes of the people.

It is to be feared that a great deal of serious trouble may yet come to us in consequence of the persistent interfering of Dominion officials in Provincial political affairs, and vice versa. Surely the party wire pullers at Ottawa, or at the respective Provincial capitals, have quite enough to do in the management of their own affairs to well occupy their attention without bringing about entangling complications by outside interference. In connection with the recent West Algoma Provincial elections the Dominion Premier is reported to have written the local candidate a letter, to be used for election purposes, in which were the following significant sentences:—"It seems to me if the people of Algoma West only understood the eminent services you can render them as their representative they will elect you by a handsome majority." (Of course that was hawked about as a very significant wink that some eminent services could be done via Ottawa by electing a man for the Toronto Legislature. The worst of it is that the Grits are just about as great sinners in these matters, and they are not in a position to first cast a stone at an offender caught in the act. During the recent Provincial elections a whole lot of political missionaries sallied forth from their places in the Commons to help manipulate affairs in the various counties, and they were pretty evenly divided between the two sides of the House. The people would consult their own interests if they sent off such intruders with a very significant hint that they would be thought more of if they attended to their own legitimate affairs.

Great Britain has now a Tory government again, and time will soon tell what national changes may be brought about in consequence. It is quite possible that the members of the new government will not find it convenient to carry out in other many of the schemes advocated in opposition. If the country is to have "a spirited policy" regarding foreign affairs, according to the old time ideas, the chances are, even yet, of a war with Russia, and another Egyptian campaign. Irish affairs may be managed in an entirely different spirit. Probably few prime ministers ever tried more earnestly to avert war than did Mr. Gladstone. Probably that was one source of his weakness with a large body of the people. "British pluck" is something the nation evidently delights to glory in, and the numbers are not a few who are desirous of thrashing any body who may happen to stand in the way, as an evidence of real pluck. The better thinking men of the nation are dreading war far more than their ancestors did, but whether the lovers of peace are yet in the majority remains to be seen. The political history of England for 1885 will be one of great interest.