

The state of Hayti is deplorable. It seems inevitable that the negro, left to himself, should revert to absolute savagery, and it is sad to see the most majestic of the Antilles, except Cuba, given over to his possession and misrule. We do not think French colonization a benefit to the world, but it would have been far better if France had never evacuated the Island. It has, we believe, been hinted that both France and Germany have begun to interest themselves in the state of affairs there, but it would probably be imagining a vain thing to hope that anything can be done.

The *Montreal Witness*, a paper whose sympathies are much more with the Liberals than with the Conservatives, thus severely, but justly, rebukes the recent glorification by the Quebec Liberals of the corrupt Mr. McShane:—"With a certain political party in this Province the highway to glory seems to be in being caught corrupting the voters. A man plainly convicted of this crime has had nothing but ovations since at the hands of all ranks from the high-toned political club in Montreal down to the Quebec rabble. Ministers and members of Parliament have disgraced themselves by making themselves prominent in this apotheosis of corruption."

The *Week* questions whether Mr. Wiman has done a service or an injury to Canada by his article in the *North American Review*. "If," it says, "before, the Jingoism of the Blair variety were casting envious eyes upon the land which they deemed a strip of frost bound soil bordering on an illimitable waste of snow and ice, how will they feel, now that they are told by one of themselves, and one who knows, that it is a bigger country than their own, with vaster sources of wealth in forest and mine, and with climate and conditions better adapted for the development of the combined physical and mental energies of men? Is it really kindness which prompts Mr. Wiman to dangle such a prize before the eyes of his avaricious and aggressive fellow-countrymen, or has he some dark and sinister design?" Undoubtedly, we should say, the latter.

Any one would until recently have been justified in stating the story of the mutiny of the *Bounty* to be a closed page of history. It appears, however, that it is not so. The true name (everybody seems to have two names now) of the famous John Adams was Alexander Smith. When serving in a man-of-war under this, his real name, he rescued a Midshipman from drowning by jumping overboard after him. Smith could not be found when the young man told his story, but his relatives paid into a bank, at compound interest, \$500, to be paid to him whenever he should be discovered. This deposit now amounts to \$466,560, and one of three grandsons of Adams has, it is said, proved the identity of his grandfather with Smith, has put the matter into the hands of a Sydney law firm, and returned to Norfolk Island. Many applicants have arisen from time to time, but have failed to establish their claims.

We mark with pleasure a notice in the *Dalhousie Gazette* for January, of a lecture recently delivered in Ithaca, N. Y., by Prof. Schurman, on the "Political Situation in Canada." Dr. Schurman finds the taxation for all purposes less at present per capita in Canada than in the United States, tho' a few years may alter the relative position. "We have made great sacrifices," he said, "for the N. W., and it has so far been the mill-stone about our neck, but eventually it will be our salvation." Of Mr. Blaine, and his idea that by maintaining the tariff against Canada they would eventually force her into political union, Dr. Schurman says that Statesman had wrongly read the history of his own country if he thought that a free people could be so coerced. Dr. Schurman deserves the thanks of all true Canadians, and we may add that a people incapable of making and enduring sacrifices is unworthy of becoming a nation.

The Extradition Treaty has been rejected by the United States. Well, if the Americans prefer that Canada should continue to be an asylum for their swindlers and defaulters we can not gainsay them, and all that can be said is, that the course pursued is worthy of a nation which tolerates with complacency, open conspiracy of the most truculent nature against a friendly power, even to the extent of permitting bodies of filibusters to publicly organize and arm for the invasion of its territory, and to actually carry out such invasion in four or five distinct localities. It is almost unnecessary to recall Ridgeway, Eccles-Hill, &c., but the publicity of the Fenian preparations is forcibly brought to mind again by the evidence of Beach before the Parnell Commission. Notwithstanding the hostile attitude of the United States, however, it may yet be a question whether it would not be expedient to afford them the means of recovering their scoundrels, leaving to them the odium of sheltering dynamiters as long as they elect to relish the obloquy.

We are in receipt of the Annual Report of the N. S. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty. This report is exceedingly well got up, and contains much valuable information to the humane. Especially we note the clear instructions as to the steps to be taken in preferring charges of cruelty. The amount of subscriptions, however, published from March 1887, to March 1888, tho' indicative of liberality in a number of instances, foremost of which is a contribution of \$20 by Mr. G. S. Campbell of Weymouth, amounts to only \$333. The generosity of the Halifax public to all causes of mercy and charity is so conspicuous, that we feel confident of aiding the Society by suggesting that its share of their liberality is scarcely what it should be, in view of the admirable objects of the institution. The limited list of subscribers, out of whom eleven are down for \$10 each, and twenty-seven for \$5, seems to show that the claims of the Society on the benevolence of the public are not so generally known as they ought to be. Will not our Daily Contemporaries give them a hearty lift?

We desire to impress upon our readers that it is our endeavor to give in our poetical selections only pieces of sterling value and sentiment. In this connection we omitted, at the time of publication, to direct notice to the clear-cut grace and completeness of Miss Roberts' "Penelope," which appeared in our issue of the 18th ultimo.

The City Council want waking up a little. There are numerous, and just, complaints of the want of light in the South-western suburbs, and the nuisance of trotting trucks and coal carts yet remains unabated. Incidentally we remark that a considerable portion of our citizens are still apparently in blissful ignorance that there is a right side and a wrong side of the foot-paths for pedestrianism. If the city were more crowded people would soon learn that locomotion is made very unpleasant by ignorance of the rule of the *pavé* which enjoins every one to keep to his own right hand side of the way. But we do not hold our Urban Fathers responsible for the public stupidity.

It is worthy of note that the Kindergarten has been adopted in Boston as an established adjunct of the Public School system. Its value had been long recognized, but the trouble and expense might still have stood in the way of its adoption had not private benevolence established a school at its own cost. The success of this initiative determined the committee to follow it up. Experiments in manual training have also resulted so favorably that a separate and fully equipped school has been recommended, to which pupils can be sent from the grammar-schools. Another new departure has been made in imparting to girls efficient instruction in sewing, and cookery which has also been highly satisfactory in its results. Special teachers are of course required in these new branches, but the advantages would be so great that we hope to see our school boards follow the example of Boston at an early date.

Yesterday was St. Valentine's day. St. Valentine was, according to some ecclesiastical writers, a Bishop or Presbyter, and is said to have been beheaded in the reign of Claudius, A. D., 270. He is credited with so lovable a disposition that the custom of choosing Valentines on his festival had a distinct reference to him. The amative idea connected with the day is, however, thought by many to have originated in the superstition that birds choose their mates on it. The most probable theory is derived from the Lupercalia, the ancient Roman festival of purification, at which the names of young women were placed in a box, whence they were taken by young men as chance directed. The custom of choosing Valentines thus existed very early. The modern adaptation of it seems to be slowly dying out, and it will probably not be many years before it will be almost as obsolete as the old English festivities of the 1st of May and the grotesque mummeries of Guy Fawkes' day.

Another reform in the Postal Service of Canada is much required, and should be instituted as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made. This is the insurance by the Government of letters and packages containing matter of value. This is not a new idea, having been in practical operation for several years in all the principal countries of continental Europe. The system of registration that obtains with us is a farce. The Postal Department does not guarantee the delivery of registered letters. If such go astray, they only promise to endeavor to discover where they were lost. Surely a consolation to those who lose important letters, or those containing valuables! In Europe, the sender fills up a form containing a statement of the value of the contents of the letter or package, and pays a small percentage of the value as a premium. The Government then assumes the responsibility for its safe and prompt delivery. If it goes astray either by robbery, fire, collision, or any other cause, the Government pays the amount insured. The package insured can only be delivered to the person to whom it is addressed, who opens it and counts its contents in the presence of the Post Office agent who delivers it. If its value exceeds that named in the statement of the sender the surplus is confiscated, and the sender is heavily fined besides. This effectually prevents attempts to cheat the Post Office of a portion of the premium due. The plan is completely successful there, and would be so here, besides adding a considerable item to the revenue.

The British Medical Association recently appointed a committee to investigate the average length of life attained by people who totally abstained from the use of spirituous beverages, of those who drink moderately, and of the class who drink to excess. This committee, composed of distinguished men, investigated 4,324 deaths, and their report is of startling interest. The committee divided the deaths into five general classes:—First—Total abstainers. Second—Habitually temperate drinkers. Third—Careless drinkers. Fourth—Very free drinkers. Fifth—Very intemperate drinkers. The average age attained by the different classes was as follows. Class I—total abstainers, 51.6 years; class II—habitually temperate drinkers, 63½ years; class III—careless drinkers, 59½ years; class IV—free drinkers, 57½ years; class V—very intemperate drinkers, 53 years. These figures show the startling fact that the lives of those who do not drink at all are of the shortest duration, and that those who drink temperately live the longest. Even the drunkards lived on an average longer than the total abstainers. In another computation submitted by this committee, all deaths under the age of 30 years were excluded, and the average length of life of the five mentioned classes produced the following result: Class I, 57½ years; class II, 66½; class III 61½; class IV, 58½; class V, 53½. Here also it appears that the moderate use of spirituous beverages insures a longer lease of life than total abstinence. We think that had a distinction been made between those who drink fermented beverages, and those who drink distilled liquors habitually, it would have resulted favorably to the former class.

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