

# TRUTH.

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

TORONTO, ONT., NOVEMBER 22, 1884.

NEW SERIES—VOL. V. NO. 216

## TO LITERARY PEOPLE

And Others Who have Anything Nice in

### SHORT STORIES.

#### “TRUTH”

Wants Them. Read the Following:

In order to make TRUTH still more interesting, we have decided to offer one lady or gentleman's SOLID GOLD HUNTING CASE GENUINE ELGIN WATCH, worth at retail, about \$100, every week until further notice, for the BEST SHORT, ORIGINAL OR SELECTED STORY, for publication in TRUTH. The following are the conditions of competition:

1st. The story need not be the work of the sender, but may be selected from any books or periodical by any author.

2d. It must not exceed in length six columns of TRUTH. A little variation in length either way, will not be considered an obstacle to its acceptance.

3rd. Every accepted story will be published in TRUTH in its turn, and the gold watch awarded upon publication.

4th. Every competitor must send in his contribution either printed or plainly written on one side of the paper only, giving author's name and source from which the story is taken, as well as his own name and address in full, attached to the story.

5th. With each story must be sent one dollar for six months' subscription to TRUTH.

Those who are already subscribers will have their term extended a half year for the dollar sent.

6th. The first story will appear in TRUTH for November fifteenth, and weekly thereafter.

The publisher reserves the right to publish at any time any story, original or selected, which may fail to obtain a prize. The sum of \$3.00 will be paid for such story when used.

So far the number of stories received is disappointingly small. We will keep the offer open, however, for a little longer, in the hopes that they may increase.

Address all communications and contributions to Editor TRUTH  
33 & 35 Adelaide St., West,  
Toronto, Can.

### WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

In connection with the agitation for municipal reform, the question of the abolition of Tax Exemptions is also being discussed. Those interested in the matter have already held several well attended meetings, and an association has been formed with a view to testing the opinions of our citizens upon the subject, and obtaining a redress of the grievance

pal revenue, although they participate both in the increased value of property derived from improvements made out on taxes, and derive protection and benefits from our Municipal government which is also supported entirely by civic revenue. It is obviously unfair under the circumstances that our citizens should be burdened by the whole of these taxes which should be borne by the people of the Province at large. However, we think the least difficulty will be experienced in dealing with this class of exemptions.

The popular cry against Tax Exemptions is by no means a new one, but a certain peculiar and powerful factor in our Canadian politics, has always been able to frustrate the wish of our people in that direction, by preventing either of our political parties making abolition of exemptions a plank in its platform. The present movement is being participated in by members of both shades of politics, so as, if possible, to avoid the former obvious difficulty. It remains to be seen if they will be successful, and while TRUTH sincerely hopes they will, and will lend its aid to the scheme upon every opportunity, it greatly fears that the influential factor already referred to is still powerful enough to force either one or both of our great political parties into opposition to the measure, or at least to prevent any legislation upon the subject.

Under the provisions of the British North America Act there are certain classes of property exempted from taxation, and in such cases there is no apparent remedy for the evil. But there are still numerous descriptions of property now exempt from taxation which can be legally placed upon the municipal tax roll, provided the necessary power can be obtained from the Legislative Assembly of the Province to enable the municipalities to enforce taxation. In this city alone there is at the present moment property exempted from taxation to the value of between ten and twelve millions of dollars, the income from which at the rate struck for the current year, would amount to nearly two hundred thousand dollars, as a sum estimated as sufficient to build the new City Hall. This only represents the loss to the city for one year, but as year is added to year, and as property increases in value, our citizens can readily estimate the enormous loss which is entailed upon them in the course of a decade; and they can readily understand how every one of us individually should exert himself to have the pernicious system swept out of existence.

The stock argument against taxing public property is, that in the end nothing is to be gained by it; that it is merely taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another. But such a method of reasoning does not hold good with regard to municipal taxation of public property and the conclusion arrived at is very illogical. For instance, in the City of Toronto, we have many public institutions like the Provincial Parliament Buildings, the Central Prison, the Lunatic Asylum, &c., &c., the benefits from which accrue to the whole province generally; yet they do not contribute a cent to our Municipal

revenue, although they participate both in the increased value of property derived from improvements made out on taxes, and derive protection and benefits from our Municipal government which is also supported entirely by civic revenue. It is obviously unfair under the circumstances that our citizens should be burdened by the whole of these taxes which should be borne by the people of the Province at large. However, we think the least difficulty will be experienced in dealing with this class of exemptions.

Undoubtedly the greatest trouble will be experienced with regard to church property. Catholics, of themselves, we think, must be aware of the great injustice inflicted even by the exemption of church property upon themselves, as well as the rest of the community. Although in certain quarters assertions are made that some Protestants are opposed to Church property being taxed, we take it for granted that their name is not legion, and that the overwhelming consensus of Protestant opinion is in favor of taxing Church property of every description, and the salaries of the ministers also. This would render more liberal donations necessary to some of the less wealthy Church corporations, and the increase of the salaries of the more poorly paid divines; but the people would be quite willing to accept those alternatives.

As to the exemptions of the salaries of cabinet ministers, judges, civil servants, &c., there can be only one opinion. They should be made to contribute their share of taxation upon the same basis as other citizens, and if they do not receive sufficient salary to enable them to do so, they are underpaid, but we fancy that it will be found with regard to most public servants that they are a great deal better able to pay their taxes than the greater number of professional men, small merchants, and artisans who have no alternative but to pay up or have the bailiff in their house.

It is more than likely that at the coming session of the Provincial Legislature increased powers for taxation purposes will be asked upon behalf of the municipalities, and we trust the members of the Assembly irrespective of party will take the matter up in a broad and liberal spirit, and force it to a practical issue. It devolves upon each individual member of the Provincial Assembly without regard to party ties to support the hands of the gentlemen who introduce measures seeking relief from the crying evil of tax exemptions. Those who are wise in their day and generation will do well to support abolition in spite of the crack of the party whip, because the agitation now on foot is not confined within the limits of either political camp, and the great mass of the Canadian people

are not prepared to stand any more parlying over the matter.

It is hardly to be wondered at that many Democrats in the first flush of their great victory, as they consider it, are almost beside themselves with joy. They have been so long in retirement, that the very thought of again taking the reins of power makes them delirious. People are asking what they will do when they actually feel the reins in their hands. Many are expecting a great overrunning. Thousands, hundreds of thousands of civil servants, if Cleveland is the man, await in fear and trembling what they fear will be to them a day of fate. The fear is by no means groundless. They have reason it must be admitted for all their anxiety. Many of them for twenty years have remained in undisputed possession of their situations. To know nothing else, and are fitted for little else. If there is any general turning out of office-holders, the sympathetic interest so largely felt in the success of the Democratic party, will to a very great extent at least, if not entirely, and very speedily too, evaporate. Much we think is to be hoped from Mr. Cleveland's personal record.

It seems that some movement is on foot to have some agricultural subjects taught in the public schools. Just what is meant by that has not yet been very clearly explained. But if it means something different from and additional to what is already taught in the schools, it will strike most people not committed to any theory, that the children have quite enough to learn as it is. Indeed, they are crammed with far more than there is any occasion for. For one thing they are afflicted with a great deal more geography than there is any necessity for. A good general acquaintance with the geography of the globe is of course necessary but much valuable time is wasted in children being set to memorize the barbarous names of foreign places that are not of the slightest interest or importance. If people would only consent to practise a little humility, and teach the English language, more thoroughly and intelligently, and other subjects less, 't would be a consummation devoutly to be wished.

According to the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act, passed by the Dominion Parliament, Ontario druggists, must now, instead of getting their licenses for the sale of alcoholic liquors from the Lieutenant-Governor of their own province, apply for them to the Dominion Board of Licensed Commissioners. It makes no great difference to the druggists of course, but it is another instance of the disposition on the part of the Government at Ottawa to interfere in an unwarrantable and unnecessary way with rights hitherto exercised by the Province of Ontario.