

When they ought to be paid somewhat in accordance.

Woman's suffrage is at present attracting a good deal of attention, and it may not be out of place for TRUTH to have a say in the matter too. Questions are constantly asked as to its practical working in this country if admitted, and for this we have only the precedent of the Isle of Man to judge from, which has the honor of being the first portion of the British Empire that allowed woman's suffrage—and what is the result? they are now applying for an easier divorce law? Nothing of the kind. It works quite happily. Given women a vote by all means.

It is stated that the Prince of Wales will not ask Parliament for an allowance for Prince Albert Victor who is now studying law at the Middle Temple, until he marries. That seems to us a step in the right direction. Every one of these Royal youths as soon as he attained the age of twenty-one years has hitherto been presented with an enormous allowance by Parliament. Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, were each voted £15,000 at majority and £10,000 additional each at marriage and it was supposed that the Prince of Wales would ask at least for a like sum for Prince Albert Victor, his eldest son. Such acts as the present one in contemplation will go far to raise the popularity of the Prince of Wales in the British Isles.

TRUTH thinks it not at all unlikely that Prince Albert Victor will have quite a large practice at the bar even if he confines himself to defending in person the numerous suits taken against his own private English property.

The finding in the Court of Appeal against Captain Dudley and Mato Stevens, of the yacht "Mignonette," will astonish a good many of the readers of TRUTH. It will be remembered that the prisoners had killed a boy named Parker, to save themselves from starvation. Lord Chief Justice Coleridge ruled that the taking of human life could only be justified on the plea of self-defence, and that to commit murder merely for the sake of preserving one's own life was in the eyes of the law, unjustifiable. He therefore declared the prisoners guilty of wilful murder for which there was no justification. He then sentenced them to be hanged, but without wearing the black cap. The Secretary of State for the Home Department has advised the Queen to respite the prisoners and it is to be hoped that Her Majesty will extend her clemency still further and give the unfortunate men a full pardon. The sentence of the Court will, however, have a tendency of retarding, if not altogether preventing such crimes, since it is shown not to be justifiable.

TRUTH does not think it at all likely that the Chinese fleet will venture to attack the French men of war, though it cannot be denied that if the Celestials were as good sailors as the Gauls the struggle might prove severe one. The Chinese war vessels of the day have most of them been built in the fish yards and some of them are very active engines of destruction, carrying heavy metal. Then there are a number of gunboats mounting from one to three pieces of ordnance, of great penetrating ability and large calibre, which would, if properly manned and managed and the crews well served, do good service. In consequence these gunboats would be of invaluable service as they could float in water

much too shallow for more ponderous vessels to manoeuvre in. The Chinese are, however, but indifferent and timid sailors, even in their own waters, and in this particular the French have greatly the advantage.

It is a shocking oversight of retributive justice that this notorious woman Bontel will escape the reward she richly merits; merely, because she happens to be a woman: a female instead of a male fiend. She is not yet pardoned, but that is, of course, only a matter of time. Her sentence has been commuted. In the United States assassins seem to be the only members of society whose lives are safe.

What a rumpus this Adams v. Coleridge case is creating! and what an amiable loving family to be sure? The Chief Justice has all his life been so busy washing his neighbors' dirty linen in public, that we suppose he has so far neglected his own, and he too, or members of his family which amounts to nearly the same thing, must take the soiled garments into court to get them cleansed, and if all accounts are true, it will take a goodly quantity of the very strongest legal soap suds to make them even passably clean. TRUTH fears that the lustre is gone from them forever. Adams seems, after, all, to be the only respectable character among them if reports are true. Who knows?

Those "unspeakable Turks" are really too bad, and it is a great pity that the interests of England support their sojourn in Europe. It would be far better for the Greeks or some other Christian power to be guard of the Dardanelles, and that these atrocious Turks were put out of existence altogether. Their barbarities to the Bulgarians in Macedonia are simply shocking. Only a few days ago a Turkish bandit chief carried off two young men to the mountains, and because ransom could not be paid, owing no doubt to the poverty of the unfortunate captives' friends, the robbers bound them to a tree, cut off their ears and noses, put out their eyes and brought them to the shores of their native village, and there left them with a warning that all unransomed prisoners would be treated in the same manner or worse. At Podles, another small town in Bulgaria, several Turks seized upon a young woman whose husband was absent, took her home with them and assaulted her in the most frightful manner. A Greek priest left his home to administer the rites of his Church to a dying peasant at a little distance. He was met by half-a-dozen Turks, who beat him to insensibility, then cut off his hands and feet and tore out his tongue. These atrocities are fiendish and cry out to every nation and land upon Earth for redress.

Sir William Harcourt, it is said, meditates an attempt to stamp out prize-fighting in England. He is handicapped however, by the magistrates, who will not inflict any but merely nominal punishments as long as the fighting is what they call "fair." The sympathy of every lover of decency will go with Sir William in any endeavor to abate one of the greatest nuisances of the present day as well as one of the foulest blots on modern civilization. That the crop-eared villains could be allowed to pound each other's ugly faces for the amusement of others of the same kidney, and that the newspapers should contain long accounts of the degrading spectacle, is demoralizing to the whole community, and should be suppressed by law. There should be some way of reaching the newspapers who give a hideous publicity and popularity to such loathsome exhibitions.

It is a pandering to vicious tastes which the law should not permit. A free and untrammelled press is all very well in theory, but there is a practical limit which ought to be enforced against the newspapers if their own sense of decency is not sufficient to teach them when that limit is reached.

One cannot help thinking that the newspaper men must sometimes laugh in their sleeves at their own hypocrisy. How often do we read pious homilies on the editorial pages, as to the terrible results of flash literature on the tender minds of youth. The strongest things are said against those writers who pander to the boyish appetite for adventures by spinning long foolish yarns filled with all manner of bloody abominations. On the very first page, however, so that no one can miss it, appears a highly circumstantial account of a bloody battle between Mike O'Leary or who ever the particular bull necked blackguard may be and some other child of evil. And this even in so-called highly respectable family papers. Is this not as dangerous to youth as anything as much of the blood and thunder literature against which so many able editors are so ready to hurl their anathemas? Physician, heal thyself. Friend, pull out first the beam that is in thine own eye, and then shalt thou more clearly see to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

Of course the newspapers always have a solemnly plausible excuse for the iniquities that find currency on their pages. But such excuses are the very extravaganzas of hypocrisy. They know right well that for every one that reads their little moral sermon about the evils of prize-fighting, a hundred will read and pay for their high-coloured report of some particular battle. The report is written for the filthy lucre's sake, the editorial for anointing of their own wretched consciences, or rather, to keep in good temper the decent portion of their subscription list. The devil is the best fellow in the world for making excuses, and he gets his work in well when he persuades the editors of newspapers that they are in some mysterious way the intellectual and moral guides of the community, and that they are awfully distressed at it, but really necessity compels them to print full details of all the prize fights, and rapes and murders, and adulteries and other villainies, in order that the dear public may not suffer intellectual starvation. Laugh! pure hypocrisy, every bit of it! It would be a much more honest thing to come squarely out with it, and say that they were running the paper to make money; the vitiated public taste demanded sensation, and prurient sensation at that; the paper that displayed the most judgment in dishing out this particular sort of pabulum raked in most coppers, and, ergo, they were going to do their best to supply the demand, and cease boring unwilling ears with unnecessary moral platitudes. It is a good old proverb that they who would sup with the devil should use a long spoon. Modern newspapers try to keep up the delusion that they are doing so, but the spoon is a marvellous short one in many cases.

We have heard, but have forgotten, how much the New York Independent paid Lord Tennyson for that last so-called poem on "Liberty" which we are glad to say has by this time run its course in the papers. But one thing is tolerably certain, that, as poetry it was pretty dear, at almost any price. As a merchantable article coming from the Laureate of England, it was doubtless worth all that was given for it.

A tale of deep distress reaches us from the mountainous portions of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. From a reliable correspondent there we learn that an unknown disease, closely resembling Asiatic cholera and quite as fatal in its ravages, has been prevalent for some weeks. Although the name of the disease is unknown the people call it cholera, and were it really so, it could not be more dreaded or disastrous. It is frequently fatal in twenty-four hours and sometimes even in a much shorter period. In most instances it visits every member of an entire family, and it so terrifies that in some cases people die alone, their friends being afraid to go to them, the disease is so contagious and so fatal. One house which was entered contained four corpses, the father, mother, a negro servant, and an infant. The schools are closed and all business is at a standstill—indeed the accounts we hear of this alarming outbreak call vividly to mind Defoe's description of the great plague of London. The general impression is that it is caused by poisonous water, the result of a protracted drought which has dried up many of the springs and streams, and it is supposed that the water left is contaminated with organic or mineral poisons.

President-elect Cleveland shows the quality of his manhood very unmistakably in one respect by persistently refusing all presents but such as could in no sense be interpreted as other than merely kind expressions of friendly regard.

A pretty shrewd observer who had had good opportunities for forming an opinion, recently wrote to one of the American newspapers, giving his first impressions of Cleveland. Cleveland struck him, says the observer, as being, first of all, a gentleman, and then a thorough man of business. This latter quality will be his distinguishing mark as President. He will deal with the nation's affairs much as he would with those of a private concern. Brilliant statesmanship in the ordinary sense of the word is not to be looked for so much as plain downright common sense and honesty of purpose and endeavor. And after all are these not the best qualifications for a man at the head of affairs. The world has not yet perhaps quite got past the stage when it is ruled more by glittering rhetoric than by sound reason but we may hope that it is at least entered on the first steps towards it.

TRUTH as a matter of habit has little to say about politics, but now and then when popular excitement becomes extravagant over trifles light as air or at most no heavier than a few daws of printer's ink, he can not refrain from setting the public mind aright and speaking fearlessly the truth as it appears to an unbiased mind. The Pall Mall Gazette some time ago endeavored to create an alarm about the comparatively ineffective condition of the British Navy and so far succeeded as to raise serious doubts in the hearts of the timorous and uninitiated, most of whom never saw an ironclad or a man of war of any kind in their life, as to the stability of the English throne. England's naval supremacy has never been questioned. Indeed that nation could under no circumstances afford to lose her command of the seas and though she is at present in no immediate danger of attack from her seaboard her navy was never in a better state to resist such an attack and is still further to be strengthened by the addition of both ships and arms.