

has to pay some such little trifle as \$800 "on the diamonds she brought with her when she thought she had been long enough in New York, and determined to cross the border.

The general disposition among the wiser heads in England with reference to the Nicaraguan canal scheme seems to be that the British Government has no call to interfere. It is really none of their funeral. The Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is really a dead thing, and it would be folly and worse to pick a quarrel with the United States on any such pretext.

It would not be wise in any case; but at this particular time, when Britain has so many things to see to, it would be madness.

France, it is said, intends to say nothing on the subject. That is, we presume, nothing in the meantime. We are very much mistaken if she is not just waiting to take her cue from England.

Can it be true, as some doctors say, that self-poisoning by chloral is so common among women. It is to be hoped not. That there is some of it, cannot be doubted for a moment, but that there is so much of it as some medical men would lead us to believe, is we hope, open to very considerable question.

Poor General Grant seems to be in bad financial straits. He borrowed \$150,000 from Vanderbilt at the time of the Grant and Ward failure, and now Vanderbilt has come down on him for it. A judgment has been entered against the old hero, in consequence of which an inventory of his effects has been taken which includes presents of weapons, bric-a-brac, and precious things of various kinds. Even the awards and medals awarded him by Congress are included, his pictures and books, and the engraved cards ordered to be struck to commemorate the thanks of Congress. It is safe to say that if Vanderbilt presses his claim so as to force a sale of all these things it will make him vastly more unpopular than even his historic, "The public be d—d."

The most ominous thing for freedom and free institutions is when there are multitudes so venal as to be ready to sell their votes for a dollar or a dram. This is just what they are doing to-day. Yes, and lying as they live, personating the absent and the dead. It is too bad. Not only so, but think of wretched creatures glorying in such work. A repeater, a personator, or a bribed person should be sent to herd with criminals and get a goodly allowance of raw hide besides. They are the greatest enemies freedom can encounter.

The *Christian Guardian*, of this city, the organ, of the Methodist Church, begins the new year in an entirely new form. It now comes out as a sixteen page paper with the pages neatly cut and pasted. New machinery has been imported at great cost for the purpose. The *Guardian* is the largest and most widely circulated denominational journal in Canada. It is well printed and ably edited, and wields a powerful influence for good. It is now in its fifty-seventh year, and is consequently the oldest of the Canadian religious journals.

The news that no demand, or, to use a better word, request, for an allowance for his eldest son Prince Albert Victor, would be made by the Prince of Wales, seemed almost too good news to be true, and now we find out why he did so. At the next session of Parliament it is understood that the Government will have on the table a proposition to dower Princess Beatrice with \$150,000 upon her marriage with Prince

Henry of Battenburg, and also a proposition to give the young couple thereafter an annuity of \$30,000 to live on; another German Prince to be supported out of the pockets of the ratepayers, and while we are on this subject we will just give the readers of *Truth* an idea of how much the Royal family costs England. The Princess Royal receives \$8,000 a year since her marriage in 1857. The Prince of Wales and Princess of Wales were voted \$40,000 and \$10,000 respectively at their marriage. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Alfred, \$15,000 a year since his majority in 1866, and an extra \$10,000 since his marriage in 1874. Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, has been supplied with funds at the same proportion, \$15,000 a year, since his majority, and \$10,000 a year since his marriage. Princess Helena, of Schleswig, and Princess Louise have each received \$6,000 a year since marriage. Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck, received \$3,000 a year, and \$2,000 a year since her marriage. Princess Augusta, of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, has been paid \$3,000 a year. The Duchess of Cambridge has been paid at the same rate and for the same time, viz.; \$3,000 a year for thirty-nine years. The Duke of Cambridge has received \$12,000 a year in yearly grants for thirty-two years, in addition to his military pay and other emoluments. Prince Leopold received \$15,000 a year up to his death, and was voted \$10,000 after his marriage, which, poor fellow, he did not long survive to enjoy.

The total sum thus spent on the support of the Royal family of England up to date amounts to the enormous sum of nearly \$3,000,000 sterling.

Prince Bismarck must be a great favorite with his clerks. He lately informed the German Reichstag that they work from eight o'clock in the morning until midnight, that they are excellent lawyers and linguists, that they are absolutely trustworthy and and that he pays them much less than they would ordinarily earn in private life.

Madame Scalchi, in her suit against Manager Abbey for arrears of salary, has introduced the world to the interesting fact that a *prima donna assoluta* can not sing well or safely two hours after eating a hearty meal. She proved the fact by the testimony of several eminent singers, among them Miss Clara Louise Kellogg.

Persecution seems to have no salutary effect in abating the zeal of Mormon missionaries. They are as active as hornets in Switzerland even yet, despite the efforts against them. Nor do they seem to have much difficulty in making converts, the Swiss female mind being easily gulled by lying promises about marriage.

As was very generally feared one result of the Franco-Chinese war has been the cessation of missionary operations in Formosa. The Canadian Presbyterian missionaries, Messrs. McKay and Jamieson, with their wives, when last heard from were in Hong Kong.

Cobourg must brace up. For a town of its size, good looks and pretensions to be so deeply in debt, is disgraceful. Let it put itself up at auction, if it can't do better.

"Big Push" Wilkinson has a hard time of it. Poor beggar, they say he had to sneak home on Christmas day, and eat his dinner on the sly. Always the way. The chief conspirators get off pretty easily. The poor tool takes the sins of others into the wilderness with him.

On dit that Grip's independence, so called, gives offence in certain quarters. The Grit pushers like it first rate when he carica-

tures their foes, but when, for the sake of a show of consistency, he puts their phizzes on paper in a comical way, they don't half like it.

Grip, by the way, if rumor speaks truly, pays pretty well nowadays.

It deserves its success too, being a clean sheet, and independent enough no doubt for all practical purposes, though people do say that since some of the Grit mugwumps took stock in it, its grittiness has been more pronounced.

It is a good scheme the Presbyterians of this county are engaged in, trying to bring the salary of every minister in the denomination up to \$750 and a manse. It is little enough, in all conscience. Few people but ministers and their families know the number of calls that are made upon them. In the first place they need to keep up appearances to a certain extent. Few congregations, though they may pay their preacher little more than a mechanic's wages, would care to see him live like one. Those who paid least towards his support, would be the first to cry out in such a case. Then the minister has generally to entertain a great deal. Much more, certainly, than any average member of his congregation. In some places he almost keeps open house. Many people seem to regard "the minister's" as a sort of hotel, possessing the great advantage of being not merely "strictly temperance," but "absolutely free." And still further, he is expected to show a good example to his flock in the way of giving. They look to him to give a subscription to everything that comes along, and his wife, if he has one, is expected to do a good deal in the same way. Indeed, it is quite extraordinary how much some congregations expect to get out of a man and his wife for the beggarly \$600 or \$700 a year they give them. Though according to their scale of giving, their souls are only worth about \$5.00 apiece on the average, if as much, yet they expect their minister to remember that their souls are immortal, and therefore priceless.

We think a good deal could be said in favor of a law forbidding men and women to marry before they are twenty-three or twenty-four years of age, at any rate. That is quite soon enough. There are numbers of baby-faced girls taken to the altar every year, that are more fit for the nursery. Calf-love no doubt is inevitable. It is a pretty enough thing too, in its way, but there is no good reason why it should precipitate itself in to the state of matrimony.

Cleveland's praise is in the mouths of many, if not of all men in the States just now, because of some recent utterance of his about Civil Service reform. They have the right ring about them, that gives men good ground for believing that the right thing will be done. His letter to George William Curtis was plain, practical, and common-sense, just the kind of letter to be expected from a man like Cleveland.

Now that Mr. Manning has got himself into the Mayor's chair, it is to be hoped that both for his own sake, and the sake of the citizens, he will try to make for himself such a character as an efficient conscientious official, not seeking his own things so much as the general good, that when the next election season comes round, neither the *Globe* nor the *Telegram* nor the *World* can have any excuse for standing in the way of his triumphant re-election. He has an opportunity now, which, if he loses, he can never hope to recall. Let him put to shame those who say his first thoughts are always

for "Number one," by proving the falseness of their allegations.

By all means let him give his best attention to getting the citizens good water. It is badly enough needed, in all conscience. The kind of stuff people are forced to drink just now can be used with no little force against the introduction of Scott Act principles.

And if he puts the sewerage system of the city into better condition, he will earn the thanks of even the most dogged Grit wire-puller that worked against his election. Mayor Manning! quit yourself like a man now, and be strong! Show the mettle you are made of, and "by well-doing put to silence the enmity of (foolish?) men." One feels sorry for Withrow's disappointment, though it is impossible to feel much surprised. He worked hard, no doubt, and his friends worked hard, but it seemed to me as if Manning and Manning's friends worked harder still. They were more thoroughly organized, and then there was more personal enthusiasm among them.

It is a great pity that such contests should be allowed to degenerate into mere strifes of party. This, unfortunately, was a phase of the elections not confined to Toronto. It is, perhaps, hardly to be expected that political feeling should have no influence whatever in municipal elections, but the side that deliberately stirs up party spirit in such matters, acts the part of an enemy to the community. In Toronto, and no doubt elsewhere, both sides were quite conscious of this, and each industriously strove to cast the responsibility of such ill-judged action on the other.

But now that the elections are over, it is the duty of every good citizen to reconcile himself cheerfully, however personally disappointed he may feel, to the result of the popular election. Let him give an intelligent attention to municipal affairs. Let him follow the course of those whom the popular voice has chosen to superintend the business of the community. Let him show them that he takes an active interest in their measures. Let them see that they cannot hope to take any devious courses without his knowledge, and let them see also that if they show themselves honorable, trustworthy officers, he is ready to appreciate their efforts, and give honor where honor is due. Far too few citizens take the interest they ought to take in the proceedings of their "city fathers." Their meetings are open to the public. They should always be attended by the public. A very beneficial influence would be exerted if the proper advantage were taken of these meetings. How very few of our leading citizens ever see the inside of the Council room? They may glance over the report of what was done at such and such a meeting, and they may even read it through if it appears to be interesting, but as for attending these meetings themselves, it never seems to occur to them. This is altogether wrong.

An undertaker in London (Eng.) recently shocked public decency by advertising his trade in the public sheets by a procession of six men, each dressed in a long white garment, and a white weeper round his hat. Each carried in front of him also a coffin lid with skull and cross-bones painted on it.

General Grant's health is a subject of some anxiety just now. Some assert that he is in rather a bad way, while others say that the old soldier was never better. It can hardly be doubted, however, that the veteran's constitution has been considerably shattered by his experiences of the past year.