

TRUTH.

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

TORONTO, ONT., MAY 17, 1884.

NEW SERIES—VOL. IV. NO. 189

TRUTH'S MUSINGS.

Always aware of the immense influence which works of fiction exercise, TRUTH has ever aimed at supplying its readers with a class of stories which, while highly interesting, are neither trashy nor sensational, nor in any way injurious to the morals of its readers. As the two leading stories which have been appearing in these pages for some months past are now drawing to a close, a new story will be commenced *next week*, which for intense interest will be found equal to anything which has hitherto been published in these columns. It is entitled "The Great Linton Mystery," and is the story of a crime and the discovery of the real criminal through the efforts of a female detective. It is written in a fascinating manner and the unravelling of the plot will doubtless be followed by the reader with the closest attention, the *denouement* being worked up to with much power, and proving totally unexpected. Now is a good time to become a subscriber to TRUTH and secure this highly interesting story in its entirety. We have another story in preparation for which our readers better look out, and let their friends know of the treat in store for them.

The Provincial Government have named the three Judges to constitute the Royal Commission to investigate the Conspiracy case. Judge Proudfoot has been appointed from the High court, and Judge Sinkler, of Welland County, and Judge Scott, of Peel County from among the County Judges. They are all men of ability and intelligence and there is little reason to doubt but they will perform their duties impartially and faithfully. It is quite probable that whatever well-authenticated facts ever reach the people in regard to this much disputed case will come from this Commission. So far as the trial in the Criminal Court is concerned—if one takes place at all—there will probably be so much dodging and hedging among the lawyers, and such a dust of legal technicalities raised, that very little undisputed matter of fact will be laid bare. It appears to be understood that the Commission will not begin to work until the legal question about a Criminal trial in Court has been disposed of, and until after such a trial takes place, in case one is decided on. It will probably be some months hence, therefore, before we hear the end of it.

Political circles in England have been a good deal agitated of late at a serious split among the leaders in the Conservative ranks. Lord Churchill, of late a prominent man in the Tory party in the House of Commons, has had a quarrel

with Sir Stafford Northcote and other leaders, and has seceded from the ranks. Rumours state that a friendly reconciliation will probably be brought about. The Conservative party in England appear to be in sad need of some able and popular leader, ever since the days of Disraeli, and for want of abler statesmanship and leadership the prestige of the great party has been greatly declining.

There is an evident widening in the split in the ranks of the Irish agitators. Parnell's popularity as a leader has been lost, so far as quite a number of the active spirits are concerned. James Stephens, at one time the notorious leader of the Fenians in New York, is now residing in Paris, and to him many of the disaffected ones appear to be inclined to cling. It is reported that a convention of those Irish-Americans whose main business appears to be to keep up an Irish agitation will soon be held in Paris. The announced object of the meeting is to denounce the dynamite policy and to found a new society on a less explosive foundation. There is already a confusion and quarrel about the proposed meeting, and should a large convention be held, as now proposed an explosion—of wrath—will undoubtedly take place. The only wonder is that so many of these turbulent spirits have remained together so many months without a grand ruction among themselves. It must have been for lack of courage and not from any mere lack of the usual desire.

The friends of protection at Washington gained an important victory in Congress last week. The long discussed Morrison Bill, so largely decreasing the customs duties on most imported goods, was defeated by a small majority. Out of 314 votes in the House of Representatives the majority against the measure was only four. The fate of the Bill has been a matter of much speculation and great interest almost ever since the present session commenced. There is a majority of Democrats now in the House and it was generally supposed that they might all, or nearly all, be whipped into line so as to vote solid for the Bill in the end. Forty-one Democrats went with the protection party at the last, while only three Republicans went the other way. The vote shows clearly enough that the Democrats, or many of them at least, are not in favor of making the tariff question an issue in the coming Presidential election if it can be avoided. There will not, probably, be any change of importance made in the tariff this year, on that very account. The manufacturing interests have become so strong and so united in the United States that the politicians are afraid to rouse their hostility. Protection appears to be less distinctively a party issue in the States than in Canada.

Sir Charles Tupper, in his parting speech at the Ottawa banquet, gives a glowing

account of the growth and condition of the Dominion. Possibly some of those who have not had a hand in the management of its public affairs may not be so gushing about the matter, but there is certainly a good deal of truth in what he said. The man who enjoys the sunny side of the government offices is sure to fool himself in a good deal more pleasant situation than the man standing in the cool shades of opposition. Speaking of the results since Confederation Sir Charles said:—"Never in the history of the world had a country made such strides from a state of comparative insignificance to greatness as British America had since 1867. The constitution arranged at the Quebec Conference had shown fewer defects and less friction in operation than any conference that had ever been framed. The increased commerce of the country showed that our people were making substantial progress. The number of immigrants who settled in Canada in 1867 was about 14,100, while last year the number had increased to 98,000. In 1867 the value of the product of the fisheries of Canada was four million dollars, while last year it had swollen to seventeen millions. When the Duke of Richmond's bill became law, Canada, Norway, and Denmark would be the only countries in the world from which live cattle could be exported to England. He attributed all the commercial and material progress that the country had achieved to the improved state of things brought about by Confederation. The credit of Canada was better to-day than that of any other British colony. All England admitted that Canada was now the most important of Her Majesty's possessions, and the people of the United States were looking with admiring eyes upon the great progress Canada was making." The proverbial Yankee Fourth-of-July-orator might well pitch his tune to that key, but he might not have as much truth on his side if he did so.

The recent financial crash of the banking firm of Grant and Ward, in New York, will probably prove a most serious blow to the whole Grant family. The failure possesses a good deal of its interest to the public in knowledge of that fact. The leading member of the firm is a son of General Grant, and it is said that the ex-President himself was a kind of sleeping partner in the concern. So far as is yet learned, the General and a younger son had all their available funds invested in its business affairs, and all is gone. Ulysses Grant jr. is reported to say that he supposed himself worth a million and three-quarters before that crash came and had no intimation whatever of the failure until it was made public. He married a rich wife and her fortune is included in the loss, as well as three-quarters of a million of the funds of the father-in-law. Politically this unexpected turn in affairs may have its effect.

There are a great many politicians in the Republican party who still desire to cling to Gen. Grant's fortunes, and whatever hopes they may have had of getting him again nominated for President are about dissipated now. It would be out of the question to nominate him while under this financial cloud, much as public sympathy may be extended to him in his present misfortunes.

The present state of Britain's finances is of such an encouraging character as to add to the already well-earned reputation of Mr. Gladstone as an able financier. The national debt is still a very heavy one, amounting, in round numbers, to over three thousand million dollars, but it is nearly eighty years since it ever before reached such a low point as now. When the increase of wealth and population of the country is considered the burden of debt is proportionately much lighter than at any time during the century. The interest being paid is but and is becoming still less, so that it practically reduces the debt itself. Mr. Gladstone has always been fortunate in his financial management. He is a man of modern ideas and therefore a very safe guardian at the helm of affairs. The anticipated surplus this year is a quarter of a million, which will probably go towards further debt reducing. It will be a pleasant experience for Canada when it may be able to report a decrease in debt, as Britain and the United States are now doing. As it is our own public obligations have become very large for a young country, and they go on increasing at a discouraging rate.

Russia is yet behind most other countries in Europe in sanitary matters, and the result is, as might be expected, most deplorable. The death rate in that country is to-day higher than in any other European country. The habits of the poorer classes, especially the rural population, are bad and filthy. Medical men are scarce and the medical knowledge, even in elementary matters, is not well understood among the people. The death rate among children is said to be something terrible, and the average duration in human life is put down at only twenty-six years. There is certainly abundant room for science missions in Russia. Why do not some of those ardent scientific sceptics, who spend so much time in ridiculing religion and glorifying science and "humanity" give practical evidence of what their theories and zeal can do by sending missionaries to Russia?

ERRATA.—In the article on Woman's Suffrage, by Mrs. Curzon, last week, there were one or two typographical errors which it is desirable to correct. Miss Lydia Baker should be *Baker*; Miss Duncan McLaren should be *Mrs.* "Debate on division" should read "debate or division."