

darken the sky and contribute murkiness to the landscape.

The Trunk Sewer.

While having a periodical grumble at the slovenly municipal habits, those in Toronto are still to suffer from the accompanying extravagance. Probably one result will be the pigeon-holing of the last effort to cleanse the bay as so many predecessors have been treated. We cannot understand why, if it is so hard to meet necessary expenses, so many unnecessary ones are indulged in, and the water rate is not increased to the old standard, so that this municipal enterprise might pay expenses, have a reserve for renewals and relieve the general tax rate.

Expert Opinion.

In looking over the field of battle or considering the results of a campaign a wise soldier will always try to learn some new lesson from the experience of the past. One of the most valuable lessons, we take it, to be derived from a study of the results of combined effort is the value of expert opinion. What an access of wisdom and energy would come to a parish were the laity freely and frankly to avail themselves of the store of spiritual knowledge and wisdom acquired by years of patient and devout study by their clergyman; and, on the other hand, how much would the clergyman benefit were he with a like spirit of candour and enquiry to avail himself of the skilled judgment and special knowledge of the lay members of his congregation. Such a course of mutual help would diminish false pride, lessen the possibility of mistake, and engender good will and mutual respect and confidence, and help on good work in the parish in numberless unthought-of ways. A truly great commander is willing to learn anything that can be taught him by the humblest private in the ranks. The spirit of mutual help and enquiry is one of the prime sources of success, in the parish as well as in the army.

A Nameless Nation.

We have, however, a crow to pluck with our friend, the "Outlook." It is ungenerous not to acknowledge how much is owing to the late Lord Dufferin and to the Commissioners of the Ontario Government for the saving of Niagara Falls. On the contrary, it says grandiloquently: "The people of America have been swiftly coming of late to understand that they are the real owners of Niagara Falls, and that it is their duty as well as their high privilege to see that this scenic wonder is preserved to posterity, undiminished in glory." If the word America was used in its true sense we would not object, and we would expect this magazine to put the proper amount of praise and the proper amount of blame on the United States. But it does not. It has the colossal cheek to claim it all, except that Canada would be allowed to pay its share. How often we wish that E. E. Hale, in writing of "the man without a country," had added, "a country without a name."

The San Francisco Tragedy.

Close on the heels of the last great eruption of Mount Vesuvius has come the appalling earth shock at San Francisco. It seems almost incredible that within a few short minutes so large a portion of one of the most important cities on the Pacific coast of North America should fall in ruins, and numbers of its inhabitants should meet with sudden death, or deprivation of their homes and destruction of their property. Science, with all its labour and insight, has failed to disclose with certainty the exact cause of these tremendous demonstrations of the internal energy of the earth. Whatever the dominant cause may be, the resultant effect is deplorable. The sympathy for the bereaved and the sufferers from

this disaster is as widespread as the world itself. The close and constant intercourse between Canada and the United States and the numberless ties of relationship which bind our people together intensify our feeling of regret and our sorrow at this sad occurrence.

TRINITY.

The future of Trinity interests not the comparatively few who have supported her of recent years, but the whole Canadian Church and the nation as well. Trinity was established in order to continue among us the residential system and training to which was attributed in great degree much of the spirit and elevation of character which had made England. At the opening of the then new college, some fifty-four years ago, the first Provost stated that the foundation of the college was a solemn protest against the separation of religion from education. We do not wish to make our students seminarists, to fence them off from all association with others during their period of residence further than is necessary. But we do object to the suggested removal to the University Park. The situation is a most undesirable one, and will soon be far from a healthy one. It is quite cut off from the water, will soon be in the very centre of the town, there can be no adequate room for sports in the open air, and there can be no family privacy. If Trinity once determines to join the line, even before new buildings are erected, there will be raised the suggestion, Why do so when all the buildings of the university are open to your students? Besides, how absurd, to say the least, would it be to have one theological college on one side of the street and another just opposite. President Gilman, of Johns Hopkins, has just issued a volume on launching that university. When he was summoned from California in 1875 to take charge he told the trustees that "if they would seize the opportunity to establish a university which should extend its influence far and wide throughout the land, it would be a privilege as well as an honour to be associated in the work." He records with pride that it has developed, not into a German university, nor an English university, but an American university, based upon and applied to the existing institutions of the country. And we hope for Trinity, not obliteration, but a new and vigorous Canadian life. Trinity has a valuable charter, and if it is thought desirable that it should leave its present site it has already been offered one at Ottawa. There are many other places where the students could have room and verge for buildings, and playing fields, and water sports, where there would be sufficient competition, society for the professors and students, and to supply the needed life, freed from the unsatisfying rush and hurry of a large city.

LEGISLATION.

There is a field of activity intimately related to the progress and well-being of the Church which calls for far more thought and study than is usually given to it. It is indicated in the word legislation. A large amount of valuable time is yearly wasted. Many opportunities of useful service are neglected, and the inefficiency which always results from ignorance or defective knowledge arises from the neglect on the part of members of the Church to take the time and give the study to her laws and polity which are necessary to deal intelligently and progressively with them as occasion demands. This state of affairs is especially noticeable at the meetings of the various Synods; and one of the most regrettable results is that many a member, capable and well-informed in other branches of knowledge through the very ability and prominence which

he possesses in other walks of life is led to take a certain course of action, and, having taken it, to attempt to support or defend it, which, were he well informed in the constitution of the Church, and the general trend of its legislation would never have occurred to him. We do not for a moment wish to impugn the good sense or intelligence of the members of our Synods, but what we do maintain is that, were such members better informed by previous thought and study in the general trend of Church legislation and in the special subjects presented for their consideration, their sense and intelligence would confer benefits upon the Church of incalculable more value than is at all possible under present circumstances. In listening to some Synod debates in the light of what we have said one is sometimes reminded of the comment of the Duke of Wellington on the lack of knowledge exhibited by the average British officer under his command in the Peninsula, and the consequent result in action. "Nobody in the British army," wrote the great soldier, "ever reads an order as if it were to be a guide for his conduct . . . and the consequence is that, when complicated arrangements are to be carried into execution, every gentleman proceeds according to his fancy." We hear so much talk nowadays of our democratic country, people, institutions, etc., that we are sometimes tempted to think that the freedom which inheres in a democracy in the minds of some people seems to do away with the necessity for the old-fashioned, hard, plodding thought and study, which are generally considered to be necessary for good and efficient work in any walk of life. Of one thing we are certain, that whether in the House of Commons or a Legislative Assembly, the man who has studied the Constitution of his country, informed himself on the general course of its legislation, and intelligently reads his blue books, is the man who has thus made himself capable of rendering to his constituency and country the most valuable and efficient service. And we may rely upon it that the same rule holds good with regard to the legislators of our Church.

FROM WEEK TO WEEK.

Spectator's Comments on Questions of Public Interest.

By the time these words reach the public the members of the Board of Management will be assembling in Toronto for the half-yearly meeting. We make no apologies for returning to this subject, for we know of none other that ought to receive more attention from the Church at the present moment. We are specially anxious that the eyes of the Church should be upon these men and their work, supporting them in all undertakings that make for the upbuilding of the Church on sound and stable principles and acting as a check when foolish action is proposed. "Spectator" has already more than hinted at the possibility of the Board becoming the servant rather than the master of its subordinate committees. It is difficult to see what purpose can be served by members travelling long distances to attend meetings if they yield to a sort of convention that it is not "good form" to have ideas of their own or to show a disposition to want to know things. We have called for more publicity in regard to these Board meetings and to a certain extent our demands have been met, but the situation is far from satisfactory yet. It is just possible that the very formal and imperfect reports that appear in the daily papers may not be due to any fault of the Board, but when the Board has a magazine of its own there is no valid excuse for not giving to the public a thorough-going account of its actions. Additional pages ought to be inserted if necessary and the public informed with considerable detail of what is being done, and the method of the doing.

We would like to see a monthly statement of purposes, which would form the basis of the public months of the new year, to tell whether the financial year was worse than a year ago; for a campaign of reason would be absolute folly to imagine that has characterized the last three years. It was a year, because there was no year, because there was no year, because there was no year. It was tolerated indulgently supposed difficult to obtain, but from different parts of that irreparable loss. The first essential in the public is to establish confidence can only be really worthy of it. We confide in us unless we confide in the public. Let us have Church affairs large and public of what they expected of them. Let us with manly courage if they be subjected to should we not have the funds that are in the public. The work taken in the name of policy had been adopted saved the Church from and recover lost ground and frankness are we trust the Board imitation, but insist

"Spectator" is in response that the Cobalt where one rushes of modern times seem to us that at this time even if it We do not know camp is situated or move according to is quite evident so swiftly. The Mississauga support in taking a church establish proper Bishop. It Church ought to manly clergyman, right thing when in the opposite direction Western Canada, is one from occasional gathered together planted in their minds

Bishop Montgo Society, comes to understand, to invest which prevail in give a grant to \$100,000 for Church and His Lordship with a view to This is a sensible enable him to pr exists to his soc It will put him i well as by faith asked by Canada the relations exist sionary Society; work in the san other without a