THE BLESSINGS OF TO-DAY.

Strange, we never prize the music
Till the vocal birds have flown;
Strange, that we should slight the violets
Till the lovely flowers are gone;
Strange, that summer skies and sunshine
Never seem one half so fair
As when winter's snowy pinions
Shake the whitй down in the air.

Lips from which the seal of silence
None but God can roll away,
Never blossomed in such beauty
As adorns the mouth to-day.
And sweet words that freight our memory
With their beautiful perfume,
Come to us in sweeter accents,
Through the portals of the tomb.

Let us gather up the sunbeams
Lying all around our path;
Let us keep the wheat and roses,
Casting out the thorns and chaff;
Let us find our sweetest comfort
In the blessings of the day,
With a patient hand removing
All the briers from our way.

—Christian.

Random Readings.

No one sees the wallet on his own back, though everyone carries two packs—one before stuffed with the faults of his neighbours; the other behind, filled with his own.

Unbelief hides Jesus from us, so that when we sin, though he be standing close beside us, we cannot see him; but "He standeth behind the wall."

A grasp of the hand, a smile, a word even, is often enough in God's hand to change the entire course of life, to save a soul from death.—*W. H. H. Murray.*

The pleasures of the world are deceitful; they promise more than they give. They trouble us in seeking them, they do not satisfy us when possessing them, and they make us despair in losing them.

Casual thoughts are sometimes of great value. One of these may prove the key to open for us a yet unknown apartment in the palace of truth, or a yet unexplored tract in the paradise of sentiment that environs it.

Sure I am that it is better to be sick, providing Christ come to the bedside, and draw by the curtains, and say, "Courage! I am thy salvation!" than to enjoy health, being lusty and strong, and never to be visited of God.—*Rutherford.*

Real foresight consists of reserving our own forces. If we labour with anxiety about the future, we destroy that strength which will enable us to meet the future. If we take more in hand than now we can do well, we break up, and the work is broken up with us.—*Observer.*

Mr. Ruskin calls upon workmen to promise these three things: "1. To do their own work well, whether it be for life or death. 2. To help other people to do theirs when they can, and seek to avenge no injury. 3. To be sure they can obey good laws before they seek to alter bad ones."

Jeremy Taylor said: "Hasty conclusions are the mark of a fool; a wise man doubteth—a fool rageth, and is confident; the novice saith, I am sure that it is so; the better learned answers, Peradventure it may be so; but I prithee inquire. Some men are drunk with fancy and fired with opinion. It is a little learning, and but a little, which makes men conclude hastily."

A good minister once said, "I am very sensitive to the prayers of little children. I could think of no greater punishment than to lose the love of little children;" which proved him to be in the line of apostolic succession from the great Master who tenderly said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me," and who "took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them." It is the spirit of every true minister of Christ.

Like most garments, like most carpets, everything in life has a right side and a wrong side. You can take any joy, and by turning it around, find troubles on the other side; or you may take the greatest trouble, and by turning it around, find joys on the other side. The gloomiest mountain never casts a shadow on both sides at once, nor does the greatest of life's calamities.

There are three kinds of death set forth in the Scriptures. 1. Spiritual death, which gives languor and indifference to religious truth, whereby the understanding is rendered impervious to the impression of God's word, the sensibilities are blunted, and the will is perverted into the ways of sin. 2. The destruction of the body, as we all know the end of dissolution begins to germinate as soon as life begins. Many sins cut up a man's health, and impose disease resulting in death. 3. Eternal death in hell, where the soul is ever active, but active in misery. God's wrath, unpacified passion, remorse, despair, and bodily infirmities, make up the sinner's portion for ever.—*Embre.*

An amusing and highly ingenious diagnosis has been made of the Prince of Wales' illness by some of the German physicians. They have, by some remarkable course of reasoning, come to the conclusion that the disease from which the Prince has so narrowly escaped was not really typhoid, as our medical men in their ignorance supposed it to be, but that terrible disease called *trichinosis*, which is caused by eating diseased pork!

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT.

We find the following interesting summary of statistical information, culled from the report of the Chief Superintendent of Education, in a late issue of the *Belleville Ontario*, and transfer it to our columns for the information of our readers.

It appears that the total receipts for all Common School purposes for 1872 amounted to $1,044,404, which was an increase over the total receipts of the preceding year of $114,408.

This amount was expended as follows:

For teachers' salaries, $1,325,881—an increase of $47,818. For school apparatus, $28,467—increase, $4,895. For sites and building, $207,857—increase, $16,148. For rents and repairs $61,420—increase, $7,961. For school books, &c., $186,157—increase, $11,402. This leaves a balance of school monies not paid out of $235,268.

The number of children reported between the ages of 5 and 21 years, 484,000, which shows a statistical increase of 15,168. Of this number 420,102 attend the schools, and the total number of attendance at schools, which shows an increase of 14,218 in increase of 10,028. Of the above 283,291 are boys, and 236,127 girls. There are 5,000 more pupils returned, and 31,395 not attending any school.

In the 4,484 schools reported there have been 4,168 teachers employed, showing an increase of 111. But here again we discover a tendency to which we have on former occasions called attention. We refer to the gradual increase of female teachers at the sacrifice of the males. The facilities offered young females at the Normal School have induced many to qualify themselves for teaching, and it generally occurs that they prove eminently successful in this respect. A few years ago there were comparatively few women teachers, but now we have 2,904 out of the above total, as against 2,793 of 133, against a decrease of 32 men. This fact is quite significant of coming events. Nature indicated that women should be teachers, and has endowed them with peculiar qualifications for that purpose, and in thus favouring them we are doubtless fulfilling a natural duty.

With regard to religious denominations, &c., we find the teachers classified as follows:—Presbyterians, 1,889; Methodist, 1,502; Church of England, 496; Christian, 268; Baptists, 262; Roman Catholics or Protestants, 117; Congregationalists, 76; Christians and Disciples, 37; Lutherans, 31; Quakers, 14; not reported, 31. Of the 268 teachers belonging to the Christian Church, 250 are employed in the Public Common Schools, and 230 in Separate Schools. The total number of certificated or licensed teachers reported was 4,484. Of this number 219 hold first-class Normal School Provincial certificates; 1,800 second-class Provincial; 1,301 first-class County Board of the old Standard; 2,103 second-class County Board; 260 third class, and 104 not reported as classified.

The salaries of teachers always furnish fruitful subjects for criticism, and the following returns show little improvement. The figures will speak for themselves. The highest salary paid to a male teacher in a County was $600, the lowest $100 (!); in a city the highest was $1,000, lowest $300; in a town, highest $1,500, lowest $325; in an incorporated village, highest $1,000, lowest $284. The average salary of male teachers in Counties was $260, of females $187. Without going further we submit this average to the consideration of trustees and others concerned, and ask them how teachers are expected to live on such a pittance?

The number of free schools is 4,364, an increase of 111. The number of partly free that is, with a bill of $6, or less, is 120, an increase of 32, against 71. This demonstrates the popularity of the free system, and it is quite probable that every school will be free in the course of a few years.

There were 176 school-houses built during the year, and of these 71 were brick, 34 stone, 72 frame, and 19 log, in new townships. The whole number of schools. Two hundred and 4,484, of which 1,487 brick, 638 stone, 1,628 frame, and 1,408 log. Of the above, 4,180 are freehold, 111 leased, 108 rented, and 85 not reported.

There is much more similar statistical information, all more or less interesting to the public, but we cannot now stop for further remarks. What we have given will convey a very favourable impression of how the people of Ontario interest themselves in the great work of educating the rising generation, and fitting them for becoming intelligent and useful citizens of our young and prosperous Dominion.

PULPIT PREPARATION.

The young man who enters the ministry of to-day ought to make his selections for a pulpit work of fifty years. He has no right to assume at the outset that at the age of forty he will attain his maximum of position, or power, or usefulness, and that after fifteen or twenty years of service he may retire from the ranks. The days of four hundred years in favor of the young sensationalist, whose name for his brief day may be on all tongues; but when he is forgotten, except as a pleasant dream, he who has held himself to a line of severe, laborious culture will live in elevated and lasting influence. Platitudes and metaphors are light food for hungry souls, but thinking men want the bread of life, and sturdy thought that only a trained mind can utter. And the five hours by day or week the young minister, whether he comes direct from the plough or shop, or from the school, will adequately furnish his first work.

FISHING IN THE UPPER NILE.

A new and exciting kind of fishing is to be had on the Upper Nile. A big, steady boat, is fitted with a windlass in its bows, and a long or halliard, to the extremity of which is fastened a good sized buoy. From this buoy, unshipped, by a powerful arm, drops of several yards, a fine fat goose, under each pinion of which is fastened a very slackbody. The buoy is turned adrift, and the struggles of the captive goose carefully watched. Before long, goose, buoy, and all disappear with a rush, the line is released out, and the boat is rapidly towed down stream. Then commences the struggle. A crocodile is speedily duly despatched. After he has wearied himself by tugging about goose for twenty minutes or he's such a big one, the line is wound in, and as the monster's head appears on the surface, a bullet is adroitly lodged in his eye—his only vulnerable part.

COMMERCIAL MORALITY.

A late number of the *Christian Guardian* contains a suggestive article on "Commercial Morality," from which we make two or three extracts.

"We can never hear from the pulpit, or read in periodical literature, slashing and indiscriminate denunciation of the dishonesties of merchants and traders, as if they were nearly all leagued together in schemes of low trickery and knavery, without feeling of disgust and repugnance, at the evident injustice of such allegations. We are fully persuaded that among our mercantile men, in the different departments of trade and commerce, honour and integrity are the rule, and knavery and dishonesty the exception.

In Canada, we have too large a proportion of our population trying to live by trade, rather than by productive industry. In almost all our towns, there are too many competitors for a share of the business to be done.

The meanest kind of business man, of which we have any knowledge, is the man who buys goods on credit, and then undoubtedly respectable and honest dealers; and because he sells at unremunerative prices becomes insolvent and never pays for his goods. He labors to break down worthier men than himself, and sometimes succeeds, for an honest merchant, who pays the full price for his goods, cannot compete with a man who never intends to pay, and who has no more conscience than to move the vender of stolen goods, and should be treated.

The feeling that prompts people to desire to get their goods below their fair market value, is not honest, by whatever name it may be called. The very same people that stigmatize merchants for their cruelty to their salesmen, in compelling them to work so many hours daily, if they happen to find it convenient, will not have the slightest hesitation to go and do their trading at an hour which imposes unreasonable labor upon the worn and weary salesman. A great deal of what is thought hard and severe on the part of persons in business, they are driven to do by the unreflecting selfishness of their customers. Merchants are expected to conduct their sides of the business according to the highest principles of honour and integrity; but the customers, who would be ready enough to complain of any dereliction on the part of the merchants, commonly seem to think that there is no principle to come into play on their side, but just to buy as cheap as they can."

Commercial.

TORONTO PRODUCE MARKET.

The market may be reported without material change since yesterday. Very little enquiry prevails for anything; a few car loads of wheat might probably sell somewhat readily, but prices are generally above the views of buyers. The English market was reported without change. Montreal was quiet, with little enquiry. New York was the same, and the West was a shade easier on wheat.

FLOUR—There was little offered and few buyers, the only sale reported being of a car of No. 1 superfine on private terms. For small lots prices considered unchanged as yesterday's quotations, which we repeat, namely: $4 75 to $5 00 for No. 1 superfine, $4 50 to $4 65 for fancy, and $4 70 to $4 75 for extra.

OATMEAL—Is offered in car lots at $4 75, still without buyers.

WHEAT—Sales are understood to have been made yesterday and to-day, but the terms were strictly private. We judge, however, that at $1 20 to $1 25 would be paid for spring, and $1 7 to $1 10 for white. The street price was $1 20 to $1 30 for Goose and Delhi, and $1 30 for spring; not much offering.

BARLEY—Holders are still asking the 70c. for No. 1, with buyers at 65c. to 67c. A car of Nipissing sold at 70c. the track. 65c to 66c was paid on the street market.

PEAS—None offering in car loads. Street price is 70c. 71c. for shipping samples. The would be paid for choice.

OATS—Offering freely at 42c, and buyers generally holding off. Sales at intermediate prices.

HAY AND STRAW—Were in moderate supply, and sold at unchanged prices.

DRESSED HOGS—Were in rather light supply, and prices were unchanged. Choice lots would fetch $4 25; ordinary, $3.—*Globe, 31st Jan.*

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Jan. 30.

FLOUR—Receipts 1,700 barrels; market quiet; extras and fancy meet but with little enquiry; quotations nominal. For ordinary grades some improvement was noticed; about 1,000 barrels in the aggregate changing hands at $3 85; medium, strong, and baker's fall, and demand restricted to the limited requirements of the local trade; low grades are nominally unchanged.

WHEAT—No reported transactions.

PEAS—Quiet; quotations nominal.

BUTTER—No transactions reported; quotations nominally nominal.

DRESSED HOGS—Dull and declining.

PORK—Quiet at unchanged rates.

ASHES—Dull, easier and declining. Pearls in limited supply; quotations nominal.

Travellers' Guide.

GRAND TRUNK RAIL.

	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Depart	4.57	12.01	4.57	7.07
		2.00		
Arrive	8.37	11.07	8.37	10.07

GRAND TRUNK WEST.

	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Depart	8.00	11.45	4.00	12.05
Arrive	9.30	12.55	1.05	5.00

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Depart	7.00	11.00	4.00	8.00	8.00
Arrive	4.00	8.00	11.00	4.00	11.00

☞ Trains on this line leave Union Station five minutes after leaving Yonge Street Station.

NORTHERN RAILWAY.

	A.M.	P.M.
Depart	7.45	3.45
Arrive	11.10	6.20

TORONTO AND NIPISSING RAILWAY.

	A.M.	P.M.
Depart	8.30	4.30
Arrive	12.45	8.30

TORONTO, GREY, AND BRUCE RAILWAY.

	A.M.	P.M.
Depart	8.00	3.00
Arrive	11.10	6.10

HOURS OF CLOSING MAILS FROM TORONTO P. O.

	A.M.	P.M.
For Grand Trunk West	7.30	2.30
Grand Trunk East	7.30	2.30
For Great Western Railway	8.00	10.45
For Northern Railway	8.00	3.00
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