

In an article in Wednesday's *Herald*, on the drifting away of two men of the schooner *Forest Bella* in one of her dories, occurs the question, "Why don't the fishermen carry provisions in their dories?" In view of the frequent prolonged suffering, and not infrequent loss of life in dories drifting from fog and bad weather, it would seem that this is a question so vital as to demand the strongest emphasis.

Notwithstanding the English Conservative hesitation about the principle of Federation the world does yet move, if tardily, in some directions. It is with satisfaction we learn that the House of Lords has under discussion a Bill, introduced also by the present Conservative Government, to amend the laws of land transfer by abolishing primogeniture. We are not acquainted with the details of the measure, but if it pass the effect cannot but be beneficial to the country. Landed proprietors have of late years experienced such general diminution of income from rents that large estates have perhaps lost some of the charm they awhile possessed, and it is quite possible that the gradual working of this cause may incline the hearts of aristocratic land-owners to a more favorable view of such a measure than formerly.

The San Francisco *Argonaut* has gone off its head on the assumed aggressiveness of Canada. The *Argonaut* refuses to take any comfort. The fortifications of Kingston and Vancouver, our command of the St. Lawrence, our canals, our railways, are all made the subjects of the most ridiculous scare. All the Canadian patience about the preposterous American claims to Behring's Sea, and in other matters, goes for nothing, and "Great Britain, anxious as she is to avoid war, will be dragged into it by her *enfant terrible*, and will either have to sustain loyal Canada in her combativeness, or run the chances of another Declaration of Independence with the stupendous losses which it will this time entail." Really it would seem that Canada has hardly been aware of her own strength and importance—certainly not of her combativeness! Surely the force of folly could no further go.

The American mind is in many things singularly direct in its course to conclusions, yet there are points in which it is curiously and trivially given to an elaboration which reminds one of some of Mr. Gladstone's old time specious, brilliant, yet misty oratory. In law the tendency to undue elaboration tends oftentimes to the failure of justice. Murder, for instance, is held to be of the first, second and third degree. A woman was recently convicted of murder in the second degree for poisoning her husband. The conviction was held bad, because killing by poison, according to the laws of Virginia, is murder in the first degree. The same laws prevent a second trial, so that she is not only free, but is in the same position as if she had been tried and acquitted. It is a very rare occurrence that under the less minutely discriminated laws of Britain and her Colonies a murderer once brought to trial effects so simple an escape. The same objection holds against a written constitution. That which "slowly broadens down from precedent to precedent" will be found to wear the best in the long run.

Among the many evils which have been left us as a legacy of embarrassment by the old-time laxity of British Diplomacy, one of those prominent to-day is the claim to a quasi-police jurisdiction by the officers of French men-of-war on the coasts of Newfoundland. The following letter from a French Commodore to the Vicar Apostolic of the west coast, which has been purposely published, speaks volumes:—"MONSIEUR,—* * * * You may make what use you please of this letter, the desire of the French government being to give every possible publicity to their determination. But it will not escape you that if I have recourse to your intermediary to make known our intentions. I intend to affirm once more that we do not recognize either the lawfulness of the establishment made by the government of St. John's to the magistrates whom she maintains irregularly (*irregulierement*) on the French shore, nor their right to meddle in questions which concern our countrymen." On the other hand the instructions to British men-of-war in those waters seem to be all too-carefully guarded. That the French have a right to be present with their ships to see that their fishermen suffer no injustice may be readily admitted, but that they should be allowed to assume the police of these waters is an over conciliative concession which is a grave mistake.

The case of the labor organizations of Hamilton, which were arraigned for conspiracy for their efforts to starve out a bricklayer named Buscombe, because he did not belong to any of the societies, has been appealed. The finding of the lower court was confirmed, and the case sent back for final action, which was had at Quarter Sessions at Hamilton in June. Judge Sinclair, in a judgment exhaustive of the legal and moral aspects of that species of coercion, inflicted only the moderate fine of \$5 in each of the cases of the three defendants, but emphasized his decision as follows:—"I intend the sentence you are about to receive to be more of an example than a punishment. It will point out to you that although you have violated the criminal law in an essential particular, the retributive justice of that law is not vengeance, but example. Possibly you deserve a much heavier sentence than I think proper to impose upon you. The judgment is one of which I hope in your cooler moments you will see the justice and propriety; anyway, it will teach you and others that you cannot, in trade unions do that which you did in this case, but that there is a higher duty towards your fellow-men than persecution; that it is nobler to take a man by the hand and try and assist him in earning an honest living, than in persecuting him and dragging him in the mire to suit your own selfish passions. I trust in this community that this is the last time that it will be necessary for me or any other judge to pass judgment upon any laboring man under such circumstances as this case discloses." This determined, yet calm and well considered, judicial utterance ought to be noted by every Trades Union.

We regret to see it stated that Mr. Balfour has taken strong ground against the application of the Federal principle as a remedy for the evils by which English Parliamentary Government is at present beset. The evils are undeniable, and, to those familiar with federated forms of government, British Conservative antipathy to the idea seems narrow and prejudiced to the last degree. Mr. Balfour is an administrator whose straightforward determination commands a considerable degree of respect, but it is to be feared that he lacks two great attributes of a successful statesman, that of the capability of concession, and that of seeing and seizing the felicitous moment at which concession would not only be gratefully received, but at which it would mollify a strained situation and advance his own popularity. It is much to be deplored that the Conservative Government of England is still, at this advanced day, so wedded to old restrictive and non-progressive ideas as to be incapable of the inception of a bold and novel policy, as there can scarcely be question but that Federation would dispose of the Irish difficulty and be beneficial to Scotland, as well as, perhaps, to Wales. We cannot but think that Disraeli would have seized and acted upon the idea long ago had he lived.

"Of all the new sciences," continues Prof. Delitzsch, "each of which must in the beginning encounter distrust and opposition, Assyriology can boast of having found everywhere the most violent enemies. It cannot be denied that in consequence of the extreme difficulties which had to be overcome, both in decipherment and interpretation, mistakes of various kinds have been made. But these mistakes are not greater than those which are made in every new field of research. On the other hand who can deny that the way for a quiet and solid development has been prepared, and at the same time, that the help offered by Assyriology for the understanding of the Old Testament, has already (1883) proved to be of a value beyond all expectation? The difficulties of chronology, for instance, have been cleared up in the most wonderful manner. The critical principles of Welhausen and Robertson Smith, applied to the books of Kings and Chronicles, have proved conclusively that we can no longer rely on Biblical chronology. The latter is, indeed, merely an artificial system, the key to which is given in 1 Kings vi, 1. What, therefore, could ever be ascertained without the trustworthy chronology of the contemporaneous Babylonian and Assyrian empires?" We shall give some interesting examples in our next issue.

The I. C. R. Management has laid itself open to criticism by the recent adoption of regulations of increased, and, as it would seem, unnecessarily harsh and parsimonious severity as to the customary holidays of their employes. These have been hitherto allowed a fortnight's holiday in the year, but if at any time sick for that space of time the holiday was forfeited. This rule was in all conscience harsh enough, and instances of great hardship have occurred under it. A striking instance is given in the *Herald* as follows:—"A Government employe of twenty years' service was overtaken by domestic affliction. One boy, aged twelve years, was taken down with muscular rheumatism, dying in a few weeks. Another son, aged seventeen years, contracted a cold about the same time, from which he died a few months later. The father, who was detained by the bedside of his boys nursing them for a few days, and subsequently absent while arranging for their burial, was deprived of his fortnight's holidays on account of this absence, and absence over this time was deducted from his pay. In the same year he was compelled to work from fifty to sixty nights over time, for which no allowance was made, although after twenty years' service he receives a salary of only \$600." "This," continues the *Herald*, "was hard enough; but under the new ruling of the department no overtime is allowed, no vacation is given, and every day's absence through sickness or otherwise is deducted from the month's pay. We have no hesitation in saying that this is not the proper treatment to be accorded to faithful servants of the Government and of the country." How can the Government or any employer expect to be well and cheerfully served under such grinding and cheese-paring regulations?

Among the thousand and one fads concerning eating, drinking and general habits with which the much-enduring public is almost daily afflicted, we are now told that we are on no account to breathe the night air. "Then" says a contemporary: "A clever gentleman has discovered that the only kind of air to be obtained at night is night air, and that it is better to breathe it fresh than stale. We have had fellows who advocated a generous diet, and other fellows who would have us live on dry toast and roasted apples. For a long time bathing was a fad with the hygienists. Now 'an old and experienced athlete' arises to proclaim that some people bathe a great deal too much and thus rub off 'the natural oil necessary to keep the skin in good condition.' He calls attention to the fact that 'the Romans were a great people until they became addicted to the bath.' We don't think the bath contributed much to the 'decline and fall,' and our advice to the bathers is to go ahead and not bother about the natural oil. It is a good thing that the human frame is so constructed as to withstand all the attacks of the hygienic instructor." Night air, forsooth! As if any campaigner was ever anything but the better for the night air that finds free entrance to his tent, or for sleeping in the open for the matter of that; and as if the Australian bushman on a long ride ever slept with better putting-up than his saddle for a pillow. It is true that there is no dew in Australia, but a man may sleep out in climates where the dew is copious without any more ill effect. Surely the public will sooner or later tire of this old woman's nonsense. Temperance, and regular and wholesome habits enable man or woman to eat and drink anything in moderation, to bathe and keep their windows open at night, and to enjoy, without over-thought for consequences, the life that will be made all the more worth living by plenty of fresh air, good diet, and as much cleanliness as you can command.