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THE JURY SYSTEM.

While trial by jury has been ever considered one of the bulwarks of the subject's liberty, still the mutations of time always demand repair: in even the most perfect bulwark. Judge Daly, of New York, in an article on "A better system of jury selection in Criminal cases" lays down a few obvious truths which might well find application in our land. He says:

"Theoretically, all the time required of a jurymen is what is required to sit in particular cases, hear the evidence and decide promptly the questions submitted by the Court. Practically very little of his time is so employed, most of it being expended in simply attending court day after day and being dismissed to another day without being employed on any case, or in waiting for days and sometimes weeks the laborious process of selecting the jury or 'getting' twelve men into the box' to try the case in which he is impanelled."

So obviously true is this, that you have only to go to our own Court House, during a term of the Queen's Bench and then you will be an eye-witness of the condition above described. Very exact is the next statement—provided it could be accomplished:

"The thing to be accomplished is to get a speedy means of selecting jurors, so that the public time and money of the individual juror may be saved. This is manifestly impossible if the present latitude is allowed counsel on both sides in examining and cross-examining jurors as to their qualifications. It is not to be expected that the presiding judge

can interfere in any extent to abate the evil. There is practically no limit to the admirable ingenuity of distinguished and able counsel in pursuing the subject of individual fitness and attainments of plain citizens summoned as jurors and in plausibly arguing the relevancy and materiality of such investigation."

Yet the learned judge does not suggest the remedy. He merely says: "There is, however, hardly any law which can be framed which could practically limit the time consumed in such inquiries on the part of counsel. The subjects of inquiry may be limited and certain general rules laid down, but what is left to the discretion of counsel will always afford inexhaustible opportunities for delay and display. There is but one effective means of ending the inconvenience, and that is by taking the examination of jurors from the counsel in the case and giving it to the judge."

Possibly this idea is new, but it is sufficiently true to challenge respect. He thus will destroy the very essence of the jury system, but in so doing he may be constructing on its ruins an edifice of more enduring fame and usefulness. In this Province on account of the official use of both languages the selection of a jury is frequently a matter of great distress to all concerned. Yet, after all he promises, there is no sign either of the remedy or of a suggestion. It would be a boon to the whole community if some genius would suggest a practical mode of reducing the inconveniences of the jury system to a minimum.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Take a glance over the daily papers, both of Canada and the United States; note the vast number of peculiar comments upon general matters of religion, the strange questions asked, the extraordinary theories set forth, and then ask yourself what it all means. At haphazard we will take a few examples to illustrate our meaning. "The Soul after Death; That the Soul goes straight to Heaven is considered to be unscriptural; Protestant view condemned as is also, the Catholic view." This heading refers to a sermon, in the Church of the Advent, by Rev. C. J. D. Doull. Here is a minister of the Gospel, who is neither in accord with the Protestant nor yet with the Catholic teaching regarding the soul's state after death. It would be no easy matter to set him right. In the New York Sun, we find a man asking a question like this:

"I wish to know how many people all the churches of whatever denomination, in New York City, would hold in one week if completely filled at every one of their regular services Sunday and week days?"

The answer is easily taken from the census, but it is of little importance. It merely shows how men's minds, when not seriously trained are prone to dwell upon all kinds of imaginary religious matters.

"Give us a new creed," says Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, of London, who has recently received "a call" from the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York. Here is a man who is

a prominent clergyman of one church invited to become pastor of another denominational church; and he is calling out for a new creed. It is not a new creed that the world wants, but the old one.

Every day we are confronted with large and sensational headings that indicate clearly how confused the world has become on subjects of religion. There seems to be a general state of confusion amongst the Christian sects. Not one seems to know exactly what it teaches, and no two agree upon any fundamental doctrine of the Church. Men are grasping upon all sides for the truth; they feel that they do not possess it; yet they will not accept it when they discover that it comes through Rome. The Christian pulpit is becoming more sensational than the stage; and only by that means can the non-Catholic population be brought to time. A minister here contradicts his own teachings; another over there practices what he does not preach; a layman yonder, usurps the pulpit and lays claim to an authority which comes direct from Christ; and there they are—"brandishing the fragments of their broken creed against each other," while Christ's garment was without a seam. Unity of purpose appears to be lacking all over, save the union that sways them all in opposition to Rome. No wonder that a de Costa, and men of his calibre should seek refuge from the fever of uncertainty, in the fold of divine truth.

THE PRESIDENT'S ENGLISH.

A captious critic, employed on the editorial staff of the Chicago Record has given aid and comfort to the enemies of the Republic by sneering at President McKinley's English. "The intimate relations of all parts of the country to each other," does not appeal to this critic as being either grammatical or elegant, and it must be confessed that such an

expression carries with it the impression that we have outgrown the canons of the English language, as well as the Declaration of Independence. Here are other flowers of language which the Record has culled from the message:

"The duties of the judge require him to travel thousands of miles to discharge his official duties."

In my message of a year ago, I expressed my views of the necessity of a canal, which would link the two great oceans, to which I again invite your consideration.

Under such conditions, it was deemed advisable to and proper to resume compliance with the provisions of the sinking fund law, which for eight years has not been done because of deficiencies in the revenues.

I am informed by our commissioner-general that we shall have in the American sections at Paris over 7,000 exhibitors, from every state in the country, a number 10 times as great as those which were represented at Vienna in 1873, six times as many as those in Paris in 1878, and four times as many as those exhibited in Paris in 1889.

The island of Cuba, which used to buy her (Porto Rico's) cattle and tobacco without customs duties, now imposes the same duties upon these products as from any other country entering her ports.

In respect to this last statement, it would seem that the knowledge that some other country was entering Cuba's ports would have suggested to the President the advisability of a rigid enforcement of the Munros doctrine; but lucidity is not one of the essential virtues of a Presidential message, and it is hardly probable that any official protests will be made against the quality of Mr. McKinley's English.

It is sad, to be sure; but it is no worse than the English of 99 public men out of every 100. The days when correct English and statesmanship went hand in hand have long since descended into twilight so far as this country is concerned. It may be questioned if there are twelve men in the congress of the United States who could be indicted on a charge of habitually using good English; to say nothing of possessing a literary style beyond the standards of public school composition. Not since Lincoln, if Garfield be excepted, has there been a president whose methods of expression might not properly be characterized as an abomination in the sight of the Lord.

The standard of public utterances in respect to style and diction seems to be deteriorating rather than improving. This may be due, in a measure, to the fact that comparatively few public men write their own speeches. They thrust the work upon private secretaries who have had the benefit of the exceptional advantages which many of our schools offer in the way of imparting ignorance of the "saxon speech." Those who prepare their own speeches seldom give any attention to form. Pages of collected facts are thrown together as they happen to come, and no attention whatever is paid to the aesthetics of language.

It is not necessary of course, that a statesman should be able to use his own language after the manner of "literary jellies." We are told that Washington could not spell, and that Andrew Jackson had no more conception of the harmony that ought to exist between a verb and its subject in respect to person, number, and case, than he had of any other kind of harmony; but if Washington and Jackson did not write respectable English themselves, they commanded the services of persons who could write English, to make the final draft of their public statements—a practice that might be imitated with profit even at this more advanced day.

If the use of reasonably good English is not one of the essentials of American statesmanship, it, at least, might not prove to be a disadvantage; and a return to the practices of a former day might possess the merit of novelty.—Detroit News-Tribune.

RELATING TO OFFICES.

Your eyesight is of more value than many dollars; your health is of more importance than your appearance; your temper makes a great difference to your business chances; cheerfulness is a marketable article; brightness and quickness are wanted in all businesses; accurate office work is absolutely necessary. In each of the above qualities, lazier persons have a direct bearing. You ought to know it. Once you know, you will act on the information.

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We offer you for the Holiday trade a specially assorted and fresh stock of Groceries at the very lowest prices. Our Wines and Liquors are of the choicest.

McGregor & Co., (imported direct to use), Scotch..... 85c
Club Rye..... 85c
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Finest Canadian Whisky, gal..... 80
Richard O.S., O.P. Brandy..... \$1.25
California Muscatel Raisins..... 9c
Barton & Guestier Claret..... 50c
do do Sauterne..... 50c
Sweet Oranges..... 12½c
A full line of confectionery and cake
Each article guaranteed or your money refunded.
Goods delivered to all parts of the city.

A. D. GILLIES,
130 St. James Street.

Musical Instruments Great Reductions for the Holidays.

Largest Stock and Cheapest Place in the City.

Guitars, \$4.00 up. Mandolins, \$3.00 up. Violins, \$3.00 up.
Cornets, French Make, \$8.00 up.

All kinds of Musical Instruments at reduced prices. Strings for all Instruments.
All kinds of Repairing done on the premises.

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1,000 yards Finest English Prints Imported. Special for our Christmas Sale, choicest of patterns, warranted fast colors. Prices from 10 cents per yard.
200 Finest Elderdown Quilts, a most suitable Christmas Gift, all the best English Sateen Coverings, filled with the best of Down, all ventilated. Christmas prices from \$5.00 each.

Choice Christmas Table Linens, nothing more suitable. See our assortment.
Handsome new, Net and Muslin Bed Sets, Bed and Pillow Shams to match, a Fine Gift for Christmas; all prices to select from.

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The winter has now set in and you must have good, comfortable Clothing for the Children, Boys and Youths. We have a select stock of Reefers and Overcoats at exceptionally low prices.

BUY AT OGILVY'S AND SAVE MONEY.

REEFERS! REEFERS! For Children, Boys and Youths, in Heavy Nap with All-Wool Tweed Lining; prices, \$4.00 to \$6.50; sizes 28 to 25.

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Double-Breasted Suits for Boys and Youths in Grey, Brown and other Fancy Mixtures, suitable for wear; price, \$6.00 to \$12.00; sizes 29 to 35.

Boys' Navy Blue Serge Suits, 3 garments, with short pants; sizes ranging from 28 to 32; regular price \$4.50; to clear at \$3.00.

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Ladies' Dress Skirts from \$1.69 to \$10.00
Ladies' Dressing Sacques from \$1.20 to \$3.75
Ladies' House Wrappers from 70c to \$9.50
Ladies' Cashmere Hose from 25c to 90 cents
Ladies' Winter Gaiters from 21c to 40 cents
Ladies' Winter Gloves from 95c to \$3.55
Ladies' Silk Skirts from \$4.10 to \$18.00
Children's Winter Coats from \$1.45 to \$4.50
Children's Winter Hoods from 75c to \$3.25
Misses' Winter Reefers from \$1.77 to \$4.50
Morris Chairs from \$3.90 to \$11.
Fancy Tables from 70c to \$13.00
Men's Dressing Gowns from \$5.00 to \$21.00
Men's Smoking Coats from \$1.75 to \$18.00
Men's Lined Kid Gloves from 50c to \$4.50
Men's Silk Mufflers from 75c to \$2.75
Men's Initial Handkerchiefs from 3c to \$1.25
Men's Neckwear Novelties from 1c to \$1.00
Men's Cardigan Jackets from 6c to \$4.00
Men's Pyjama Suits from \$1.10 to \$5.50
Boys' Winter Overcoats, \$3.75 to \$7.50
Boys' Winter Reefers, \$1.30 to \$6.50
Boys' Winter Suits, \$1.65 to \$5.50
Pretty Sofa Cushions from 25 cents to \$6.50
Silk Piano Drapes from \$1.75 to \$8.75
Silk Table Covers from \$1.10 to \$3.10
Oriental Rugs from \$1.50 to \$15.
Carpet Sweepers from \$2.40 to \$3.50
Carpet Hassoeks from 75c to \$1.55
Pretty Pictures from 25c to \$5.00
Fancy Baskets from 5 cents to \$3.50
Down Quilts from \$3.70 to \$27.

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ly every day in the week is the piano that should receive the consideration of the purchasing public. Beautiful stock of pianos in a variety of woods arriving now from our factories for our Xmas trade.

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