

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1892.

IN SEARCH OF ENJOYMENT.

People are now beginning to talk of taking a holiday. Hardworking men and women, no doubt, need a rest and a change of scene. But it is by no means certain that they will get what they need when they have their outing.

It is quite possible that the weary citizen may return to his home, after taking his holiday, in a worse condition, mental and bodily, than when he left it. He has not had the rest he required. He has found trying to kill time almost as wearisome and exhausting as the work he left. He has been hurried from sport to sport and from one form of idling to another, until he has been sick and tired of the whole business of holiday-making. People sometimes don't like confessing it, even to themselves, but they feel, nevertheless, that their holiday has been little else than vanity and vexation of spirit, and in their hearts they believe that they would have enjoyed themselves more, and have been better rested, if they had remained at home and taken things easy. A summer outing is, with a good many, very little more than a fashion. They are not benefited by it, and they are far from feeling that compensation which they want to a great deal of trouble and some expense to obtain.

Is there any cure for it? Is there any one who can teach the ordinary Anglo-Saxon to enjoy himself or herself when he or she is on pleasure bent? We fear not. The best way to rest is to rest. But how? To do nothing at all is to many people as awful bore. It is simply impossible for them to do nothing and not bother. They must have employment of some kind, and they must fuss about something. They have got into the habit of being continually occupied, and their minds obstinately refuse to be idle. The chances are if the seeker after rest and enjoyment chooses some form of recreation, he selects the wrong one, and gives himself and others any amount of worry and annoyance. We are afraid, then, there is no "safe cure" for ennui, and we grieve to have to say that we have come to the conclusion that the search after enjoyment in the summer time is very much like the pursuit of happiness in life. When we try eagerly and energetically to secure it, it somehow eludes us, and when it comes, as it often does at us, we are, by accident, when we are not expecting it, and perhaps when we have given up all hope of ever obtaining it.

THE BRIGGS CASE.

The case of Dr. Briggs is now before the Presbyterian General Assembly sitting in Portland, Oregon. It will be remembered that Dr. Briggs was called to account before the Presbytery of New York, for alleged unethical utterances made in his inaugural address as Professor of Theology in the Union Seminary. After a good deal of warm discussion, the Presbytery dismissed the case. A large party in both the Presbytery and in the Presbyterian body were not satisfied with this decision, and appealed to the General Assembly. It was the report of the committee on this appeal that was being considered by the Assembly on Wednesday. The report was to the effect that the appeal was according to rule and in order, and that in the judgment of the committee, the appeal should be entertained and a time set apart for the hearing of the case.

The report will most probably be sustained and Dr. Briggs will be put upon his trial. The doctor entertains what is called "liberal" views on many subjects, one of them on what is called the "inerrancy" of the Bible. This is a term invented by modern theologians. Among the orthodox of the past generation, not only of the Presbyterian but of all other Protestant churches, the remotest suggestion that there could be error of any kind within the covers of the Holy Book was looked upon as a suggestion of the Evil One and as blasphemy that should not be so much as listened to by any one professing to be a Christian. The new school of rationalistic religionists who subjected the Bible to criticism as if it were the production of uninspired writers were regarded with horror by the men and women who were brought up to reverence the Scriptures.

Dr. Briggs is accused of belonging to this school, and of teaching that there may be mistakes of one kind and another in the Bible. He is also accused of being heterodox on other matters besides the inspiration of the Scriptures. He is said to give a place to reason in religion, which is not according to the teaching of the Standards of Presbyterianism. These heresies would, if considered, be had enough in more than one member of a Presbyterian Church, but in a man entrusted with the theological education of candidates for the ministry they are not to be tolerated.

In order to reassure many good people, and to prove to them that Dr. Briggs is not such a dreadful heretic as he is represented to be, certain questions were framed by the Directors of the Union Seminary, or at their instance, to be submitted to the Professor. Here are some of them, with Dr. Briggs' answers. The reader may infer from them the nature of the heresies of which Dr. Briggs stands accused:

A.—Do you consider the Bible, the church and reason as co-ordinate sources of authority? Ans.—No. B.—Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the only infallible rule of faith practice? A.—Yes.

Would you accept the following as a satisfactory definition of inspiration: "Inspiration is such a divine direction as to secure an infallible record of God's revelations in respect to both faith and doctrine?" A.—Yes.

Do you believe the Bible inerrant in all

matters concerning faith and practice, and in everything in which it is a revelation from God as a voice of divine truth, and that there are no errors which disturb its infallibility in these matters, or in its records of the historic events and institutions with which they are inseparably connected? A.—Yes.

Is your theory of progressive sanctification such as will permit you to say that you believe that when a man dies in the faith he enters the middle state regenerated, justified and sinless? A.—Yes.

We must candidly confess that we found it difficult to square some of these answers with Dr. Briggs' utterances in the inaugural address which caused his orthodox to be called in question. This may have been called in question. Dr. Briggs has the character of being not only an able man, but a thoroughly honest one. He would not be expected to resort to convenient ambiguities or to subtleties incomprehensible to ordinary minds to get out of a difficulty, or to lead himself or others to believe that he holds opinions different from those which he really entertains.

Although Dr. Briggs has roused the antagonism of a large proportion of the ministers of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, he has with him the sympathy of many good men, both clergymen and laymen. The trial in Portland then, if it takes place, will be watched with intense interest by religious people of all denominations on both sides of the Atlantic. The struggle is really one between the old orthodoxy and the new liberalism.

A YOUNG REPUBLIC.

It is not all smooth sailing with the new Republic of Brazil. The people are not used to republican institutions and they do not appear to have had any education in politics so to speak. The revolution was brought about, not by the desire of the people, but by the intrigues of a few ambitious politicians. Dom Pedro was deposed and banished and the republic established without the great bulk of the people of Brazil knowing anything about the very important changes that had taken place. The people have had very little to do with the political movements that have been made since the republic has been established. The politicians and the soldiers have managed the affairs of the country to suit themselves. Fonseca was driven from power and Peixoto placed in office by a clique of politicians, aided and abetted by certain officers of the army and navy.

There is no such thing as liberty, as we in Canada understand the word, in republican Brazil. The citizens of the young republic do not enjoy liberty of speech, the press is muzzled, the telegraph is under strict censorship, and worse than all, liberty of action appears to be greatly restricted. The following extract from a lively letter, dated Rio de Janeiro, April 15, will give the reader a good idea of the kind of freedom which the citizens of Brazil enjoy under Republican rule:

"A fair sample of the methods prevailing in this funny republic may be found in the counting of the Governor of Ceara, whose palace was bombarded one fine morning by way of a preliminary notice to quit, to the destruction of much private property and the killing of many inoffensive citizens. Since the inauguration of liberty, street riots and bloodshed have been the order of the hour in every Brazilian city, and thousands have been murdered in minor brawls and have never been reported in the newspapers. Of course the powers that temporarily 'be' exercise the most rigid censorship over the press, and all cable and telegraphic communications, so that it is impossible to obtain an impartial account of things through those channels. You favored denials of a true republic can form no idea of the exorbitant methods practiced to maintain a semblance of order in this, and how, under military law, one's simplest actions are eyed with grim suspicion. During the last few months all the hotels in Rio, and probably in other cities, have been most of the time surrounded by a cordon of soldiers, placed there especially to watch all guests, native and foreign. Nobody is permitted to pass in or out without explaining in detail to an insulting lot of uniformed negroes who he is, where he came from, where going, and what he expects to do there, at that moment. Of course all foreigners have their passports, but even these are not much respected by brutal soldiers who cannot read and are too ignorant to have any conception of the dignity of Uncle Sam's official seal."

This is a pretty state of things, and it is no wonder that quiet, law-abiding people in Brazil, who want to be really free, sigh for the happy time when their country was under the paternal rule of a good Emperor. The finances of the country have fallen into confusion. There has been an over-issue of paper money followed by the inevitable depreciation. Four years ago there were 300,000,000 milreis of paper money in circulation. It has since been increased to 600,000,000. In 1888 the milreis was at par, being worth 54 cents, since the abolition of monarchy it has gone down to 17 cents, and is still on the downward grade. Brazil is such a rich country that the politicians will be unable to impoverish it. But they are making a very vigorous effort to destroy its credit. It seems that Brazil is bound to share the fate of South American republics. It is so far more peaceful than they are generally, but the soldier politicians may, and probably will, give the people a full supply of revolutions, big and little.

A RUMOR REVIVED.

We trust that the report that Col. Baker is to be the new Minister of Education and Immigration, is true. The appointment, if it is made, will, we are quite sure, give general satisfaction. Col. Baker is a man of much more than ordinary ability, and he possesses a good knowledge of the country. He will no doubt be as assiduous in the performance of his duties, and with his agreeable address and civility of manner, he will make a popular as well as an efficient head of a most important Department of the Government.

TO CALL AT VICTORIA.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that the Northern Pacific Steamship Company propose to make Victoria a port of call for their line of China steamships. Arrangements have, we believe, been made, and Rithet & Co. are to be the agents of the new line. The steamers will, both on their outward and inward voyages, moor at the outer wharf, and land and take aboard freight and passengers. There will be no difficulty about the depth of water. There has, for some time, been at the outer wharf, and in the channel leading to it, water enough to float any steamship sailing on the Pacific. Such a service will be very satisfactory to the merchants and other citizens of Victoria. The Northern Pacific Steamship Company has its base at Seattle, a great railway company, which can give shippers and passengers all the accommodation they require, wherever their destination may be, and it will be a great convenience to have freight brought here without any needless and annoying delay. The calling of the new line of Ocean steamships at Victoria, besides being a great convenience to its inhabitants, will add greatly to its importance, and will raise it in the estimation of the world as a seaport. Its advantages as being the nearest port to the Pacific will then be known and appreciated.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Public attention has by the report of the Civil Service Commissioners, been again directed to civil service reform. The people of the Dominion have had their eyes pretty well opened to the evils of political appointments to the civil service. It is quite possible that the favorite of an influential politician may prove an honest and efficient public servant, but the chances that he will prove neither honest nor efficient are very great. But it does not follow by any means that the candidate who, at examinations, gets the greatest number of marks, will prove the best civil service clerk. The capacity to do is not always accompanied by the capacity to learn. Everyone who has the least discernment has observed this. The student or candidate for office, who passes a brilliant examination, and whose papers are models of accuracy, not infrequently proves when he is set to work, a most incapable person. On the other hand, the young man who makes a poor show at the examination, who barely gets enough marks to pass, turns out an energetic and efficient official. Anthony Trollope's description of the examination of civil service clerks, and their results, is very entertaining; but it does not leave the impression on the reader's mind that competitive examination is the best way of testing a man's capacity to do good work, and it shows that it is no test of his moral qualities at all. The difficulty with the examination is that the candidate who excels in the written field, and who is formidable in a scrawl, is often a better and more trustworthy man than the brilliant student who distances him at the examination. This is a fact that pedagogues, professors and civil service examiners often lose sight of. 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