

THE REVOLVER IN 1899.

Parliamentary Interference Called for by English Judges.

The number of violent deaths in England from the use of the revolver during the past year has exceeded that of the previous year, numbering considerably over one hundred. Three notable events occurred to bring their experiences up to the Western level. These were the robbery of a post-office at Lydbrook by a man of "gentlemanly appearance," who threatened the postmistress with a revolver and secured £27; the shooting of a bank manager at Didbury and theft of a large sum of money, and the Nottingham assassin Judge Brisson at Nottingham railway station. Impromptu duels in the streets and public places seem to be within measurable distance. During the year two murderers whose weapon was the pistol—

THE YOUTHS CONDEMNED

for the Tunbridge Well shooting case—were hanged. In seven cases of murder and suicide the revolver claimed fourteen victims, and a double murder and suicide at Stratford-on-Avon—when a German editor shot his mistress and her daughter—added three more. One of the cases of murder and suicide was an extraordinary occurrence in Hampstead Road; at first it was supposed to be a case of wife-murder and self-destruction, but a close examination of the position of the wounds showed that woman had committed the crime. Five cases of homicide occurred during 1899, one being a case in which an American was tried and acquitted for shooting one of a gang of roughs in London, and another the case in which a coroner's jury returned a verdict of excusable homicide. About a dozen deaths resulted from accident, including that of a youth at Whitehaven. At least seventy cases of suicide were reported; but it must be noted that suicides with the pistol has now become a

COMMONPLACE OCCURRENCE,

and probably not half the number of cases which occurred were recorded in the daily newspapers. Probably a certain proportion of the suicides would have committed self-destruction in any case; but a weapon which can give instant effect to frenzy is a dangerous possession. A good deal was said in Parliament during the session on the necessity for repression of the revolver; but nothing was done except that the Government obtained official returns showing that restrictions on the carrying of firearms exist in almost all the States of Europe. Mr. Goschen in 1898, and the Home Secretary last session, held out hopes that the Government would consider what should be done to repress the revolver maniacs, but nothing has come of their promises so far. Time after time during the year, Her Majesty's judges commented on the dangerous and unnecessary habit of carrying loaded revolvers in that country, and expressed the opinion that the interference of Parliament was urgently called for.

The Destiny of Canada.

It is quite amusing, if nothing more, to read the articles now frequently appearing with reference to the destiny of Canada. There is, in fact, quite a literature already on this subject, and the writers who claim to be heard on it are quite respectable both in names and numbers. Yet those who have studied Canadian history and know the people of Canada could state the whole matter in a very few words. Thus: Canada is a growing nation, too vast in territory, too distinctly independent in aspiration, too thoroughly British in instinct to be absorbed by the adjoining republic, and too important to be surrendered by England. Her destiny, as any one may see, is to grow steadily towards the full realization of the idea of a "Great Britain" in America, and continue in the western hemisphere the spirit of the old land in law and liberty, without breaking the tie of love, Nature, growth to the full stature of nationality is the destiny of Canada, and the hope of Canadians is to give to the world an example of how a nation can be developed to full maturity by natural processes of development avoiding the fatal mistake of founding a patriotism on the disintegrating forces of rebellion. Rebellion, we have seen, runs in the blood of the Americans. Loyalty runs in the blood of the Canadians. A full understanding of this bed-rock fact in the characters of the people who inhabit the Republic and those who inhabit the Dominion will save writers on the "destiny of Canada" a great deal of trouble and their readers from an equal amount of mystification.

The Microbe.

Alas, for the good old days before bacilli, microbes, protoplasm, and what not were invented or discovered—we are not quite sure which. Then a man could pass to the bourne from which there is no return without harassing thoughts about his ancestors or the million "infinitesimal commas" (at the microbes are described) that were about to drive him from the citadel of life. But now—well, it is said another microbe has been discovered or invented by an Austrian professor! Not one of the common sort, but a dignitary of high order, "the bishop microbe," to whose labors the influenza epidemic is to be ascribed. Perhaps it is due to the unconscious influence of this ecclesiastical microbe that from time immemorial it has been the custom in some countries to devoutly exclaim when anyone sneezes, "God bless you!" However that may be, the bishop microbe will no longer languish in obscurity. His acquaintance will be cultivated by scientists with the same assiduity they have shown in regard to the cholera microbe, the consumption microbe, the pneumonia microbe, and all the rest of the family. Thick treatises will be written about him by scientists, wordy war will be waged over him, and microscopes focused on him. In the meantime those who do not like microbes and even are almost profane enough to disbelieve in their existence will take comfort in Pasteur's inclusive utterance about the new microbe. "This microbe," says Pasteur, "may be and probably is the cause of the disease, but bear in mind that the disease may be the cause of the microbe or that the entire phenomenon may be due to a simple coincidence."

An insect in the ear may be drowned out with tepid water or killed by a few drops of sweet oil. If anything hard gets into the ear, double a stout horse-hair, place the head on one side and drop the loop into the ear, move it about until it catches the object, and then draw it out.

Revising the Westminster Confession.

Of the 211 Presbyteries in the United States, 47 have already made their official deliverance on the question of revising the Westminster Confession. Of the 47 which have given their judgment, 36 voted for revision and 12 against it. The 35 Presbyteries which favor revision represent 1,279 clergymen and 182,978 communicants, and the 12 which oppose revision represent 432 clergymen and 70,490 communicants. It is notable that of the 12 anti-revision Presbyteries 8 are in Pennsylvania, 1 in New Jersey, 1 in New York, 1 in Ohio, and 1 in Missouri, while there is no Pennsylvania Presbytery that has yet declared for revision. Less than one fourth of the 211 Presbyteries have given their deliverance on the important question of Westminster revision; but enough have spoken to indicate pretty clearly that there will be a majority in favor of it. If all who oppose revision were settled in their belief in the Westminster Confession, they would constitute a formidable minority and probably halt revision; but it is worthy of note that a large proportion, if not a majority, of those opposed to revision, base their opposition on considerations of expediency rather than in their qualified faith in all the Westminster doctrines. Many accept the Confession and its sanction only to the Bible, and look upon revision as the opening door to revolutionary departure from the faith of the church. Many frankly confess that they do not accept or teach the doctrine of foreordination and infant election as it was clearly taught by the authors of the Westminster faith; but they prefer liberal interpretation or silence to revision that may unsettle the doctrines of the church or expose them to constant peril. It is obvious to the intelligent and dispassionate observer of this controversy that Westminster revision will surely come, sooner or later. The fact will now, for the first time, be proclaimed to the world that the Presbyterians do not believe in and teach their faith as defined in the chart presented by the founders of their church in 1847; and the age is too enlightened and progressive for a great religious body like the Presbyterians to continue long with a proclaimed Confession that is not believed by a majority of its intelligent ministers and membership. The necessity for truth and candor in pulpit teaching is imperative, and no church can maintain its position as a factor in the cause of religion that denies or ignores vital articles of its proclaimed faith. The problem is a grave one, but there is only one method by which a satisfactory solution can be reached, and that is to make the church Confession reflect as far as possible the honest convictions of its clergy and membership.

Increase of Game in England.

It is a singular anomaly that while throughout our vast, sparsely populated territory, wild animal and bird life is greatly diminishing, England, with its dense population, offers the spectacle of its phenomenal increase and prosperity. This is attributed to the abandonment, in the latter country, of lands for agricultural purposes and their use almost entirely for grazing cattle and sheep. Mr. Anderson Graham, in the last number of "Murray's Magazine," an English periodical, contributes an article, entitled "Rooks and Sparrows," in which he says that the increase of wild life in England is not confined to sections like Northumberland, but is found in every agricultural district, even those in the neighborhood of large towns. The sole exception to this notable increase is in the case of magpies, hawks and ravens, which are only kept down by the persistent efforts of gamekeepers. Squirrels, which a few years since were scarcely ever seen in England, have now become so abundant that they are vigorously killed on account of the great injury they are doing to the fir trees. Nearly every one of those in the Kenton Hill Wood, in a tract some mile and a half long, will have to be out, and all the young plantations at Ewart Wilderness are destroyed. Mr. Graham mentions three sorts of birds which have increased so enormously as to have become a veritable curse to the farmers—the rook, the wood pigeon, and the sparrow. The first is the most troublesome of the three. While the farmer gives it full credit as a destroyer of grubs, yet the blackball it exacts in the way of its usefulness as an insect hunter. So large has become the increase of its number, that an association of farmers has been formed in North Northamptonshire entitled "Association for Controlling the Numbers of Rooks, Wood Pigeons, and Sparrows." This organization distributed last year free of cost to all who applied 10,651 cartridges, besides powder, shot wads, and caps for muzz loaders, for the purpose of killing rooks. In addition it offered a premium of two pence for every one of those birds killed. The result was that claims were recognized for the killing of 4,263 old rooks, while through the efforts of gamekeepers the number was increased to 10,000; yet the supply was apparently undiminished. The wood pigeons which migrate from the Norwegian forests lean and hungry, speedily grow so fat on English grain that they cannot make up their minds to return. They are the most destructive of the winged pests, inasmuch as they devour almost their own weight in corn. They are so numerous that the flocks cannot be counted. To this increase of wild bird and animal life in England must be added that in the vast preserves, which are filled to overflowing with game. The best evidence of this is that gam', with the exception of wild fowl, is to-day cheaper in English cities than in Canadian.

Repartee.

"You can't live on tick in this house," said the landlady.

"I noticed your mattresses are covered with jute," retorted Slowpaw. And then he moved.

A Reminiscent Humorist.

"I saw Bradshaw laughing at one of his own jokes this morning."

"Oh, well, you must remember that ninety per cent. of Bradshaw's jokes aren't his own."

For the Year 1899

No better resolution can be made than to resist buying any of the substitutes offered as "just as good" as the great old pure-pop oonra cure—Painnam's Painless Corn Extract. It never fails to give satisfaction. Beware of poisonous, fish-oiling substitutes.

Suicide at a Revival.

A special dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer from Richmond, Va., Jan. 7, says: Intelligence from Grayson county gives the details of the sad suicide of Miss Ami Curtis, aged 18 years. For several days she had been attending prayer meetings in the neighborhood. She went forward and knelt at the mourners' bench as a penitent. She wept and cried very bitterly, and the congregation made a special appeal for her deliverance, but all seemed to avail nothing. At every service Miss Ami would occupy her accustomed seat at the mourners' bench with weeping eyes and seemingly troubled conscience.

On Sunday morning the young lady arose as the services were about to commence and said she hoped the congregation would all pray for her, as she could no longer stand the burden of sin which she was carrying. The congregation prayed for her and the preacher tried to comfort her, but still the burden did not seem to be moved. The poor girl wept and sobbed aloud. The meetings were held in the old school-house, and in the yard was a well forty-five feet deep. While the congregation was singing a hymn Miss Curtis quietly arose, and leaving the house went quickly to the well. This alarmed some of the congregation who were watching her and they rushed toward her, but before they reached her she gave a cry and exclaimed: "You need not pray for me any more." She then plunged into the well with a terrible splash as her body struck the water forty feet below. Three women fainting and a dozen others had to be carried home. Miss Curtis had excellent parents and there was no blemish on her character.

The Little Seed.

A little seed lay in the carter's path;
A little shoot bowed in the strong wind's
wrath;
A little shrub grew, by its roots held fast;
Then a stout tree braved all the winter's
blast.

A little cough started—'twas only light;
A little chill shivered the hours of night;
A little pain came and began to grow,
Then consumption laid all his brave strength
low.

Be wise in time. Check the little cough,
Cure the little chill, dispel the little pain,
ere the ailment becomes the wrong, un-
conquerable giant of disease. Dr. Pierce's
Golden Medical Discovery, taken in time, is
a remedy for these ills.

The best thing to give to an enemy is for-
giveness.

The cleansing, antiseptic and healing qualities of Dr. Sarge's Catarrh Remedy are unequalled.

There is a transcendent power in example. We reform others unconsciously when we walk uprightly.

BUCKINGHAM, Que., Nov. 22, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,—I have pleasure in bearing witness to the excellence of St. Leon Mineral Water as a curative agent. For a number of years life was rendered a burden to me in consequence of frequent attacks of piles. Other remedies gave me relief, but none was permanent. In Quebec City I had opportunity of testing the efficacy of St. Leon Water; the effect was most satisfactory from the start, and in the course of time my old enemy left me. I am now "in the sea and yellow leaf" of life, but in the enjoyment of good health, for which I feel that I owe much to the use of St. Leon Water. S. I. Jones, Printer. Address the St. Leon Mineral Water Co., Toronto.

Don't think that your wife has less feeling than your sweetheart. Her relationship to you is only changed, not her nature.

Lucky Hamilton Ladies.

The "Times" received word to-day that Mr. John B. Young, of No. 33 Hannah street west, had been so fortunate as to hold a winning ticket in The Louisiana State and that gentleman was reticent about giving any particulars of the affair. He, however, told the "Times" representative that his wife had taken a chance in the great lottery, the drawing taking place on Dec. 17th. The ticket which she held (in which Mrs. Young's sister had a share) was a one-fourth of No. 98,455, which drew the first capital prize of \$600,000. The share which comes to the Hamilton ladies is \$15,000. Mr. Young told the reporter that he received the money promptly from a New Orleans bank, by draft through one of our leading banks here. It is needless to say that the ladies are receiving congratulations on account of their good fortune. They would not have gone into the affair but for a friend who urged them to try their luck for once.—[Hamilton (Ont.) Times, January 4.]

Take care of your thoughts, for they lead to words and acts, just as brooks lead to rivers, and rivers to the ocean.

All Men,

young old, or middle-aged, who find themselves nervous, weak and exhausted, who are broken down from excess or overwork, resulting in many of the following symptoms: Mental depression, premature old age, loss of vitality, loss of memory, bad dreams, dimness of sight, palpitation of the heart, emaciation, lack of energy, pain in the kidneys, headache, pimples on the face or body, itching or peculiar sensation about the scrotum, wasting of the organs, dizziness, specks before the eyes, twitching of the muscles, eye-lids and elsewhere, bashfulness, deposits in the urine, loss of will power, tenderness of the scalp and spine, weak and flabby muscles, desire to sleep, failure to be roused by sleep, constipation, dullness of hearing, loss of voice, desire for solitude, excitability of temper, sunken eyes surrounded with leaden circles, oily looking skin, etc., are all symptoms of nervous debility that lead to insanity and death unless cured. The spring or vital force having lost its tension every function wanes in consequence. Those who through abuse committed in ignorance may be permanently cured. Send your address for book on all diseases peculiar to man. Address M. V. LUBON, 50 Front Street East, Toronto, Ont. Books sent free sealed.

HEART DISEASE,

the symptoms of which are faint spells, purple lips, numbness, palpitation, skip beats, hot flashes, rush of blood to the head, dull pain in the heart with beats strong, rapid and irregular, the second heart beat quicker than the first, pain about the breast bone, etc., can positively be cured. No cure, no pay. Send for book. Address M. V. LUBON, 50 Front Street East Toronto, Ont.

"Just Hear That Child Scream"

said Mrs. Smith to her sister, Mrs. Davis, as the sound of a child's shrieks came across the garden from her neighbor's house. "What kind of a woman have you for a neighbor? Does she abuse her children?" "No indeed," replied Mrs. Davis, "she is one of the most tender mothers in existence. But you see, she believes in the old-fashioned style of doctoring. When a child needs physic, she fills a spoon with some nauseous dose, lays the little victim flat on her lap, holds his nose till he is forced to open his mouth for breath, when down goes the dreadful mess. Then come the yells." "No wonder," said Mrs. Smith. "Why doesn't she use Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets? They are effective without being harsh, and are as easy to take as sugar plums. I always give them to my children." "And so do I," said Mrs. Davis.

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