

good men and women who are seeking for its banishment be opposed by those who claim to be also advocates of temperance? They know what a curse the alcoholic evil is, and it is not an argument in favor of its use to say that the founder of Christianity drank wine, but the grossest and the dullest blasphemy. Let the brewers, and the bartenders and their friends bring what arguments they choose in favour of the stimulant, but let us not hear again of the miracle at Cana in Galilee.

Sir John is accused of having an extra clerk dismissed from the civil service in order to make room for a newly arrived Englishman, one Mr. Laurence. We do not know whether the statement is correct or not; but we trust that it is not.

It is announced that the Dominion Parliament will meet for despatch of business on the 25th of February, it being found impossible, in view of the preparation of the voters' lists under the new Dominion Franchise Act, to bring the general elections on before the close of the winter. It is felt, and by no one more strongly than by Sir John himself, that the present was the opportune moment to have appealed to the country.

The Revising Barristers are now preparing the Preliminary Voters' Lists; and those who desire the exercise of their franchise, who are not already upon the voters' lists, should send in a declaration of qualification to the revising officer. The Act enfranchises any male British subject of 21 years of age who is the tenant of any real property within any city or town, under a lease at a monthly rent of \$2, a quarterly rent of \$6, a half-yearly rent of \$12, or a yearly rent of \$20; who has been in possession, and has really paid such rent for at least a year before 1st January, 1886. Or is the tenant of any real property assessed at \$300 in cities, at \$200 in towns, and \$150 in townships and villages. This it will be seen enfranchises any person who occupies a room, at a boarding house, and pays a rent equal to that specified.

The deficit in the Italian revenue for the past year has been 50,000,000 francs.

Dr. Workman entertained his hearers on Saturday last, at the Canadian Institute with a paper on hypnotism or mesmerism, so called. He stated that the subjects best adapted to the hypnotic process are persons of great nervous susceptibility, such as hysterical girls and women. Dr. Beard, of New York, repudiated this opinion, and asserted that he had found robust and perfectly healthy persons facile subjects of hypnotism or, as he called the affection, artificial trance. Those persons who have been frequently hypnotized make the best experimental subjects and are most prompt to return to the hypnotic state.

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the meetings of the institute are not more largely attended.

The literature of the *Globe's* local columns announces that Sir John last winter referred to the late Riel as "a sort of Canadian Mahdi," obviously intending a pun on "Metis." Sir John never makes a bad pun or a stupid joke. The *Globe* has a monopoly itself of that business.

The city toboggan slides are well patronized of late; and the spectacle presented by the participants in the sport, is very pretty and picturesque.

Lord Salisbury is opposed to "provincial" Home Rule for Ireland; and it seems that his Cabinet is a unit with him upon the question. Upon the other hand Mr. Gladstone seems as fully of the opinion as ever that justice and expediency both demand that a measure of political power should now be conferred upon the distracted "Island of Saints."

The Dominion Government have just issued a blue-book containing a report of the trial of Louis Riel. Blue-books as a rule are pretty dismal reading; but this one has certainly some lively passages.

Once again we are assured that the question of International Copyright is to be discussed during the approaching session of Congress. The United States refuse copyright to any author unless he be an American citizen; but priority of publication in the British realm secures copyright to one of any nation or color in Great Britain. One of the scandals of the nineteenth century is the condition of copyright.

Attention is being called by the *Toronto World* and other newspapers to the fact that the "philanthropists" are flooding our towns with inferior labour. In some cases cripples and lunatics have been brought from Great Britain and Ireland, to be saddled as burthens upon the people of our Canadian cities. The evil is perhaps not so widespread as the *World* thinks, nevertheless the warning is timely and the case should be looked into.

The middle-age literary wave has overtaken some of the newspapers; and in the heading to every news item or "editorial" we find a specimen of alliteration. If the editor can get two or three words, expressing his meaning, to begin with the same letter, he believes that he has performed a stroke of genius. If Dunlop is lost at sea we have "Dunlop Drowned;" or if Fahey gets "knocked out" at the second round we are told that "Fahey Falls Flat." We only mention this because this sort of literary adornment seems to be growing more generally in vogue. But it is not literary adornment; it is only literary quackery. More than a century ago literature shook the pun, and the alliteration of consonants out of her garments; and no writer with any reputation will condescend to their use, unless, in the case of alliteration, where the thing is purely accidental. As some of our young men are influenced by the reading of the newspapers, and may possibly imagine these cheap and shallow tricks to be worthy of emulation, we have taken the trouble to refer to the matter.

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cold water upon the ardor of the party of revenge in the French province. Nevertheless the "count" upon the first best question after the meeting of Parliament will be watched with breathless interest.

United Ireland and other nationalist organs predict an outbreak of secret crime, and a reign of dynamite government; refuse to give the measure of Home Rule sought by Parnell and his followers.

The heart of the Queen has been always more or less with the Tories of England, and chiefly we suppose because she considers that party to be the champions of the unity and integrity of the empire upon "which the sun never sets." We take it that her appearance in person, at this crisis, to open the parliament, is a pretty emphatic indication of the direction in which her sympathies run. But happily for the popular liberty it really makes very little difference now what the private hostility or sympathy of the sovereign may be; for the people rule, and get their will through their duly chosen representatives in the parliament. The approval by the Sovereign of a statesman or a measure is a thing just about as important as if the mass some day were to start up from the table, and nod its approbation of some act of the house. There is really no such person in our constitution now as the Sovereign. The King of England, henceforth, will simply be theiface of England; and he would be as portent if he were made of wood, as he can be in his natural flesh and blood. With the predecessor of Victoria so justly named The Good disappeared forever personal royal rule in England. When Victoria came to the throne she very wisely resolved to surrender her soul to her advisers. Once indeed she sought to assert herself, in the well known *question de jupon*, or the case of the Petticoats; but that little affair served but to emphasize the fact, that political power, in herself, there was none. Our esteemed friend Mr. Martin J. Griffin may lash himself into a foam about the matter; but the fact remains. And it is better for the people, most of all it is better for the Sovereign, that it should be so.

Mr. Goldwin Smith is out with a letter to a contemporary denouncing the proposal of Mayor Howland to increase the staff of whisky informers in the city. "A Drunkard," he says, "may be not a bad man in heart, though addicted to one fatal indulgence; a professional informer must be utterly vile." As our readers know we have been unable to agree with a very few of Mr. Smith's utterances upon the temperance question recently, but we are somewhat in accord with him on this phase of the matter. We suppose that the regular police service, and the detective force, are found incapable of bringing to light many of the breaches of the license law; but one cannot help shuddering from the thought of a system which says to some wretch who is devoid of honor and of manliness, "Go into yonder bar-room; tempt the proprietor to sell you grog at forbidden hours; and you shall be handsomely paid." We are aware that since the regular officers are unable to maintain obedience to the law the hateful expedient which we have described is to some extent necessary; but we should be careful about enlarging the staff which bears the weaverly name of informers. We could admire a man who, out of zeal for the cause of temperance, laid information obtained through the means mentioned against a law breaker; we can only look with contempt and loathing upon the person who does it for hire. This question, however, arises in the minds of some: How is it that the police and detective forces are not able to cope

with the offence of unlicensed selling? The truth of the matter is they do not want to cope with it; for if they desired to stamp out the transgression they could very soon do so. Both the police and the detectives as a rule "stand in," as the vulgar phrase has it, with the "liquor men;" and the hotel-keeper on a chilly night will win the sympathy and close the eyes of the policemen with a free glass of grog. And it is to this notorious fact that the new mayor should give his earnest attention.

Our contributed articles this week are specially interesting. A subject which is occupying attention at the present time is "Ministerial Exemptions." The article on this question by "Clericus," apart from the ability with which it is discussed, is exceedingly timely. "The Mother of Angels," by Miss Keefer, is feelingly and tenderly written, and is very comforting to those mothers who have had little ones snatched from them by ruthless death. W. G. Emerson's essay on "The Decline of the Poetic Age" is ably written and very suggestive. "Unhealthy Minds" and "A Canadian Pen Picture" are also interesting and worthy of careful perusal. Mr. W. L. Smith's article on "Local v. National Prohibition" should be carefully read. His contention that the Scott Act is injurious to prohibition is certainly very well supported.

Mayor Howland has instituted the pious practice of beginning business at the City Council with prayer. The daily newspapers interviewed the various aldermen as to the desirability of the innovation, and Ald. Harry Piper said that he thought it was "a good scheme." No one more cordially than ourselves would commend a pious practice of this sort, provided the custom were sure to be received with the respect and the solemnity that belongs to it. Praying time in the House of Commons, at Ottawa, is only another name for "shindy time," and if the outsider then were vouchsafed to remain he would hear all manner of caterwauling, whistling, thumping of desks and other unseemly noises. Mr. Howland may be able to exercise a better influence over his legislative family than Mr. Speaker can do over his, but if similar outbursts of irreverence should occur at the City Council there will have been little achieved for religion by the innovation. The action of any good man, when done out of a spirit like that which animates our mayor-elect, must always be received with respect, even where the mark is overshoot in straining after an unattainable standard of piety. It was the custom at one time, and we believe the custom still, among the peasant French of many portions of *Can. Ja.*, to uncover the head and kneel as soon as the sound of the angelus bell was heard at 12. Indeed, the writer has seen, at the stroke of the hour, men and women, busily engaged stowing cargoes into fishing craft, or falling upon their knees and repeating aloud the Ave Maria and the responses. Among a simple peasant people religious exercises of this sort are likely to be more solemn and impressive, and to bear better fruit, than among a pent up assemblage of business men, whose minds are not on things spiritual, and who above all things are anxious to get at the work before them. It has been pointed out that if prayer were ever needed anywhere it is surely in the City Council, taking into account the numerous small acts of political rascality which is laid at the door of some of the ward politicians. It is feared, however, that it will take more than the pious discipline of Mr. Howland to cleanse the Augean stable.