

# TRUTH.

OLD SERIES.—21st YEAR.

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## WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

We had pleasure last week in presenting to our readers the opening chapters of a new story, "The Ace of Clubs," by Lubomirski, the most powerful of the new school of Russian Novelists. This new novel is not only one of the most exciting and dramatic stories of recent years, but it contains some of the very best pictures of the horrors of the Siberian exile system of Russia ever written. It is a singularly powerful exposé of Russian bureaucracy, cruelty and intrigue. At the same time the novel possesses all the most interesting elements of a charming love story, dealing with the almost successful efforts of Russian officials to accomplish the destruction of the hero and unhappiness of the heroine. Just now, when the civilized world is roused by reports of Siberian outrages, and by the investigations of George Kennan, the story will be of peculiar interest. The novel is strongly dramatic, its descriptions of Siberian life singularly thrilling, and strictly truthful. It is full of such exciting scenes as the knocking of a Russian officer, the meeting of the exiles in a cave on an island of the Baikal Sea, etc. We can promise that those who follow out the story will do so with the utmost pleasure. The copyright is ours and infringements will be prosecuted.

The *modus vivendi* which Great Britain and France propose as a means of settling the long standing dispute between the Newfoundlanders and the French colonists on the western shore of the island, instead of proving the "oil on the troubled waters" is meeting with very strong opposition from the islanders who are on the verge of open revolt. That the situation may be more clearly comprehended a brief historical reference may not be without benefit. Originally discovered by the Cabots, father and son, in 1497, after a series of vicissitudes, owing to the wars between England and France, Newfoundland finally fell into the hands of Great Britain, who was confirmed in possession of the island by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713. By the provisions of this treaty there were reserved to France rights over a portion of the Coast which is known as the French shore. These rights are the liberty to catch fish and dry them on the shore. This concession, made solely in reference to catching fish and drying them, has been interpreted as though it gave to France the right to hold in fee simple the whole of the disputed coast between Cape St. John and Cape Ray, passing round the north of the island, and to prohibit others not only from fishing but from establishing any industry whatever. By this preposterous claim the British population of a British Colony are excluded from the occupation of the soil and from the work of mines in a large portion of the interior. On the other hand, the British

inhabitants contend that the provision of the treaty has respect to fish alone, and has no reference to any other industry. Consequently, as these coasts abound in lobsters, which have never been placed by naturalists in the piscatorial family the British have engaged in the lobster industry, and have established several canning factories on the so-called French coast. In harmony with their interpretation of the treaty provision, the French object to this intrusion, and, having taken the matter into their hands, have violently destroyed several of these canning factories. Now, the *modus vivendi* which has been negotiated between Great Britain and France practically concedes the French claim, and virtually acknowledges their right of proprietorship to the disputed coast. Naturally the British population object to such an interpretation and are remonstrating in a manner not to be mistaken.

A mass meeting was held at St. Johns, the capital of the island, a few days ago, at which, it is estimated, ten thousand persons were present. Prominently seated on the platform, were representatives of all classes and of all creeds. Among the resolutions passed was one setting forth that: "Whereas, the claims put forward by the French—(1) to catch and preserve lobsters, (2) to erect lobster factories, and (3) to exclude our people from the prosecution of that industry on certain parts of our coasts—are utterly without foundation or show of reason; and, whereas the exercise of such claims involves in its consequences not only directly the deprivation of our people of a valuable maritime industry, but also indirectly the settlement of a new French population with a permanent footing upon our soil, the locking up of the territorial resources of the Colony, the extinction of every valuable industry and source of wealth to our people, and the virtual concession of the sovereignty of the soil to a foreign Power; and whereas the terms of the so-called *modus vivendi* not only accord to these unfounded pretensions the force and status of bona fide and reasonable claims, but confer upon the French the immediate actual possession and enjoyment of rights territorial and maritime to which these claims relate; therefore, resolved, that for these and further reasons this meeting indignantly protests against the making of this arrangement, that the claims now set up by the French in relation to the lobster fishery ought to have been met only by an absolute and unqualified denial, and that to no arrangement either for arbitration or otherwise involving even the consideration of any possible right or claim on the part of the French to catch and preserve lobsters on our soil, or to hinder or interfere with our people in the prosecution of that industry will we ever give our consent." How far these demonstrations will affect the Imperial government's action, it is impossible to say. It is certain, however, that the people are in no temper to be trifled with. It is stated that "delegations will go to England, Ireland and Scotland to present the matter to the British public and enlist their sympathies against Lord Salisbury and his officials."

making the treaty. Prominent men will be sent to all the British Colonies to show the great wrong being done a sister Colony of the Empire." As might be expected, opinions differ as to whether the islanders are justified in their opposition, or whether they have been treated kindly, and justly by the Imperial government. It seems, however, to be generally conceded by the English press that a grave mistake was made in not having a representative of Newfoundland present at the time the negotiations were pending. Had this courtesy been extended to the Colonists it might have prevented much of the ill-feeling that has unfortunately been engendered.

How any Chicagoan can contentedly pursue the even tenor of his way, with death lurking in every draught of water taken to cool his parched tongue, is something unaccountable to those who cherish any affection for this mundane sphere. Lately one of the best accredited scientists, recognized all over the country as an expert and an authority, has been testing the common drinking water of the city, only to find it filled with deadly poison. This is how he represents the case: "As to the present unsafe condition of our drinking water I have no doubts whatever. The twenty-fold increase of free ammonia tells a story of filth. It shows that the soluble matters, coming from the decay of many tons of excreta and other organic waste, were washed out into the lake and into our drinking water. To speak of this as a slight contamination would be foolish, and to try to conceal it would be criminal." It is not to be wondered at that the more thoughtful citizens have shown some alarm, and should be casting about for some means of sending down the Mississippi or anywhere, the poisonous matter which threatens the very life of the city. The "twenty-fold increase of free ammonia" is a prophecy of still greater contamination, and still greater danger to life. Even under ordinary circumstances the condition of things is alarming, but in view of the coming World's Fair in 1893, it becomes particularly grave. It would be criminal in the highest degree to invite millions of people from the States of the Union and the foreign countries of the globe to come to Chicago merely to die there from the effects of such poisons. If Chicago would win the blessing and not the curse of the nations, let her put herself in thorough order before she opens her show.

A ballet dance at a Methodist entertainment is a performance for which the traditions and practices of that church do not afford any precedent. It appears, however, that the citizens of Watertown, Mass., are favored with the novel sight, which, on this wise: The Golden Rule Society arranged a "gipsy festival" to raise money for the support of the society. The young ladies of the society, dressed as gipsies, and accompanied by a band of music, performed a ballet dance. The young ladies of the society, dressed as gipsies, and accompanied by a band of music, performed a ballet dance. The young ladies of the society, dressed as gipsies, and accompanied by a band of music, performed a ballet dance.

sult. "The older people," it is stated, "are greatly exercised over the affair, but the young folks think it a pretty good joke." One hardly knows which to condemn the more; the breach of faith on the part of the young people, who knowing the sentiments of the responsible members of the church under whose auspices the entertainment was held, or the system of raising money which opens the door for such questionable and scandalous performances. As a matter of fact the Watertown young people are sinners only a little greater than many church societies all over the country. Their sin differs in degree and not in kind from that of many others. It is one of the reproaches and weaknesses of the Christian church, shared in by nearly all sections that she has adopted such means as bazaars, amateur theatricals, etc., etc., for the replenishing of her coffers which ought to be filled with the direct and voluntary contributions of her members. Until those who have been benefited by the institutions of the church, and who possess to hold these institutions above all price, shall show in a practical manner the regard they say they feel, unbelievers will have good reason to question the sincerity of their professions, and to discount considerably the benefits the church is said to bestow. In this connection church members would do well to pray the prayer of the immortal Burns:

"O, wad some power the giftie gie us  
To see ourselves as others see us."

The accident to the magnificent steamer, City of Paris, which so nearly resulted in another being added to the pathway of wrecks which strewn the bed of the sea, still engages public attention. Many are asking why did the starboard engine of this ship so suddenly collapse? Thus far the owners of the vessel are provokingly silent on the question. No answer has been volunteered, and it is stated that since the ship has arrived at Liverpool no person has been allowed on board without special permission. There is a suspicion that the engine was down either from an original defect developed by wear and tear, or, more probably because the ship has weathered at excessive speeds to understand the reason who are in the way of the ship's progress until the engine is repaired.

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