

The time for tree planting, all over the country is now at hand, and TRUTH would like to say a word or two in its favor. Every property holder, both in the city or country, ought to plant a few trees each year if he or she has the grounds convenient for doing so. Canada, in nearly every part of it, is well adapted, both as regards soil and climate, for tree growing, and too little attention has been generally paid to it heretofore. In many of the country sections there are miles and miles of fine roads leading through fine farms where scarcely a tree is to be seen. Why should this dreary policy of neglect of ornamental tree culture longer continue? In those localities where trees have been planted and are now growing thriftily the property of the entire locality is more desirable and more valuable in consequence. In many of our villages and towns not more than one thrifty tree is now growing where there should be a dozen. A few hours of time and a few dollars of money spent this spring in properly planting out suitable trees, for ornament and for future use, would be a source of real pleasure to ourselves, and of real profit to those who may come after us. Don't neglect tree planting this year.

Prof. G. E. Foster, M. P., writes:—"I admire TRUTH's stand and tone in most respects, and wish it abundant success. I wish we had more papers as good." The learned gentleman is fast earning a reputation as the most eloquent member of the House of Commons, and the above extract goes far to convince TRUTH that he is a man of excellent judgment as well.

The New York Times thinks that a change must soon be made in regard to American steamship building in order to keep pace with the present state of things. In the United States no new steamers will probably be added this year to the present ocean passenger fleet. The reason is that very little money has been made by any of the steamship companies during the past year. There are now "scores of ocean tramps" in the various harbours, offering to carry freights at rates much below those previously charged—so low that the old ships cannot profitably compete. The "tramps" are cheaply built ships, with low steam power, cheaply manned, running comparatively slow and so unexpensively managed throughout that they can afford to take freights at rates ruinous to ordinary steamers of the old school stamp. The remedy suggested is to build light, swift steamers expressly for passengers and mails, and allow the freight to be handled almost exclusively by ships of the cheap "tramp" class. No doubt it must come to that in a few years, and it may be all the better and more convenient for the passenger traffic to hasten the day.

At the recent session of the New York Methodist Conference a Committee on Public Morals made a report in which the terrible evils of the frequency of divorce were referred to, as one of the subjects demanding the closest thought of the church and the nation. The evil appears to be growing and the Church appears to be incapable of suc-

cessfully grappling with it. In the old Puritan State of Massachusetts it is said that there are now one tenth as many divorces as marriages each year, and in some of the other New England States, matters are but little better. In the West in one or two States it is still worse than that. The committee properly say that such a state of things "is a shame and a disgrace to Protestant civilization. Marriage is often contracted with reckless levity, and from motives foreign to those which alone can satisfy the conjugal relation. The unions effected with such immoral facility are often dissolved with a facility still more immoral and more corrupting." Between the prevalence of divorces in some States and the prevalence and spread of Polygamy in some others it would seem as though the social well-being of the nation must greatly suffer. Evidently the evils, on both sides, must yet be grasped with a stronger and firmer hand, on the part of the Government. So far the law and its administrators have been indifferent or inefficient while the social cancer has kept growing deeper and more malignant. One thing is quite evident; Marriages are now legalized without any preliminary formality or delay, and they are often very thoughtlessly made in consequence.

An important reciprocity, treaty has just been consummated between the United States government and Mexico, and it may pave the way for something of the kind with Canada. It would be a very desirable thing to enjoy reciprocal free trade with our neighbors, in national products at least, but whether we can succeed in making any bargain which will not include nearly every class of manufactures as well remains to be seen. The articles admitted free into Mexico from the United States, under the new Treaty comprise, among other things, railroad machinery, steam engines, agricultural implements, mining machinery and building materials. Also, coal, petroleum, sowing machines, clocks, stoves, and many minor manufactures. Possibly our Government would not venture to agree to any treaty so sweeping as this. The agricultural interests of the country would be well enough satisfied, but the manufacturing interests have now become very important, and nearly all our legislation has been in the direction of favouring them for the past few years. It is questionable, too, if a sufficiently large revenue to meet all our present engagements and liabilities could be raised if any such general system of free trade should be attempted.

The Southern States are making wonderful strides in advancement so far as trade and manufactures are concerned. The general impression, was years ago, that as soon as slavery was wiped out all business industries would decline. The facts go to show, plainly enough, that slavery was a curse, as regards business as well as regards morals. During the past few years large cotton factories have sprung up, where none existed before, and now tens of thousands of spindles are every day busy manufacturing at home the raw material of the country. In this respect the South will prove a formidable rival of the North. In regard to iron manufacture, too, great works are

springing up, and it is predicted, on good authority, that in the near future a large proportion of all the iron used in the United States will be manufactured in the South.

It is a well-known fact that paper can be manufactured from almost any substance possessing a good strong fibre. Years ago rags were almost exclusively used in the manufacture of paper, and in the better qualities a good deal of the same material is yet used, but as the demand for paper increased so rapidly some more abundant supply of raw material was found necessary. For some years past the pulp of soft wood has been more extensively used than almost anything else, and even that source of supply is becoming scarce and dear. It is now found that the refuse fibre of the sugar cane is well adapted to paper making. A few weeks ago a sugar making company from New Orleans sent a quantity of such cane fibre to the Napanee Mills Paper Company, in this Province, and over two tons of printing paper was manufactured from it, as an experiment. The paper was soft and strong, but not as white in color as that ordinarily turned out. It is supposed, however, that any defect of color can soon be remedied by improved methods of manufacture. On the whole the cane paper compares favorable with the sheet on which these lines are printed.

Should such cane refuse turn out well adapted for paper making, a new and very important industry may soon spring up in the South. Paper has now become a necessity in many other departments of business besides printing, and every year the demand for it becomes greater and greater. The refuse cane supply should be cheap and very abundant, and the difficulties of converting it into paper are not great. These facts may lead to considerable improvements in paper making in Canada. Here sugar cane does not thrive well, but corn and sorghum stalks are very similar in their fibre and composition to the cane stalks, and probably they may make a good substitute. It is well worth considerable experimenting to ascertain just how far such home-produced material may answer for so important a purpose. Cheap paper is now a great want in many branches of business, and cheap raw material is very desirable.

The country roads in most part of this Province are by no means as good as they should be. Visitors from England and other old settled countries report that one of the great drawbacks against settlement here are the very rough and bad roads we have in nearly all the farming sections. It is high time that some better system of keeping these roads "in repair" should be inaugurated. The old fashioned system of each tax payer "doing road-work" has outlived its day and usefulness. The Iowa Legislature has just passed a Bill for improving the country roads which may furnish some valuable hints to our own law makers. It does away with the old system of working out taxes upon the roads and authorizes each township to levy a tax for road improvements to be paid as other taxes

are. The construction and repair of roads are to be let by public contract, subject to efficient overseers. There is little doubt but that the roads will be much better under such a system and the cost will not be greater in the long-run.

Quite a large section of the United States Democrat party were strongly in favor of the nomination of Hon. S. J. Tilden as the party candidate for next president, but he has positively declined the honor, and may, therefore, be counted out of the race. Mr. Tilden is now an old man, and he has done a great deal of service for his party in former years. It will be remembered that he was the candidate of the party against Mr. Hayes and undoubtedly got a majority of all the votes cast, and ought on that account to have been declared elected. He was "counted out" however by the Supreme Court judges on a strict party vote. Public sympathy has always been pretty strongly in his favor since, but Mr. Tilden is now too old a man to aspire to such a position.

The friends of President Arthur have been working hard to secure his nomination by the Republican party, but the attempt to boom him has been a failure, at least so far as the north is concerned. There are many abler men in the party anxious to be proposed. The New York Post, a very able and reliable journal, says that in the South Arthur's friends appear to carry every thing before them. All the office holders of that region are going to the Chicago Convention and are solid for Arthur. They make no secret of it. Probably few men, outside of Grant, could be made more useful as a tool in the hands of the office manipulators than the present incumbent of the White House.

In regard to the growth of the Southern cities, and the amount of capital now being invested there, the following facts, culled from one of the leading Georgia papers are of significance.—In the city of Atlanta there are now contracts given out for two million dollars worth of new buildings, besides a new State Capitol, which is to be started this spring. In Macon contracts have been given for over half a million dollars worth of new buildings. At Columbus nearly a quarter of a million dollars worth of residences were erected last summer, and about \$300,000 worth of work engaged for the coming season. In Savannah a million dollars was expended last year in improvements. The hearts of many of the old abolitionists will be cheered at such an outlook. Even the old pro-slavery men must feel themselves agreeably disappointed in the presence of such facts and figures. It always pays, in the long run, to do the right thing and the just thing. It certainly has been the making of the South to give justice to the slaves, and open up the labor market to fair competition.

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The Canada Presbyterian gives a good deal of attention to the temperance question, and always writes in a sensible vein on the subject. It has evidently but little sympathy with the enthusiasts who are always demanding more law, no mat-