

so that arbitrators are required to decide whether lobsters may be classed as "fish," whether sheds come under the head of "buildings," and other like technicalities.

The Venezuela question pivots upon a treaty of 1691, and the exact limits implied by the phrases "Orinoco colonies" and "Essequibo colonies."

To come nearer home, the legality of the Canadian Copyright Act depends upon the interpretation of the B. N. A. Act; and the Manitoba school problem is alike an outcome of the looseness of that formidable document.

It is almost impossible to so formulate treaties that they will adjust themselves to conditions one or two centuries later; and even minds of high legal acumen do not succeed in binding words so that they shall not play queer tricks of interpretation.

THE French protectorate over Madagascar, by reason of the agreement with Lord Salisbury in 1890, is compelled to stop short of annexation. This, however, will not prevent France from profiting largely by reason of the forest wealth and gold mines of the island.

Madagascar has an interesting history. The fragments thereof for the records are as yet fragmentary—read as a romance of the semi-barbarous age. But from henceforth, under the stimulating influences of civilization, the island will leap forward into modern conditions—and possibly into modern curses.

THE direct outcome of the recent Episcopal Conference in Minneapolis is the announcement of a Pan-Anglican Conference to be held in 1897, at Lambeth Palace, the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Conferences of the Anglican Church are fraught with greater danger than those of any other ecclesiastical body, since within its limits wide difference of belief and practice is possible. Between the ritualistic and the evangelical forms of worship there is a great gulf fixed, which neither party seem willing or able to pass.

The conference of '97 will be invested with peculiar interest in view of the fact that the position and attitude of Anglicism toward the Roman Catholic Church will be one of the questions dealt with.

DR. HOUGHTON, rector of the Church of Transfiguration, New York, who is an enthusiast in his ecclesiasticism, as well as his love for the little edifice, has been enhancing its artistic beauty by a reredos of alabaster and marble exquisitely carved, and containing a representation of the Transfiguration.

In addition to this, he is causing to be erected at the entrance to the churchyard, a lich- or corpse-gate, of the most ancient Anglo-Saxon origin. The lich-gate is a roofed gate, within which, in early times, the friends who bore the body rested until met by priest and clerk.

Dr. Houghton can afford to carry out his ecclesiastical fancies, since this "little church round the corner" is amply endowed and wealthily supported.

Visitors to New York must seek if they would find it, so small it is without; yet within a treasure house of art in color and carving.

IN CANADA.

CANADA is hardly in need of another river; she has more than she can utilize as it is; besides, canal building, with its concomitant boudling, is so expensive.

Nevertheless, since Professor Bell has discovered this big new water-baby, it is incumbent upon us to accept the situation.

That great, thickly wooded northland that lies between Lake St. John and James' Bay, may reveal wonderful things to us in time; not the least of which is the possibility of a wide range of agricultural land wherewith to supplement the somewhat barren or exhausted soil of lower Quebec.

No one who has visited the Lake St. John region will disparage the arable facilities of this north country.

ONE of the painful features in connection with the celebrated murder trials of the past month—those of Holmes, Durand and Hyams—is the insouciant bearing and marked self-possession of the prisoners. Throughout the long and exhausting conduct of their cases, they have appeared in each instance, the coolest and least interested individuals in the court-room.

Conscience being deadened by deliberate villiany, all emotion is killed, all the nerves seared into callousness. This is the only explanation of their awful indifference and self-possession.

CANADIAN politics have suffered a new departure in the formation of a woman's Conservative association, bearing the name—Maple Leaf League.

London has the honor of taking the initiative, Chatham has followed her lead, Toronto will probably fall in line at an early date, together with other cities and towns.

In view of the service rendered by women's political leagues both in England and the United States, the marvel is that Canadian politicians have not enlisted the active interest of our women long ago.

During the recent election in New York, Republican women canvassed from house to house, pled with voters to be at the polls early, held parlor meetings, started soup kitchens—and, in fact, exerted every possible feminine influence on the men they knew or came in touch with. The results of their work were markedly successful.

PARTIZANSHIP does not necessarily imply bitterness, nor yet calumny—that is one of the things women may teach men in the political arena.

Partizanship means division of opinion on many national questions, loyalty to the party platform, but not disloyalty to individual principles.

There is no doubt that the entrance of the voteless sex into political affairs, as organized aids, will do much to purify party atmosphere, as well as advance party interests.

Therefore let the organization of Canadian women's political leagues prosper.

ONE of the peculiar features attendant upon this so-called Christian Science is the fact that the friends of the victim almost invariably defend the creed, and express themselves satisfied with the treatment accorded, even when it costs the life of the patient.

In the case of Mrs. Beer, recently acquitted on a charge of manslaughter, the parents of the child which she "treated" continue to affirm their "belief in" the peculiar method of treatment, as well as in this especial exponent of the creed.

That their child died has not shaken their faith one whit. Other similar cases may be quoted.

Fanaticism, ignorance, and religion, mixed form a rock compound of the deadliest fatality.

THE interest excited by the recently alleged "cures" in Colorado, wrought by one Schlatter, a man who seems a combination of mystic and fanatic, and the masses of people who throng his progress through the state is one of the ever recurring proofs of humanity's great credulity—and greater need.

THE Lowe settlers have learned their lesson, and have returned to their farms, sadder but wiser men. He that can pay and will not, must be made to pay,—so spake the law. A gleam of redcoats and rifles, and lo, it was accomplished.

The probabilities are the farmers never dreamed that force would be resorted to. The redcoats and rifles were beyond their wildest imaginings. It would have been well worth while to see the faces of the recreants, as one by one they filed into the treasurer's office to pay the taxes so long overdue.

And now there is a neat little \$5,000 military expenses to swell the sum.

The pity is that military aid cannot be invoked for cases of private debt, where the "can" and the "will not" are equally present.

THE Theological Conference recently closed in Toronto, shows in a marked manner the advance of theological thought. Ten years ago, such an address as that given by Professor Coleman upon Evolution would not have been permitted by a Canadian ministerial audience, least of all by a Toronto one. That it was upon the program of the conference, and passed with but little comment, is sufficient indication of the results of the pressure brought to bear by science upon the theology of to-day.

THE opponents of women's suffrage in our midst might remark with some point that Canadian women are not making much use of the measure of suffrage already granted them.

There is a big work to be done in municipal reform, yet thus far the women have failed even to voice their interest in the matter, much less to engage in active organization work.

Last January, in New York, the women formed a campaign committee and made a personal canvas of every house in the worst ward in the city, in favor of their candidates. The result was a perfectly clean campaign, and the largest vote ever polled in the ward.

Faithful exercise of the municipal vote and vigorous work in municipal politics will do more than aught else to advance the cause of woman suffrage.

CONCERNING the present condition of Toronto streets, a little maid epitomized it neatly one recent November day.

Shabby six-year-old tood grasping the hand of four-year-old in maternal fashion at the corner of College and Spadina. Her bright, sharp little eyes searched up and down.

"There ain't no trolleys,—there ain't no bicycles,—an' there ain't no butcher carts—R'n!"

And four little feet sped over the tracks and across the broad avenue.

EDITOR.