



# TRUTH FOR THE PEOPLE

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## WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

Mr. Beaty, M.P., intends to introduce a bill prohibiting the sale and manufacture of spirits in the Dominion of Canada. This is going to the root of the matter. To stop the manufacture of the article doubtless, the sale will be greatly lessened. Liquor will be sold, whatever bill passes, but the great thing to be aimed at is the making of the sale illegal.

Beaty's bill will also aim at making drunkenness a criminal offence, and a permitting drunk in his own house will be to be hauled up before a magistrate. I don't know whether a policeman will be allowed to enter a private house because he thinks he has reason to suspect that the occupant is drunk; probably not, for policemen would then be obliged to walk into our houses when we were entertaining a select party of friends. It happened to me to see a suspicious-looking man enter, and if he took it into his head to come in, we had been indulging too freely he would incontinently walk us all off to the station, and though, as friends we should be together and each one declare that the other was perfectly sober, that blue-eyed gentleman's word would condemn us pretty far we should be in. But the bill has not passed yet and, in my opinion, I should like to see it put through, and not pass for some time to come.

Henry Irving has a very interesting appeal to American audiences in the last *Weekly Review* and as what he says to American audiences applies equally to those in Canada, I quote a passage in his remarks:—"The dominant characteristic of an American audience is impartiality. Do not sit in judgment, regardless of the offences lack of power to condemn or a divergence in the interpretation of a particular character or action. When they do not like a performance they simply go away. And here is a feeling toward the actor. As an individual part of that recognition of individuality, so strikingly characteristic in American life and customs, is their thoroughness. Another point, they are not quick to understand, but they take a pleasure in the expression of appreciation. They are not surpassed in quickness of comprehension by any audience I have yet seen."

There was a time, probably within Mr. Irving's recollection, when an audience would make it uncommonly unpleasant for an actor who did not give satisfaction, but the hissings and groanings are passing away, and the plan of raising and walking out of the theatre on the part of any audience who may be dissatisfied, is as effectual as making a pandemonium of the theatre, besides being far more easily done. British actors, however, will learn to discriminate between those who leave the theatre during the performance of the piece because they are dissatisfied with something or other, and those

who feel compelled to leave for the purpose of "seeing a man," and who generally return from the interview surrounded by an aroma like unto that of a spice factory.

No praise can be too great for that splendid regiment of the British service, the 42nd, better known as the Black Watch. Their behavior in Egypt at the present time is calling forth most unqualified encomiums. Woe beto the foe that meets in hand to hand encounter these bare legged, kilted warriors, whose prowess has sustained the honor of Britain's arms on a score of battlefields. Those who desire to learn more about the gallant 42nd should read James Grant's 'Legends of the Black Watch,' and I will guarantee that they will be amply satisfied by the perusal.

A Philadelphia paper, in publishing an account of an interview by one of its reporters with Mr. G. A. Sala says that the great English journalist stated that "The one advantage a journalist has over other people is that not all the wealth of Rothschild could buy him, nor all the wealth coerce him—" Surely Mr. Sala was speaking ironically, or else he must have been alluding to British journalists.

Here is an item of information that may interest many readers of TRUTH in whose homes many beautiful house-plants may be found:

"Professor Lintner advises people who have house-plants to colonize upon them the lady bug, the little spotted beetle that devours plantlice. By this means many parasites may be got rid of."

A new journalistic venture, the *Glengarry Review*, has just been started at Alexandria, Ont. The people of the northern section of Glengarry County have long been in need of a live local paper, and the want is now in a fair way of being well supplied. The *Review* is a well printed and large sheet, giving special attention to local news. It is Reform in politics, and promises to be an able and influential party advocate. Published weekly, by Mr. A. Constable, at \$1 per year.

The British Tories, a short time ago, were going to wage war with Germany over the annexation of Angra Pequena. That they are anxious to quarrel about a very small matter is shown by the fact that those who have been there describe Angra Pequena as "a barren and fresh waterless sea-shore." However, no blood was spilt over the matter, and Britain has got her hands full just now with matters of far more importance than useless strips of land where no one seems able or to care to live.

A somewhat unique advertisement appeared in a San Francisco paper recently. The article required being "a minister of the gospel who can preach two strictly original sermons every Sabbath—one in the morning, for saints, and one in the evening, for sinners." Granting that such a clergyman can be found, it strikes me that he will have to preach to very limited congregations in the mornings, but if his parish be a large

one, and he prove popular, it is altogether likely that his church will be found far too small to accommodate his hearers in the evening.

Poor Oscar Wilde! his latest agony is caused by the ugliness of the garments worn by men, which he says are so hideous that the fashion has to be changed every six months. He asserts that the Egyptian dress has lasted for over two thousand years. Yes, just so, and from the accounts of travellers in Egypt I gather that some of these clothes are dirty enough to have been worn twice two thousand years.

It must be gratifying to the starving poor of America to read and hear about these goings on. They must enjoy those great feasts just about as much as a man I saw on King street the other day, out at elbows and toes, and begging a few cents for a "square meal," enjoyed the reading of a bill of fare pasted up outside a restaurant, and which he was perusing.

Court circles in England are very much alarmed at the report that is going the rounds that the Hon. Col. Lindsay, groom in waiting to the Queen, contemplates publishing a book giving an account of every person who has been attached to the royal household since the present sovereign came to the throne. The fear seems to be that the people will learn what a large number of aristocratic loafers are at present supported by the people, for it is not to be supposed for a moment that Her Imperial Majesty pays all her blue-blooded flunkys out of her own pocket.

The "staff" of household attendants consists of a number of lords and grooms in waiting, ladies and maids of honor and women of the bed-chamber, in addition to avarans of high salaried cooks and others. The duties of these officials consist, while in attendance on the Queen, in riding or driving out and eating an excellent dinner every day. For these arduous and fatiguing labors they receive quite nice little salaries. The bed-chamber women and the gentlemen ushers do absolutely nothing—except draw their pay—and as the Queen usually dispenses with the attendance of lords and grooms in waiting when at Osborne and at Balmoral, they are on duty only about a fortnight in the year, on the average, and for this the eight lords in waiting receive \$3,500 per annum, and the eight grooms in waiting \$1,650 each.

A rumor comes from New York that, I fear, is too good to be true. It is to the effect that a number of O'Donovan Rossa's dynamiters are going out to Egypt to help the Mahdi. Should this prove to be the case, the fate of the false prophet may be considered as sealed. The only harm that this expedition is likely to do will be to turn the hatred borne towards the Mahdi by his enemies into sympathy. Hard-hearted indeed will be the man who could not feel sorry for anyone who has such allies as Rossa's rascals thrust upon him. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good, and if this fatal kamsin, of which we hear so much,

will only get in its deadly work on Felix, McCloskey, Noonan, Dick Moriarity, Rocky Mountain O'Brien and the other gentlemen who are to accompany the dynamite expedition, no praise will be too high for it.

The opinions of physicians are divided as to the effects of roller-skating on the health, some of them going so far as to state that roller-skating is nothing more or less than a suicidal practice, whilst others declare that it is the most healthy exercise in existence! (Wherein the baneful effects appear I fail to see. Possibly roller-skating is an unhealthy exercise when indulged in in close, covered rinks where several score of people are vitiating the air which all have to breathe repeatedly, but it is the air that is unwholesome, not the skating. Will one of these wise-acres please rise and explain why roller-skating is a suicidal indulgence?)

It does not seem to matter, however, what doctors say nowadays. If all their opinions were to meet with the attention the utterers of them doubtless think they deserve, we should cease to eat almost everything that we now consume. The strange thing about these doctors' opinions and warnings is that many people continue to eat the very things that these alarmist physicians declare to be poison, and to do the things that are stated, positively, to be sure death in no time, and yet live to a good old age. The best way will be for those people, who find that roller-skating does not agree with them, to stop it, and for those to whom it is a source of health and enjoyment to request the doctors to go to Bath. Personally, I can't say that I am in love with roller-skating. The little wheels have a tendency to wander off on their own responsibility and the floors seem uncommonly hard, but I should think an experienced skater could derive lots of fun and exercise from the practice and from seeing other people falling about.

In reference to the last storm Prof Wiggins said: "I could have prophesied it 500 years ago if necessary." I don't believe it, for I don't think Mr. Wiggins is so old as that. Granting that a man could live to the age of five hundred, it is altogether incredible that any weather prophet would be allowed to live for that length of time.

Webster doubtless thought he was doing a big thing when he produced his 1764 page dictionary, but his performance has been quite eclipsed by a talented Mongolian who, in a moment of inspiration, has dashed off a dictionary of the Chinese language comprising forty columns of nearly a thousand pages each.

Another of the interesting letters of Rev. Hugh Johnston, B.D., of this city, from the Sunny South, has been received, and will appear in next issue of TRUTH. It was received too late for publication this week.

The evanescent nature of popularity is well exemplified by the sudden descent of Mr. Gladstone in the estimation of those who, a short time ago, could not say anything too good for him, but who now are the foremost in censuring his every act.