



# TRUTH FOR THE PEOPLE

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## WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

We are not in favor of tyranny and never will have a word to say in support of the right divine of kings to govern wrong. But the heroes, or rather scoundrels of the dynamic are rapidly alienating the mind of every decent man not so much from them as from the cause of Ireland and of Irishmen all over the world. The contemptible wretches to have blown up the Tower and the British House of Commons have not the sympathy and support of any but the very smallest fragment of Irishmen. But these are not repudiated them so vigorously as they ought to have done. Hence they will have to bear the reproach and pass through the sufferings which they would have richly deserved had they been actually in league with their so-called champions and defenders. Ireland has not for generations known a truer friend than Mr. Gladstone; one who has done more for justice and the amelioration of its people. And yet there are men that call themselves Irishmen and patriots, by way of excellence, who say that the best thing they can do for Ireland is to send Gladstone and all his associates to the same bloody grave as that of Lord Cavendish and poor Mr. Burke. If any one is foolish enough to imagine that a desert of work will frighten the English nation into letting these poor worthless scoundrels have it all their own way, he was never more mistaken in his life. It will be the old obstinate bull-dog English sentiment, which, it will be found, is much more easily raised than laid. Let them rest assured that the Englishmen of to-day are not degenerate and so degraded as to be frightened out of their wits by the sight of blood and of murder. Millions of English will be apt to conclude that excursions to Ireland are out of the question, and that the only thing is to reorganize the old coercion laws, and bring back the old days of Protestant and English rule, so as to keep the Catholics in order. It is very evident also that thousands upon thousands of Irishmen residing in England will be thrown out of employment, and that what has been often and lately said in days past about English emigration, in a spirit of bitter and unfounded jealousy, will come to be the law, "No Irish need apply!" The idea of allowing Ireland to go free from connection with England in any form is also a strange delusion. England, before she would consent to such an arrangement, would spend her last man or her last shilling, and she is not as yet come near to that point. Nothing, if this sort of work goes on, will soon be more popular among the whole of the inhabitants of Great Britain than a good stiff coercion law for Ireland. If the whole island were put under martial law for a time comparatively few could object.

Before TRUTH is issued on the 31st the whole of the British expedition to Egypt will be known. The lookout is at present very dark, and more unlikely things have taken

place than that Stewart and his contingent at least have been cut off. TRUTH hopes better. But if the very worst happens, does any sane man believe that the men of great Britain would crouch in dismay at the sight of such ruin? We should think not. Englishmen never get braver, more dogged or more resolute than when in the presence of defeat. "There is life in the old dog yet."

Minister Ross' scheme for federating the different colleges of the Province is, after all, in danger of falling through. Local jealousies and the paltry ambitions of small men threaten to wreck just when apparently it had crossed the bar and needed nothing but an Act of Parliament to make it an accomplished fact. Some who make a great fuss about culture and the higher life are as meanly jealous and as contemptibly narrow as a couple of tavern-keepers at a country crossroads. The scheme may succeed after all. We hope it will.

Nothing seems more likely than that we are on the very threshold of startlingly formidable occurrences. Everywhere the sound of preparation is heard. Everywhere intimations are given of bitter national and personal jealousies being in the ascendant, and ready at a moment's notice to burst out in the appropriate, and perhaps congenial work of mutual slaughter, and all which that implies. Europe is an entrenched camp. The jealousies, more or less covert, between Russia and England are agitating almost the whole of Asia. Franco has a mighty big contract on her hands with China, and Bismarck wishes to continue the "first statesman in the world, or he will know the reason why. What, with the probability of another insurrection in India and her present trouble in Egypt, England finds more and more that her hands are pretty full, and that much more of such work would be more than she could conveniently manage. Well, the right will be vindicated by and by, and another illustration will be given to the well-known lines,

"Freedom's battle once begun,  
Besieged from blowing side to son,  
Though baffled oft will soon be won."

People have often said, and have thought they were clever in doing so, that "Providence has always been on the side of strong battalions." Providence has been no such thing. Providence has always essentially been on the side of truth and righteousness, and in the coming struggle will once more show very unmistakably that such is the fact.

The plumbers have reaped a plentiful harvest of dollars and abuse from the late cold snap. Perhaps there has been, and is, a good deal of bad plumbing. But let us be just even to plumbers. Scientific, or quasi-scientific dabbles in sanitary matters, talk a great deal of nonsense sometimes, and not seldom give the plumbers less than fair play. What nonsense, for instance, to talk of the waste pipe from water closets and of

shutting up all the man holes in our streets being what would make all things right. Waste pipes are all well enough, but they are not so indispensable as some would have us imagine. As a matter of fact there are three or four escapes for sewer gas attached to every house of any decency. No doubt some of these escape or over-troughs or drains only lead out to street, but in the vast majority of cases they are taken down to the sewers, and are the means at once of letting gas escape and flushing the drains. Now it is evident that these over-troughs do the work of the much demanded escape pipes very effectually, and that we are not so bad off in this respect as some would make us believe. As to shutting up the man holes in the streets, never greater nonsense entered into any man's head. To keep all that sewer gas confined without escape except through waste pipes and over-troughs and pipes would make matters tenfold worse than they are. It would give it much strength and volume and would force it into houses as with air pumps. Besides, how much harm do these man-holes do? Little or none, though all the doctors in the city say the opposite. Whoever saw even children standing round one of these places sniffing up the effluvia in order to be poisoned? The gas thus escaped rises rapidly and high, and we don't believe that the health of any ever materially suffered from that cause. In fact we believe the people of Toronto are far less poisoned than a good many scientific talkers would have it believed.

Special attention is invited to the Exchange Department of TRUTH. It has been established for the especial amusement and benefit of our subscribers and every one is welcome to use it at any time, in any proper manner. Readers having articles to exchange are invited to send in their notes at any time. There is no charge for insertion.

Burst pipes are bothersome things, and dangerous withal. How many suffered that way on the 22nd would be difficult to determine. They could not be few. In some cases the stoves were blown into fragments after having been let for two or three hours. Others got a dressing from ice cold water, &c. Isn't this hot water arrangement, with water fronts and pipes, &c., a very dangerous and not very satisfactory affair? Does it pay for all it involves and all the danger it exposes to? We scarcely think it does.

Bad whiskey kills more people in a single year than sewer gas in half a century. We say all this not because opposed to good sanitary arrangements. Very much the reverse. But we hold that all quasi, or genuine scientific personages—should keep strictly to the actual facts of the case, and not frighten decent people by a perfect avalanche of theories not by any means altogether supported by facts. By all means

improve our plumbing as we best may. Let us be cleanly in all our habits and surroundings. Let us get better water as soon as we can, and as much of it as possible. But don't let us get into hysterics as if universal poisoning were going on. Things are not so bad as that yet.

So all the base pugilistic ruffians are not of what are called the lower orders. Two of the rising hopes of American culture and collegos "had it lately out" in a New York drawing room, with all the usual accretions of black eyes and bloody noses, while, of course, a select company of the "friends" of the two bruisers made up the circle. If the two bullet-headed bull dogs had broken each others necks the loss to anybody would have been small, the relief to all that is decent in society would not have been small. The ordinary pugilist with his pug nose, his bullet head, his bull neck, his low brows and his huge, over-shadowing ears is a spectacle offensive enough to God or man. But the pugilistic dude or college heavy weight is more offensive far.

**SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS.—MUST THEY BE PAID FOR?**—It is desirable that parties who sign orders for books sold by subscription should know that they cannot afterwards cancel their orders, or in any way evade the payments to which they have agreed. A knowledge of this fact will save a great deal of useless law expenses and unprofitable worry. The Courts, high and low, Division and Supreme, have decided these cases so many times and so uniformly against the subscriber, that it is time to cease "kicking against the pricks." What is more, it is not only compulsory by law but also by the rules of fair dealing that each should be the case. Publishers receive from their canvassers certain orders signed by individuals who are supposed to know their own minds, and to be able to pay for what they order. Upon the strength of these names they pay commissions to the agents and order a certain number of books to be printed. When they have gone to all the possible expense, and present the article, it would not be fair that the purchaser should be allowed to escape responsibility for his act, and so the Courts have decided time and again. We are led to make these remarks from noticing that during this winter there have been a number of subscription book cases before Canadian Courts, and the Judges have held in every case that the written or printed contract was binding on the subscriber, and any verbal agreement or promises made by agents did not affect it. This also refers to books published in parts, which can be delivered as specified in the written contract either a few parts at once, or all the numbers at one delivery. Some of the most expensive and valuable books we have are published in parts. There are few firms on this continent who are financially able to bring out a work entailing an outlay of \$300,000 or \$400,000 before getting any return on their investment.