

The Canadian Epworth Era.

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The Latest Fad.—How is this for an illustration of idiosyncrasy? The so-called "holiness people" of the South have invented a button which is to be worn by those who profess to be entirely sanctified, and is intended to advertise the wearers as "holiness folks." It is to be hoped that this craze will not spread to Canada. The man who makes a parade of his goodness has but little acquaintance with the spirit of Christ.



A Ridiculous Performance.—Boys are apt to do foolish things, especially when they are encouraged by still more foolish men. The climax of silliness seems to have been reached by a mob of boys in Philadelphia who held a great "Pro Boer" meeting, and adopted a resolution of sympathy with the Boers, which was forwarded to Kruger by a special messenger boy who has been sent to South Africa for the purpose of delivering the document into Oom Paul's hand. Several men, who ought to have known better, attempted to address the boys, but their voices could not be heard on account of the uproar. The whole affair was spectacular and sensational, and at the same time ridiculous. Those who engineered it have good reason to feel ashamed of themselves.



The Love of Poetry.—There can scarcely be any more refining or ennobling influence than the love of good poetry. The taste for it can undoubtedly be developed by familiarity with the great standard poets like Shakespeare, Longfellow, Tennyson, Lowell. The "Evenings with the Poets" given by the Literary department in many of our Leagues have done much to interest young people in first-class poetical literature. This issue of the Era is intended to be helpful and suggestive in the preparation of "An Evening with Longfellow," and should be preserved for future use. Other poets will be presented to our readers in a similar way, later on.



Is the World Growing Better?—One of our exchanges is at the present time discussing the question, Is the World Becoming Better? and one of the correspondents gives the six following reasons to show that it is becoming better: 1. Physically, for we know that man, learning to obey the laws of health and society, by hospital and quarantine regulations, has raised the standard of public hygiene. 2. Mentally. The increase of means of intellectual development are remarkable. Education is developing faster than any other feature of our civilization. 3. Morally, for we see the standard of purity, of temperance, and of beneficence to the weak - even to animals - raised noticeably within a generation. 4. Socially. The masses, while

they have much more to be rectified, have received popular recognition and rights far beyond the early dreams of their leaders of a century ago. 5. Politically. There is a wider and surer government by the people every year. 6. Spiritually. In our day we have seen religion taken from the realms of theory and creed and applied to the life of the individual and society.



Cigarette Smokers Not Wanted.

Another testimony concerning the evil effects of cigarette smoking comes from Chief Willis L. Moore, of the United States Weather Bureau, who has issued an order prohibiting their use by all employees. Mr. Moore gives his reasons as follows: "The order was issued after careful consideration and a thorough investigation of the evils resulting from cigarette smoking. It will stand. In this service we are compelled to maintain a very strict discipline in order to secure satisfactory service. Some of our men, who were regarded as the most thorough and competent, doing every detail of their work with the utmost promptness and accuracy, gradually became careless and lax. I sent inspectors to investigate, and in a number of cases it was found directly attributable to the use of cigarettes. I am not prudish, nor do I wish to assume any authority whatever over any privilege which the employees of the service should have, but as a public servant I feel that it is my duty to correct any evil which may exist. I can state most emphatically that the order will stand, and that it applies to the entire force of the bureau throughout the entire service. Cigarette smoking must cease."



A Miserable Old Miser.—How the possession of a great fortune often shrivels up the human heart and develops the miserly spirit is illustrated in the case of the late George Smith, the ex-Chicago banker, who left \$50,000,000. Of him, Mr. Henry Labouchere says: "For the last twenty years of his life he lived in a bedroom at the top of the Reform Club, which he rented by the year. A few years ago the rent was put up £10 (\$50) and this reduced him almost to despair. He used to creep about the club like a lizard, seldom speaking to anyone, either grumpily answering if he were addressed or professing not to hear what was said and was either deaf or pretended to be. Each day he went to walk, but he never slept outside the club except when it was closed for cleaning, and even this last he regarded as such a grievance that in the end he managed to occupy his bedroom while the club was closed. I suppose no one ever derived less pleasure from the possession of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice than did this singular old man, and doubt if his personal expenditure exceeded £400 per annum."

Wonders of Wireless Telegraphy.

—A practical and unique illustration of the value of wireless telegraphy was recently announced as having occurred on board the steamer *St. Paul*. Among the passengers was Senor Marconi, the inventor of this wonder of the age, who was on the way to England. When the vessel came within the radius which the new system of transmission will at present cover, the great inventor rigged up his apparatus to one of the masts of the *St. Paul*, and began feeling around in the air for the news which his associates in England had been gathering and holding until the time came to let it fly. The following are some of the things that were caught: They had the latest news not only from Europe and America, but from the field of war. They heard the progress of the contending armies, the latest words from Mafeking, Kimberly and Ladysmith, and, amid shouts of applause, it was decided to print this news, and so issue the first newspaper ever published on a passenger steamship. There was no printing press except the little one used for the menu, but they worked it hard and long. The sheets sold for a dollar apiece, and the proceeds were given to the Fund for Seamen.



Christian Science and Frozen Toes.

—In one of his addresses, Rev. W. H. Pierce deals Christian Science a heavy blow, in a striking illustration which he uses for the purpose of showing how keen the Christian Indians are to detect the spurious from the genuine in religious affairs. A Klondike traveller came to the mission house with his toes very badly frozen, but to the astonishment of the missionary he refused to have anything done for them. Although his feet began to swell, and the pain became excruciating he resolutely declined to accept of treatment, on the plea that he was a "Christian Scientist." Several of the Indians came in and had some conversation with the man, who did his best to explain his creed. It was evident that his learned disquisition had little effect upon their unsophisticated minds, for a young chief tapped the "Scientist" on the brow, as he said, "Stranger, there is something wrong with your head, your brain is crooked," and then significantly added, "tell the missionary what size box you want, and we will bring it over for you." When the young man saw death staring him in the face, he relinquished his Christian Science foolishness and allowed Mr. Pierce to treat his toes. After careful nursing for several weeks he recovered and pursued his journey. Christian Science may have accomplished some apparently remarkable cures in certain nervous disorders where the disease is largely imaginary, but for a case of frozen toes it is not a huge success.