



TRUTH FOR THE PEOPLE

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

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Truth Villa Again.

Reader, look again at the picture of TRUTH VILLA, (page 23) No. 12 Ross St., Toronto, a beautiful city residence, purchased by the publisher of TRUTH on purpose to present to the fortunate competitor giving the middle answer to Bible questions in TRUTH competition No. 14. The picture does not show the brick work of the walls of the house but in other respects it is correct. Here, is a comfortable and elegant city home in the very heart of the fashionable part of Toronto, a short distance from the University, the Observatory, and the Park, within the reach of some TRUTH subscriber. The house is beautifully located and beautifully furnished, being supplied with gas, grates, marble mantles, bath room, water-closet, hot and cold water, and all other modern conveniences.

The publisher of TRUTH has resolved to make this one grand present to his patrons, in addition to all the other grand presents offered, before withdrawing from competitions of this class. As he is so liberal in offering, you may safely do the liberal thing in subscribing, as no such opportunity may ever occur again. Only think of sending but \$1 and surely getting TRUTH as a welcome and instructive visitor to your home for four months, and an equal chance with others of getting an elegant home with it at the same time. Send in twenty dollars at least and order TRUTH sent to twenty of your best friends, who will thank you for it every week that it comes, and thus give yourself twenty good opportunities of possessing that Villa! Every dollar subscription sent counts one opportunity of being the fortunate owner. The publisher does not expect to be directly repaid for any such outlay as this, but he does expect to leave a standing evidence of his liberal dealing with his patrons, and an evidence, too, that he carries out all he agrees to give to those who subscribe for his popular and widely circulated journal. The middle time has now about arrived, and the middle answer must soon be given, if not now in. May you be successful. Try it. See full particulars on page 22 of this issue.

WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

On Wednesday next the eighteenth anniversary of the consummation of the Dominion of Canada will be celebrated throughout the country. That the Dominion of Canada has made great progress since 1867 is evident enough. Our population has largely increased since that time; our commerce has been largely extended; our railway system has grown very rapidly, and our manufactures have become much greater. In the matter of material progress our growth has been healthy and encouraging, and the outlook for the future is hopeful. The Dominion of Canada possesses a vast territory, a fertile soil, an excellent climate and resources so rich and variable as to supply, in all these respects at least, the necessary elements for a great nation.

Politically, it must be confessed, that the people of the Dominion do not find themselves so closely joined in sympathy as a nation to day as the friends of Confederation expected. The relations between the Dominion Government and the Provinces have not been as cordial and as pleasant, so far, as it is desirable for them to be. Every one of the Provinces have, at times, coaxed and threatened in order to secure better terms from the Dominion, with the single exception of Ontario, and Ontario has appealed over and over again—successfully in most instances—to the Privy Council for the vindication of its Provincial rights against the encroachments of the Dominion Government. It seems hardly possible to believe that there has been an *actual necessity* for such an inharmonious state of things as has continued to exist from year to year. Whether wiser and more statesmanlike men at the helm of affairs could have averted all of this, or much of this, TRUTH will not now undertake to say. TRUTH does not hesitate to say, however, that mere party contentions have brought about a good deal of the difficulty, and unless in future the majority of the men at the helm of affairs, both in the Dominion and in the Provinces, are of the stamp who prefer country first and party afterwards, the contentions and bickerings will grow until disruption will become inevitable.

In view of our eighteen years' experience, it is very clear that the sooner the party politics of the Dominion and those of the several Provinces become totally separated the better; and the less the leading politicians of one class have to do with the affairs of the other, the sooner will there be some chance for greater peace and harmony to prevail. Just yet the tendency for intermeddling appears to grow stronger, but let us hope that a better and a wiser state of things may come to pass before the harm becomes irreparable. Every year's delay of the good time coming is to be regretted. The present system of plots at Ottawa and counter-plots at Toronto or Quebec, or the other Provincial capita's may be all very well for the interests of the immediate wire-pullers, but it is very unfortunate for the interests of the people of the Dominion as a whole.

The importance of boiling drinking water at all suspected of impurity ought not to be overlooked. No doubt a great many germs of disease can be effectually destroyed in that way. In Toronto, for example, it would be a safe thing to boil all the water intended to be drunk. Some leading medical men are of opinion that, in many instances, typhoid disease can be prevented in a locality by the simple process of boiling briskly for half an hour the water drunk. By this means the germs of disease can be effectually destroyed.

If our Dominion Parliament would bestow but one-half as much time and attention to the existing administration of affairs in the North-West as to the appointment of the revising barristers for the preparation of the voters' lists, it would be better for the interests of the country. There is so much

jangling among the M.P.'s. over the details of the Franchise Bill that it seems as though little time can be spared for questions of greater national importance. Of course the details of the preparation of the voters' list is a subject of a good deal of personal importance to the various members, as their future elections may be much affected by the way such lists may happen to be manipulated, while the subject of the administration of the affairs of the great North-West Territory only affects the M.P.'s. in common with the other citizens of the country. That makes a mighty difference! The country ought to know, however, how far its representatives in parliament will apply themselves in searching out the reasons for the rebellion there has been, and the removal of any such as can be removed. All intelligent citizens are anxious to know whether the same system of administration is to go on as before, and whether the same men are to be continued as the administrators.

The feeling is pretty general, and probably well founded too, that had not the Dominion officials in the North-West, from the Lieut.-Governor downward, been somewhat indifferent and inefficient the rebellion would never have occurred. Of course there were turbulent spirits among the scattered population, but it is not at all probable that they could have accomplished anything like the amount of harm they did had not a considerable proportion of the population felt dissatisfied. It is very evident, too, that had the proper officials been as vigilant as they should have been the uprising might have been quietly nipped in the bud instead of being allowed to assume such full growth as it did. How is all this to be satisfactorily accounted for? It is evident that months of agitation and organization for rebellion was going on, and yet the very officers on the spot did not seem to have sounded the alarm, or else the officers at Ottawa did not seem to rouse from their lethargy. Is the same system of administration to continue, now that the rebellion has been put down, at such an expenditure of life and treasure? Are the same men to be continued in the same offices as before? The mere granting of land scrip to the previously neglected half-breeds is surely not all that is needed to restore peace and satisfaction. The people ought to be informed by this time what Parliament intends to do about it. The interests of the country are too much imperiled by disaffection and rebellion to allow any reasonable cause for future difficulties to remain. Something more than the mere doubling of the mounted police force appears to be needed.

When all the facts in connection with the North-West rebellion become well known, it is quite probable that a considerable number of the whites will be found implicated in the difficulty—not so much, probably, as active participants as abettors to the agitation at its earlier stages. These facts ought to be enquired very carefully into, not so much with a view of some severe punishment to the parties themselves as with a view of a

careful enquiry into the reasons for the disaffection. It is not probable that many of the whites were disaffected without good cause. All of them, or nearly all of them, were loyal British subjects, with no previous desire to overturn our Government, even were that possible, or of an attempt to do so. It is evident enough that the whites, as well as the half breeds and the Indians, had reasons for irritation and disaffection, and these ought to be remedied or removed at the earliest possible our. Lasting peace and contentment cannot be expected to reign there unless the people have cause to feel that every reasonable ground for complaint has been removed.

Political trimmers are not, after all, a latter day institution, though it is just possible that the crop is many fold greater now than in the "good old days" when many a stout hearted politician dare say that his soul was his own. Somebody has just been publishing the following amusing instance that occurred when John Tyler was President of the United States and Daniel Webster, Secretary of State. It was in that time that the first Presidential proclamation for national thanksgiving was issued. Tyler was first confronted with the objection that such a proclamation from the Federal Government was opposed to the principles of State sovereignty, but he resolved to take his chances of such an opposition. Another hitch occurred, and it began to look as though it had been lost sight of entirely. About this time a couple of ministers happened to meet the Secretary of State who appeared, at first, to be anxious to evade any enquiries about the cause of the delay. He became more communicative in the end, however, and so far divulged State secrets as to assure them that the real fact was that "that old cuss (the President) is afraid of the Jews." It is evident, however, that he showed his courage up later on, for the proclamation was duly issued in the end.

The future condition of the leading streets of our great cities certainly begins to be a matter of a good deal of speculation. How much of them will be in the possession of the people and how much of them in the actual possession of the various corporations it is doubtful now to determine. Overhead the thousands of wires of the telegraph, the telephone, the electric light, and such other things, nearly darken the air, and place many obstructions in the way. Added to this the elevated railways are likely to come in all great thoroughfares in the large cities, and who knows what else may be looked for. Underground matters are still worse. The companies have it all now, except the great sewers. What with water-pipes, gas pipes, and all other conceivable kinds of pipes, the streets are about full already as far down as it is practicable to go, and the demand keeps on increasing. Now, all these things are needed, and the city people could not well do without them, but is it not possible to provide for them in some other way besides in the streets? Hardly. The outcry is becoming general that all overhead wires ought to go underground. But is there likely to be enough room underground for everything needed? TRUTH doubts it.