

a desperate riot in Limerick = Death of the Hon. Adam Crooks, late Minister of Education for Ontario = M. Grevy re-elected President of the French Republic.

29th....Mr. Gladstone celebrates the 76th anniversary of his birthday.

30th....Queen Christian takes the oath as Regent of Spain.

31st....President Grevy accepts the resignation of M. Brisson, the French Premier = United States troops have an engagement with Mexican revolutionists.

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## LETTERS AND QUESTIONS.

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To the Editor TRIP HAMMER.

DEAR SIR.—In last issue under the caption "The Religion of Humanity," you roll out an "apple of discord," apparently with the object of drawing your readers into controversy. Whether a discussion of this topic will be beneficial or not will in a great measure depend on the spirit in which it is carried on. If we approach the subject with a desire only to find the truth and not to sustain a position we shall be gainers; but if a wish be father to a thought and the sole object of discussion be to support that thought then bitterness is likely to be the result. Sincere seekers after truth do not hesitate, though it cost a struggle, to throw off old prejudices when the facts are against them. The subject is a broad one and may open up unexpected lines of thought. In any case, I trust you will not regret giving it an opening. One thing may be depended on, and that is, truth is never permanently injured by investigation.

That there are individuals who uphold the doctrine of the self-perfectability of human nature we do not doubt, and the fact that the stanzas referred to were handed in for publication by one of ourselves would indicate that even among your readers are some whose thoughts and words run in that direction.

It might be interesting to know what are some of the planks of the platform upon which they stand.

There are some ideas embodied in those lines which I like very much, and about which no discussion is likely to arise, but in others the doctrine to me appears fallacious.

I will not commence at the beginning and analyze the thought of each sentence in succession but content myself with touching upon this one line.

"Let actions be your saviour."

The man who upholds the doctrine herein embodied either accepts the Bible as inspired or he does not. If he does he is bound to take it in its entirety, and what then will he do with Christ's atonement, or how explain Acts iv. 12. Man's good actions are therein commended but nowhere are they regarded as his saviour. (See Galatians ii. 16).

If he does not accept it as a Divine revelation, why talk about a saviour at all? A saviour from what?

The term saviour as generally understood is associated with a salvation from misery and to happiness after death, but where do we get any knowledge of the unseen world except from the Bible?

When these questions are satisfactorily answered I may ask a few more.

ORTHODOXY.

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## PERSONAL MENTION.

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Mr. Harris' little boy Norman is recovering from an attack of typhoid fever, and his daughter, Florence, is progressing favorably under the care of Dr. Ogden.

Mrs. W. Lambert continues to suffer with inflammatory rheumatism. She has not been able to leave her bed for some weeks past. We extend to her and Mr. Lambert our sincere sympathy.

Mr. Robert Davy, we regret to say, is no better, and we fear his case has gone almost beyond the skill of the physician. Still there is always hope while life remains, and we should be exceedingly glad to know that hope in Mr. Davy's case may not be totally barren.

We lately had the pleasure of a visit from Mrs. A. P. Cameron, of Winnipeg, formerly a respected resident of Oshawa. Many Canadian mothers sent out their sons to the field during the late insurrection, but few can say as she can that she had three soldiers in arms for her country, her husband and two sons.

We understand that a concert for the benefit of a deserving family will be held about Friday, Feb. 11th, at which it is expected Mrs. Andrew and daughter, of Streetsville, will sing. Several other ladies and gentlemen are to be invited, among them the Misses Ecclestone, of Parkdale, and Mr. James Fax, who has quite established a reputation by his humorous delineations. We predict a success.

We are sorry to record the death by accident of Mr. J. A. Williams, father of Mr. George Williams, of the M. Mfg Co. Office. Mr. Williams resided in Lindsay and was Librarian of the Mechanics' Institute in that town. On the evening of December 28th he was about to close the rooms as usual when some gentlemen absorbed in a game of Chess, wished to remain. Mr. Williams left them his lamp and proceeded down the stairs in the dark, but missed his footing, and falling forward on his head was killed instantly. The deceased gentleman will be much missed by an extensive circle of relatives and friends. He leaves a large family all grown up and holding good positions in business. There is much sympathy manifested for Mrs. Williams, who is understood to be highly connected in England, her relatives holding important offices of trust in the Government. Mr. Williams always paid us a visit when Parliament met, he being a Sessional writer for the Local House, and it is with much sadness we reflect that we shall see his cheery face no more. The funeral took place on Wednesday, December 30th, to Riverside Cemetery, and was largely attended. The Directors of the Mechanics' Institute were present in a body, and the many marks of respect and esteem shown by the people generally must have been extremely gratifying and comforting to his friends.

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## NOTICES.

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DIED.

WILLIAMS.—At Lindsay, Ont., December 28, 1885, Mr. J. A. Williams, Librarian of Mechanics' Institute, aged 65 years.