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WILL the old order change and give place to something better as well as newer in civic administration in Toronto, with the coming of the New Year? We devoutly hope so. We hope that A.D. 1891 may be the last year in which this progressive city shall be under the management of a Council such as that which has recently crowded out of office the most capable and efficient Engineer the city has ever had, because he persisted in controlling the work for which he was held responsible, and was not sufficiently amenable to Aldermanic influence. This action of the Council is none the less obnoxious to all thoughtful and independent citizens because of its following so closely upon another still more purblind act of the Council in referring back the report of the Board of Health, and condemning the citizens for a time longer to be slowly poisoned by the foul exhalations from hundreds of pestiferous privy pits and cesspools. Can it be that a majority of the men whom the citizens deemed intelligent enough to represent them and transact the business of their city are really in doubt as to the deadly effect of the nuisances in question? It seems incredible that they can be so; and yet the only alternative seems to be that they permit either some selfish interests of their own, or the dread of displeasing some grasping and hard-hearted property owners, to outweigh in their regard the health and even the lives of hundreds of their fellow-citizens. If it is the fear of the landlords which rules the Council, it is a wonder that other landlords who have themselves constructed their houses with a proper regard to the health of their tenants and of the community do not bring a counter-influence to bear? Are they so largely in the minority that they can effect nothing? Or are they, too, not only careless of the public welfare, but blind to their own interests? And why do not the long-suffering tenants come to the front and insist that their health and that of their families should count for something? A typical instance that came under our own notice will illustrate how both these last named classes are made to suffer by the stupidity or want of nerve of the councillors. A family desiring to rent an

eligible residence on a pleasant street in the northern part of the city, the parents examined the premises, were pleased with them generally, and especially delighted with a lawn of good size in the rear, as a playground for the children. Before renting, however, they made it a *sine qua non*, the plumbing and other internal arrangements being good and sufficient, that a pit in the rear should be cleansed and filled with fresh earth. Imagine their disappointment and disgust when on taking possession they soon learned by the unmistakable testimony of their olfactories, that the high wall at the rear was flanked on three sides by nuisances of the same kind as that which they had been at such pains to have removed. Like hundreds, no doubt, similarly circumstanced, they have been awaiting in hope the action of the Board of Health, and hailed its Report as a promise of deliverance, little dreaming that the Council would refuse to act on the advice of its own experts. The result is that it is now a question whether they will not be obliged to remove, greatly to their regret, to another locality, if one can be found free from the objectionable surroundings. The injury suffered by the landlord, in the depreciation of his property, by the fault of his neighbours, is obvious. Surely all tax-paying citizens, landlords or tenants, who are not blind to their own interests, will make this matter of carrying out the recommendations of the Board of Health one of the test questions at the coming civic elections.

THE proposal of the Public Library Board to establish a Museum in this city is one which must commend itself to the approval of every intelligent citizen. That such an institution, well supplied and arranged, is a valuable adjunct to the educational forces at work in any community is too obvious to admit of question. It is the natural complement of the library. There are, in fact, some things to be said in its favour which do not apply so forcibly even to the public library. In these days of cheap books of all descriptions it is possible for all but the very poorest citizens to have a supply of valuable literature on their own shelves and tables, but very few, indeed, have the means, room, time and taste necessary to the possession of even a small museum. On the other hand, once the nucleus of a varied collection is formed and public interest awakened, there is no limit to the extent to which, in a region so rich in specimens and relics of many kinds, a collection could be enlarged by voluntary contributions. The value of such an institution to the city, even from what we are too much accustomed to regard as the only practical point of view, would be not inconsiderable, as an addition to its attractions for visitors and tourists. There can be no doubt that a reasonable annual sum, as large as the state of the finances would warrant, from the city treasury, would be well spent in aid of a good museum. We are not quite so sure of its claims upon the liberality of the Legislature, though those claims would certainly not suffer by comparison with those of many other objects to which provincial funds are appropriated. But with or without Government aid the project is one which deserves success, and one for which success will be assured, if it be properly commenced and perseveringly pushed.

A CORRESPONDENT who neglects, perhaps inadvertently, to comply with a necessary journalistic rule by enclosing his card, asks help in the solution of a problem which perplexes him. The data consist of three facts. Given, first, on the staff of the Public School Board a lady who, fifteen years ago, distinguished herself at the Normal School by her literary attainments and her teaching ability, and who has steadily worked her way upward since that date, constantly gaining knowledge, experience and teaching power, until now she is entrusted with the training and moulding of those who are to be the future teachers of the city. Given, second, a young lady who has had *really* no experience in teaching, her only apparent claim for high position being a brilliant career in her department in the University, lately appointed teacher of English in one of our High Schools. We have, third, on the staff of the same school, and teaching the same subjects, a gentleman of good literary attainments, who has had a long and successful experience in teaching, and who

has proved himself to be possessed of the rare but essential power of training and developing character in his students. The salaries are, first teacher \$1,000, second \$1,500, third \$1,500. To find (a) the consistency of the High School Trustees; (b) the justice in the case of the three teachers. We state the conditions of the problem because of their general interest, but are not sanguine of our ability to succeed when our correspondent has failed in solving it. We may say, however, taking the conditions as stated, without any personal knowledge to guide us, that in the first case, as compared with the other two, one of the essential conditions is wanting, inasmuch as the employers are two distinct and independent Boards, each having its own scale of prices. If the question of justice is still pressed, we can only give the answer, unsatisfactory from the logical point of view, but the only one of which, perhaps, the problem admits, that the world is full of just such inequalities, and that until Mr. Bellamy's Utopia, or some other comprehensive scheme of socialism is established, there are no means of prevention. It is true that, as the educational opportunities afforded by the Normal School fifteen years ago must have been vastly inferior to those of the University of to-day, the question may be raised whether even the fifteen years of experience may not have left their possessor inferior in culture, scholarship and disciplined brain power to the young University graduate. Certainly the education of the latter must have cost far more in money and time than that of the former. These are considerations to be taken into the account. We do not say that they fully demonstrate the justice of the arrangement. The case in which the High School Board pays just the same salary to the inexperienced young graduate as to the tried, proved and successful teacher—likewise, we presume, a University graduate—we cannot attempt to explain, much less to justify. There may, of course, be some conditions overlooked in the statement which would give the facts a different aspect. But taking the conditions as stated there seems to be essential injustice. The trustees have probably acted on the maxim so often quoted, and perhaps sound as far as it goes, that a woman should receive the same pay as a man when she does the same work. THE WEEK is always an advocate of a free course and fair play for women, yet we are by no means sure that even that question can be settled so easily. May it not be that the principle "so much work, so much pay," does not cover the whole ground, even morally; that other considerations, such as cost of living, obligations to others, etc., not only do come in, but ought to come in to complicate the business? But leaving the question of sex aside, it is surely not just that, other things being, as we assume, equal, years of successful experience should count for nothing. Clearly we must give it up, in the absence of more light, and confess ourselves unable to find the value of the unknown quantity, i.e., the consistency of the High School Board.

WE gladly publish the letter of Mr. Barlow Cumberland, as a protest against the pessimistic speeches and articles with which it deals. While we are firm believers in the doctrine that honesty is the best policy, and are convinced that too highly coloured advertisements and eulogies have in the past done nearly or quite as much to injure Canada as deterrent speeches or hopeless forecasts, we cannot too strongly condemn the course of those on either side of politics who ignorantly or wilfully slander their own country for the sake of injuring their political opponents. But while it would be presumption in us to set our theoretical opinions or arguments against the practical testimony of those who, like Mr. Cumberland, are in a position to testify from personal observation, we have still to confess ourselves incredulous, not as to the facts themselves, but as to the causes assigned for those facts. These causes must be, after all, largely matter of uncertain inference. For instance, the writer, having spent a few years in the North-West about the time to which Mr. Cumberland refers as that of the exodus from the Ottawa Valley to Dakota and Minnesota, the results of his own observation would lead him to ascribe the deflection of that migration from our own territory more to the dissatisfaction of the pioneer settlers in the North-West with certain Government regulations, and to their discouragement