

There has been a considerable schism in the Salvation Army, resulting in the definite retirement of a large number of members. A discussion at Toronto in a very large meeting evoked strong evidence of tyranny and oppression on the part of the hierarchy, and of inferiors being kept in absolute want, while higher officials live on the fat of the land. One of the grievances which has become intolerable is the control exercised over the members as to marriage. We have all along anticipated some such outburst of dissatisfaction at some time or other, and since the marriage regulations of the "Army" have become known, we have felt pretty sure it would not be long delayed.

To-day the Queen enters on her 71st year, and there are few who do not wish that Her Majesty may yet see many more birthdays, and prolong her prosperous and virtuous reign for another decade at least. Time is ever on the wing, and has not only brought Her Majesty to the scriptural "three score years and ten," but has plentifully sprinkled with grey the heads of those who are old enough to remember her accession. And the years seem to fly faster as they draw on the ultimate and the inevitable, which most men in these days contemplate with serenity, and which will certainly not operate to damp the feeling of satisfaction with which this auspicious day has been universally regarded for the last 52 years.

There was an old joke against the urbane, but absent-minded old Duke of Cambridge, which used to be but half believed, but which was nevertheless true, that entering church late, just as the clergyman said "Let us pray," the Duke, advancing up the aisle bowed graciously, and audibly responded "By all means." This is capped by one told to Mr. Frith, the Academician, by the late Duchess while sitting to him for her portrait, how her husband used to keep the congregation in Kew church convulsed by a running commentary on the Ten Commandments: for instance at "Thou shalt not steal," he would say quite aloud—"No, indeed; very wrong, very wrong; not that I ever felt inclined." It made her very uncomfortable, she said.

There is abundant evidence throughout the Press of the prorogation of the several Legislatures, and consequent increase of space for "yarns" of the wildest description. First and foremost we have an astonishing story of the doings of an enormous serpent in Trinidad, marked as extravagant by many traits, of improbable dimensions, and of feats of swallowing inconsistent with the known habits of the constrictors. Then a girl turns up in Quebec who has fasted for three months, who is immediately cast into the shade by another who has eaten nothing for eight years, and so on. The marvel is, who and where are all the people who swallow these rhodomontades with a capacity equal to that of any anaconda, and don't even go to sleep after their gorge.

The Kentville *New Star* had, in a recent issue, some just and appropriate remarks on the case of a Windsor fiend who cut off a portion of his wife's ears, in which there was the usual failure of justice from the refusal of the victim to prosecute. There is a class of ruffian of the Bill Sykes type which deliberately takes into account, in perpetrating its dastardly outrages, the devotion of woman to the man she loves, and his estimate of the force of the sentiment is too often correct. The frequency of impunity for the most cowardly of crimes suggests the establishment of the office of public prosecutors, like the District Attorneys in the United States, whose duty it would be to investigate, to bring to trial, and to prosecute such offences, and we agree with our contemporary in thinking that we might in this respect profitably take a leaf out of our neighbor's book.

The recent marked and rapid departure from Paris, in order to avoid being present at the centenary celebration of the Assembly of the States General, of the diplomatic representatives of the chief European Powers, does not convey the impression of either sense or dignity on the part of the Crowned Heads from whom the orders must have emanated. It is true that the violence of the French Revolution did incalculable harm in setting back the tide of freedom all over Europe for more than half a century, but the excesses of the people were only the natural fruits of regal and aristocratic oppression of the direst nature, which royal personages ought to take into account, and which ought to prevent them from so childish a display of a bigotted sentiment. They might also remember that the French Republic is a solid and acknowledged fact, that it has already outlasted in duration all the various forms of Government in which France has indulged within the last century, and that it seems to be in a fair way to survive even the threatened interference of General Boulanger.

We print in another column an energetic protest from an occasional esteemed contributor against public apathy in using the heating of railway trains by some method less dangerous and less deadly in accident than the ordinary stove. Our correspondent's letter is well worth reading, and ought to produce its due effect in stimulating public sentiment and public action in the matter. On re-reading the note, however, to which "Canadian Citizen" refers, we do not quite see the point of "the irresolution of the concluding paragraph." Having in our mind when we wrote the success achieved in the Imperial Parliament by Mr. Plimsol in making a specialty of certain nautical abuses, we endorsed the idea of some Canadian M.P. doing the like with the stove question. By all means let it be made "a stirring public question"—an object our contributor's letter is well calculated to advance—but wherein our promotion of a simple suggestion savors of "the old colonial subserviency" is not quite clear to us. Be this as it may, however, we heartily recommend our correspondent's letter to all who desire to aid in minimizing the horrors of railway collisions.

The method of the agadists (alluded to in another note) which the Jews regarded as highly laudable and rational, was by no means unknown to other sections of the Roman world, being in fact a kind of what they considered reasoning to which the literate classes in comparatively uneducated populations have always been addicted. By its remote and fantastic analogies, metaphors taken literally, ambiguities of all sorts, a solemn kind of punning included, took the place of sound and accurate ratiocination. A survival of this logic of ignorance was at one time universally clung to in Europe, and has, perhaps, hardly yet died out in certain parts. We take some of the substance of these remarks from a very interesting pamphlet entitled "Chrestos: a Religious Epithet," which is the instance of agadism we have elsewhere referred to, and of which we purpose giving a brief account in our next issue.

The inspection last week of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment was commented on in the daily press chiefly as involving a considerable expenditure of ammunition. There was, however, more than that in it. It was, in the first place, one of the first fruits of the new Field Exercise, which is based on entirely different theories of war to those formerly prevailing, and in the second, it was marked by such precision, rapidity, and evidence of individual intelligence on the part of the men, as to bear conclusive testimony to a state of training and discipline which evoked from a staff officer who had himself served for many years in one of the smartest rifle regiments, commanded by one of the best soldiers in the army, the opinion that he had never seen anything more perfect in the whole course of his long military experience. Colonel Fenn is, indeed, well known to be as energetic and efficient a commanding officer as there is to-day in the service. We were glad to learn that a number of our Militia officers were present at the inspection.

The Toronto *Globe* has had but little to say lately on the Jesuit question, of which no one but a few fanatics in Ontario are interested in keeping the embers alive, but it consoles itself with extra instalments of pessimism, on the assumed slow increase of population in the N. W.; on the hospitalities of Rideau Hall, as to which it parades some very small statistics, which extend down to an item of "three corkscrews," and sarcastically congratulates the people at large on their vicarious feasting there through their representatives; and on certain representations of the Dominion Immigration Agent at Brandon as to the wages which may be expected in the N. W. by certain mechanics and artificers. In this latter snarl it is unfairly assumed that the rates quoted at the time are represented as what can be earned in perpetuity. As a matter of probability the rapidly increasing demand in the N. W. for all sorts of artificers' work will sustain the rates quoted (\$2 to \$3 a day) for a considerable time. At all events the *Globe's* cavillings at everything are evidently inspired by that worst of pessimistic spirits which is reckless as to depreciation of its country so long as it can gratify party spleen.

Pursuing the subject of a note in THE CRITIC of 10th instant, we quote the following passage from the *St. John Educational Review*:—"But these simple minded men (the early Christians) could more easily see a great mystery in the remarkable lettering of the word fish, taken from the Greek testament, than in abstruse astronomical knowledge, so generally unknown even to the comfortable Christian of to-day, who can get it, much of it, even in a free advertising almanac. The Greek for fish is: *Ichthys*. There were here, in order, the initials of the name above all names—the name of Him for whom they lived, the name of Him for whom they died: *Iesus Christos, Theou Uios Soter*, "Jesus Christ, the Son of God the Saviour." The fish, *Ichthus*, was therefore the emblem, the symbol of the great name and its attributes, which should not be even lightly spoken." This is no doubt true, as well as the zodiacal influence. Peculiar stress was laid by the Jews on coincidences in words, syllables and letters, which they carried to an extreme of superstition. It developed into what is called the "agadic" method, and the word "ichthus" is one of its most remarkable, and at the same time one of its fairest, examples. In another note we give some explanations of this term, and at a future opportunity we will give another striking instance of the influence of the method which is, we believe, but little known to general readers.

The American attack on Canadian Railways has been no doubt prompted partly by a general jealousy of Canadian railway enterprise but perhaps principally by the Wall Street railway monopolists. A senatorial commission was appointed to investigate the matter, but so many local interests in the United States would be imperilled by any definite action hostile to our roads that it is safe to say none need be feared. There has been an entire lack of evidence before the commission favorable to the designs of the Wall Street men, and in answer to the contention that American Railways were working at a disadvantage against the state-aided roads of the Dominion, it has been proved that the United States roads have practically received far more valuable Government subsidies than our own. Meantime a large number of influential American papers are outspoken in their condemnation of any action calculated to cripple the facilities afforded to many sections of the Union by Canadian lines. The *Chicago Tribune* and the *Philadelphia Record* have written strongly on the subject, and the *Bangor Commercial* and the *Portland Press* dilate on the irreparable damage which would be done to Portland by "wiping out the great business now done by the Grand Trunk" to the benefit of that port. With so many important sections of the United States thus arrayed against any hostile measure we think we may rest in peace, and the discussion of the question should result in giving Canadians greater confidence in their position in any future controversy which may arise.