

# TRUTH.

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

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NEW SERIES VOL. IV NO. 209

## TO OUR READERS.

We regret to have to announce that, owing to the non-arrival of the sheets, we have this week to omit the continuation of the story "The Stock-Gambler's Daughter."

In our next issue we will commence the publication of another new story, entitled "Miss Hurd's Niece," which will, we are sure, interest our readers, young and old.

Several changes are under contemplation, having in view the popularizing still further of our magazine with the public. The proposed changes are such as will, we are sure, meet the approval of all our readers.

Will our readers, in view of these facts, kindly bring our paper to the notice of their friends? They can help us in this way more than they have any idea of. If each of our subscribers would secure but one other subscriber, we would soon have a circulation of which we might well be proud.

## TO COMPETITORS.

The attention of intending competitors is again specially directed to the announcement elsewhere of Bible Competition No. 12, closing on November 7th. Al cannot, of course, get prizes, but the list of rewards is so large that it affords a much better opportunity to secure some one of them; and there is no reason why you should not be among the number. We have been unusually liberal this time both in the number and value of the prizes offered; but we look for our reward in the increased number of yearly subscribers, for sure we are that once you become a subscriber you are certain to continue such, as we believe the magazine we give is worth much more than the money we ask for it. The sooner you answer our questions the better the position you take in the competition, therefore do not delay but send your answers and money at once.

## WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

It is commonly reported that not a little dissatisfaction is felt among members of a certain prominent Presbyterian Congregation in Montreal, with reference to the marriage of their minister. He wedded a young girl of twenty, it is said, very pretty and intelligent, but only half his age. Jealousy no doubt has crept in. Some of the members are said to be very unwilling to recognize one whom they have known from childhood as their minister's wife. Of course it is really none of their business whom their minister marries, so long as he marries a respectable woman; but unfortunately many congregations intermeddle far too readily in their minister's private concerns.

If correctly reported, the matriculation fee for the ladies' classes in McGill University under the Donald Smith Endow-

ment would seem to be unnecessarily high. Some of the daily papers place it at \$40. Now unless this is a printer's mistake, we think \$40 is too much. That together with the session's fee of \$20 will have a tendency, we fear, to prevent some from coming forward who are anxious to do so. No fault can be found with either the subjects for entrance examination, or the course of study. The first include Latin, Algebra, Geometry, English and History with optional Greek. The second embraces Latin, Greek, French or German, English, Mathematics and Chemistry.

From all accounts the success of the Provincial Exhibition at Ottawa, though satisfactory enough in some respects, cannot compare with the Toronto Exposition.

A good deal of credence is given in some quarters to the report that the Grand Trunk R. R. is negotiating for the purchase of the Kingston and Pembroke railroad. Nothing is more likely. The Grand Trunk needs communication with the region tapped by that line in order to enable it to compete on equal terms with its great rival the Canadian Pacific.

A notable example of the courage and faithfulness of a dog was afforded in Olean, N. Y., the other day. A noble animal, renowned for beauty and strength, took the place of a drunken watchman, roused the guests in a hotel which had taken fire, and by great personal exertions was the direct means of saving several lives. His heroic efforts cost him his own life, poor brute. Making one last effort to be of use in the burning building he was overpowered by smoke and flame, and fell a sacrifice to his noble performance of duty.

Force of association doubtless brings up in this connection the thought of vivisection, and the dogs which, in common with other dumb animals, have been thus sacrificed at the shrine of experimental science. To what extent is vivisection practiced in Toronto, and if practiced at all, is proper care always taken to prevent unnecessary suffering? Those specially interested will at once say "yes," for of course it all depends on what you call "necessary" in such cases. We have spoken with young enthusiasts who held that even torture was "necessary" in certain cases, and therefore commendable. They would justify anything in the name of science and investigation. We are willing to admit that to a certain extent vivisection is not only excusable but necessary. It cannot be doubted that valuable discoveries have been made by its means. But in spite of all that has been said to the contrary, we as yet fail to see that the absence of an anæsthetic can ever be justified. Vivisection practiced on the quick nerves of any animal, and especially such highly organized animals as

the dog or cat, is criminal brutality. We do not certainly know to what extent vivisection is practiced in Toronto, but from certain indications we should be disposed to think it by no means an unknown quantity. And any one who has a wide acquaintance at all among medical students knows this, that there are men in their ranks whose zeal for science would not make them too squeamish about omitting the merciful anæsthetic.

French newspapers still continue to indulge in a great deal of silly blustering talk against England. Some of them are fairly rabid, and foaming at the mouth, being hardly restrained even by ordinary decency of language from showing the bitterness of their hatred against their neighbors. A paper lately started bears the expressive motto "Down with England." There is no immediate likelihood however, that such bravado will lead to serious consequences, though there is a certain amount of willingness on the part of the French authorities to gratify the warlike spirit of the people. Their crushing defeat by Germany rankles in their hearts yet, and they would like nothing better than a good chance to wipe out that bitter memory with some splendid triumph.

No wonder that loud complaints are heard from citizens living on or near Yonge street north of Bloor. The state of that street is disgraceful.

Men are very fond of laughing at women about being the slaves of fashion, having no independence of character, preferring to wear clothing unhealthy or ugly but fashionable, rather than make themselves singular by wearing something else, and so on. The truth of the matter is, that men have very little reason to throw stones at women in this respect. Here is one instance, for example. There are quite a number of men in this city who profess to think knee breeches much more desirable things than the ordinary long trousers. They are not only cheaper or say they, but healthier, more convenient, and more becoming. And yet do they ever wear them on the street? Not they. One or two bolder than the rest, may do so, but the great majority prefer to drift along quietly with the crowd. No, the tyranny of fashion has slaves among men as humble as are to be found in the ranks of women.

And so there is not that amount of Christian feeling and brotherly love in the Charles St. Presbyterian Church of this city that would be desirable. There is said to be urgent need for somebody brave enough to "bull the cat." It is unfortunate when one or two members are inclined to play the bully and ride roughshod over the opinions of their fellow church-members. If things go on as they are doing, fears are entertained that a

serious breach of harmony will be the result.

Canada did not escape the elopement craze which ran such riot for awhile, for the pangs of calf love caused a very immature youth and a maiden of yet more tender years to abandon the ancestral nests near Ottawa, and try their barely fledged winglets in independent flight.

TRUTH would like to know if any ethnological expert made a close examination of Harry Piper's "Sioux Indians," and if so what conclusion he came to.

Madame Kalomina is bound to give as much trouble as she can to the poor fool who "shook" her in order to make way for a Princess. She returned the first instalment of her "allowance," and being unscrupulous as she is beautiful, it is not likely that any undue tenderness for him or his friends will prevent her from carrying out her revenge. Nor can this be wondered at. She was badly treated without a doubt. And no woman ever quite forgives the *spretus injuria formæ*. It is said that she threatens to make certain revelations about Louis of Hesse that will cause commotion.

It is evident that both the Democratic and Republican newspapers are beginning to have strong suspicions that they have allowed the bilge waters of scandal to flow far too fast and too freely in this present campaign. They are both a little ashamed and a little afraid, as men are who have raised spectres which they cannot lay. And now it would be hard to say which side is most eager to lay the responsibility of beginning such tactics on the other.

But it is to be altogether regretted that things have taken the course they actually have done? Surely not unless the unwarrantable position be taken that a man's moral character has absolutely nothing to do with his fitness for high official trust. If the fierce light which beats upon the mountain heights of worldly ambition reveals hidden things of darkness in the character or life of any aspirant, then notwithstanding the pain and humiliation caused to the individual, for the nation, it is well. Will it not be much gained if by reason of this very pain and humiliation ambitious youths, straining their eyes to the hours of the faraway future, learn this lesson, that spotless purity of character must be as essential part of the equipment of a President of the United States as commanding abilities or official honesty.

Sir David Mcpherson's eagle eye, say they, is still bright with fond anticipation of the day when he shall reign over the establishment on the corner of King and Simcoe streets, in the room and stead of Lieutenant-Governor Robinson.