

A good many of the orthodox ministers in the orthodox churches have had knocks to give at the "strolling evangelists," of whom so much is now heard. These "spiritual tramps," as some delight to term them, may be a great rock of offence to many of the old school, but after all the men of the world have learned to discriminate among them. There is no gainsaying the fact that much good has been accomplished by men not in "orders" in any church or denomination. Possibly much of the sayings and doings of many associated with the Salvation Army, and similar classes of workers, are extravagant and quite contrary to the time-honored methods of Christian work, but if experience shows that men of dissolute habits and of wicked lives are reached and reformed through such agencies, what are we that we should refuse to recognize them as successful co-workers in a good cause?

Word comes from Montreal that Rev. Mr. Bray is again charged with preaching doctrines by no means orthodox. TRUTH supposed no one expected much orthodoxy from that source for a long time past. Mr. Bray is one of the sensational sort, and would sooner be charged with something irregular pretty often than to settle down into insignificance. When he was imported to Canada, years ago, it was expected he would raise a great deal of stir and draw many men unto him. And so he did for a time; but he has not proved a man of sufficient force to sustain his reputation with the sensation-loving people. His first church got financially too deeply involved to be kept afloat, and so it was sold for debt. His own and Mr. Roy's congregation were then united, and now the two of them have dwindled down to rather a slim house full. Whether any charges, even though well sustained, of heterodoxy would now revive the drooping interest is doubtful. Mr. Bray has also tried his hand at sensational journalism, but that, too, proved a failure. It takes an able man to ensure established success in the sensational line. Mr. Bray is evidently too light for that kind of business.

The judgment given by the Privy Council last week in the Queen vs. Hodges case, seems to confirm the validity of the Crooks Act, and if this proves true, the Dominion License Act of last year will, of course, prove worthless. In a few days the full text of the judgment will be at hand, and then people can see for themselves just what it means.

Word comes from Ottawa that, notwithstanding these doubts, Sir John is already making numerous appointments under the provisions of the McCarthy Act. TRUTH is not well posted in party manoeuvres, and therefore does not understand just what may be at the bottom of the steps being taken. It looks now as though we are to have, this year, two license laws in force in Ontario, and two entirely separate sets of licenses issued. The liquor sellers are, no doubt, sorely perplexed to know under which king's banner it would be safe to enlist. Are we to have a regular Rat Portage muddle in Ontario all this year over the liquor license business? Things now look like

that. What a pity a vexed question like this cannot be amicably settled, without putting people all over the Dominion to unnecessary trouble and annoyance about it.

Certain of the South Carolina railroads are employing a new method for escaping State regulation of fares. They compel whites and blacks to ride in the same cars, much to the distaste of the proud South Carolina Caucasians. They cannot do otherwise, they say, under the existing rates as fixed by law. If the act regulating rates is repealed, they promise to provide separate cars for the races. It will be interesting to see how far the Legislature will regard social pressure and race prejudice.

The theology of the zealous but unlearned evangelist may be sadly lame and biological, and poorly in accord with the great "standards," but many men of the world are, after all, much inclined to feel that religion is not so much a matter of correct doctrine, important as that may be, as of good living, which may be of still greater importance. The teaching of sound doctrine unless it brings forth the good fruits of sound living does not do much for the moral regeneration of the world. Men are to be known more by their fruits than by their beliefs.

TRUTH is more than half inclined to believe that some of our able ministers who so heartily condemned the methods of worship apparently so extravagant and so sensational, would do a wise thing to visit the places of these meetings, often enough at least to learn the secret of their success—that is, their success in keeping up a sufficient interest among the people to draw them out night after night. Admitted that many of the methods are neither refined or decorous, yet it must be admitted on the other hand that for months and years together the houses where these meetings are held are crowded, night after night. Why cannot the more comfortable churches, with much better opportunities, and much better skill, and much greater learning and ability, at their command, be as successful, or more so, in attracting the common people to their ordinary services? Surely all will admit that it is a very unsatisfactory state of things to conduct a highly orthodox service in the presence of a large number of empty seats, when it is as evident as noonday that there are plenty of people available to fill them all, if the people can only be sufficiently interested to induce them to attend. In many cases the unlettered "Officers" of the "Army" draw crowded houses to their services every evening while the highly-educated and eloquent minister next door laments the absence of a large majority of his people. It may be the learned man could learn something from the illiterate one if he would only set himself to doing so.

Gladstone is a man of sufficient prominence and power to be a shining mark for that class of human fiends that delight in the murder of great men. The police authorities have received sufficient information to warrant their being on his guard continually. Even when the great Pro-

mier is attending a prayer meeting in his own parish church it is deemed necessary to have an escort of policemen. What a pitiable state of things we have come to when a man like the "People's William" is in danger of assassination! Surely the arch agitators in the mis-called "Irish movement" must soon find that they have outraged the respect and sympathy of the whole world. A dose of dynamite or of lynch law, may yet be necessary to cure some of these turbulent characters of their diseased cravings. Probably few people in the world would so much dislike to have their own remedies applied to themselves. It may have to come to that yet. Desperate cases often require desperate remedies.

Unhappy Ireland! What is that country coming to! Almost every day accounts are sent of some man being convicted of murder, and some other murderer being hanged, and probably the same day's reports give the details of more murders being committed. Year out and year in the bloody work goes on of murdering men and of hanging the murderers. Informers are shot down in the streets to the evident satisfaction of thousands of people, and yet almost every day some new informer turns up. There are no records as bad, in these days, from the lands of heathendom. Is there some curse from Heaven on the unfortunate land? Surely the thirst for blood cannot always continue as it now does. On both sides of the Atlantic many Irishmen appear to be actuated by the same spirit. The very day that Carey's murderer was hanged in London a Fenian meeting was held in New York at which one prominent member gravely proposed to raise a fund sufficient to pay a bounty of \$10,000 for every Carey killed, and a still bigger sum to the man who will "fix" the convicting Judge. Somebody has well said that Ireland has produced some of the best and some of the worst people in the world.

The Judges in Spain have evidently ideas of their own about the way that justice should be administered, in some cases at least. One honored judicial dignitary in Spain is just reported to have adopted the plan of punishing all dealers in adulterated food by confiscating the food to the charitable institutions of the city. It is evident that "The Court" in that case did not believe in anything being wasted. Adulterated food, of course, is unwholesome and unfit for sale, and those in the charitable institutions should enjoy all the benefit of it! Was it Bill Nyo who gravely proposed to solve the great question of the Indian difficulty in the United States by furnishing every Indian with all the raw whiskey he could drink? The man who did that must have been a cousin to the Spanish Judge who confiscates all the adulterated food for the benefit of those in the charitable institutions. In the course of a few years the Indians and the mendicants, liberally supplied with raw whiskey or with adulterated food, would give but little trouble to those on whose hands they have formerly been a burden.

For a long time past complaints have been made about the abominable smells

and the sickly atmosphere of the Toronto City Hall buildings. There has been any amount of inquiries and theories in regard to the disagreeable state of things, and some proposed the radical measure of tearing down the buildings, or else their abandonment, so as to save in a healthy condition the lives of the city officials. The reporters of the daily papers now inform the public that the whole mystery has been solved. A drain, running under the buildings, has been closed at its mouth by some crib work at the harbor, and in consequence the gases from its stagnant contents have made free their escape in the walls where they were least required. TRUTH only wonders that some of our scientific men had never suspected that before. Let us hope that our civic officers may breathe more freely and with less impurity hereafter. It may be well worth thinking about whether other buildings, over other drains, may not be in just as bad a predicament. Many a valuable life has been lost by disease generated from a defective drain, or an undrained cess-pool. Would it not now be well to set some sharp-scented navy digging round the old Court House?

Somebody is taking note of the fact that while reductions of wages are being pretty generally made in connection with nearly every work of much importance, the reductions are not, after all, so general and sweeping as some might imagine. In connection with the Canadian Pacific railway, for example, the daily pay of the navy is reduced largely, but it is said that the yearly salaries of the chief officers at headquarters remain just the same. Probably the same state of things exists in a large number of other railway corporations, nor is it different in corporations outside of railways. A few years ago the Ottawa Government, in a spasm of economy, reduced the daily pittance of the char-women from 90 to 75 cents, but there was not a fifteen cents reduction at the same time in the seven thousand dollar salary of the Premier. That is a horse of quite a different color, you know. When the men who have it in their hands to regulate rates of salary begin to reduce their own then you may feel assured the pinch is felt all around.

Trades Unions, both in England and America are becoming more popular with the laborers and more dreaded by the capitalists. The problem between capital and labor is not solved yet, by any means. The conflict seems to grow more fierce and desperate each year. In England the Trades unions claim an aggregate membership of over 600,000, and in the United States nearly a quarter of a million. In Canada the number may not be known, but it is considerable. The employers of labor will yet have to band themselves together in unions in order to fight out the great battle.

In the Southern States new industries are constantly springing up since the blight of slavery has been removed. In Alabama rose tree culture is being conducted on a large scale. Two gardeners, with three acres under cultivation, have sold this year over twenty thousand trees to customers North, and three times as many