

# TRUTH.

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## WHAT TRUTH SAYS

The dangers to which dwellers in cities are exposed are not confined to those which originate within the city itself, through the ignorance or indifference of the inhabitants, or imperfect sanitary conditions. Dangers from without likewise threaten. One of these is the possibility of importing diseases from dairy farms. That this is a real and not an imaginary danger, experience has placed beyond all doubt. Many facts go to show that it is possible not only to carry the germs of consumption in the milk of cows infected with tuberculosis, but also the germs of such diseases as typhoid fever, scarlet fever, etc. The published accounts of the investigations made in or near London, under the direction of the health authorities of that city, concerning the cause of certain localized epidemics are among the most interesting and valuable of recent contributions to sanitary science. Epidemics of scarlet fever have been traced through the milk supply to dairy farms where one or more cows in a herd had the disease or something very closely resembling it, or where the disease was found in the dairyman's family. It has repeatedly been shown that localized epidemics of typhoid have been caused by the transmission of germs in milk supplied from dairy farms where persons were suffering from this disease, and in some instances the infection has been accounted for by the discovery that the milk pails were washed in water from a polluted well. A few days ago the prevalence of typhoid fever in a certain district of the city of Waterbury, Conn., caused an inquiry concerning the milk supply to be made. There were about thirty cases, and it was found that all of the affected families had been buying milk brought into the city from the farm of one Dibble, in the adjoining town of Middlebury. One of the Waterbury doctors says: "This man Dibble is sick with the fever, and his hired man was taken to the hospital some time ago, where he died of the same disease. A brook runs by the house, and it is possible that some of the germs were washed into it, and, as the cattle drink from it and the milk cans were probably washed in it, this stream would be an excellent channel for spreading the disease."

The immunity which Canada has hitherto enjoyed from tuberculosis among her herds makes the danger of contracting consumption in this way very remote to dwellers in Canadian cities; and were this the only disease to which consumers of milk are exposed our people might well dismiss their fears. But with respect to the importation of typhoid and scarlet fever germs the case is different. In this regard we are constantly exposed. That no epidemic has arisen from this cause is owing more to the good fortune or good sense of our dairymen than to any measures taken to prevent such a calamity. But that all the suppliers of this important article of food have sufficient hygienic knowledge to carry them through a visitation of typhoid in their families in such a manner as not to expose their customers to the disease, or that all have such a lofty estimate of their duty to their fellow men as would lead them to take extra precaution in a matter of this kind, is a view of the case which few have charity enough to believe. On the principle, therefore, that prevention is better than cure, some provision should be made by the health authori-

ties, of large cities especially, for frequent inspection of the herds and farms from which milk is brought into a city for sale, and by properly qualified veterinarians and sanitary experts. The owner of the cows or some of his employees may be ill with infectious disease, or the milk may be exposed to infection from polluted wells or streams. It is plain that in respect to detecting disease germs the use of the lactometer, which discovers whether the milk has been robbed of its cream or adulterated with water, is of no avail. To protect the community in this respect nothing less than frequent inspection of the dairy herds and surroundings where the milk is obtained will suffice.

A sensational story has been going the rounds of the press during the last few days to the effect that the negotiations between Secretary Blaine and the British Minister for a settlement of the Behring sea difficulty had come to an abrupt close, and that Sir Julian Pauncefote, the representative of her majesty's Government, had notified Mr. Blaine that if the American revenue cutters seized any vessel flying the British flag the British fleet, now assembling at Victoria, B.C., would receive orders to recapture the vessel. Being interviewed in regard to the report Sir Julian Pauncefote gave it a flat contradiction, saying not only were the negotiations still in progress, but that all indications pointed to a satisfactory and amicable adjustment of the difficulty. The man who in this hot weather, when everybody aims at exerting himself as little as possible, would not hesitate to give currency to a story calculated to put a nation in a stew, deserves no better fate than to be transported for life, or to be held up for perpetual execration as a descendant of Ananias.

The scramble for territory in Eastern Africa between England and Germany, which has been going on more or less earnestly for the last four or five years, has had the effect of directing public attention to that part of the Dark Continent to such an extent that colonial operations elsewhere have generally passed unnoticed. Meanwhile France, who chose for her field of operation western Africa, has not been idle; but without any blare of trumpets has quietly gone on extending her influence until now she spreads her protecting wing over an extent of territory which any of the nations might envy. Five years ago her only notable possession, north of the Gulf of Guinea, was the colony of Senegal. That colony, in area, is now only an insignificant part of her dominions, for the policy inaugurated by Gen. Faidherbe in Senegambia has advanced France's boundaries to the Niger, has overthrown the large empire of Samory on the south and added it to the French possessions, and finally through the remarkable journey of Capt. Binger from the upper Niger to the Ivory Coast, it has extended the French influence to the Gulf of Guinea. This explorer made treaties with the rulers of the large native kingdoms of Tieba, King and Bondouker, and with the chiefs of smaller states on the way to the sea by which they accepted French protectorates. The possessions which France now claims extend unbrokenly from the Senegal River to the Ivory Coast on the Gulf of Guinea including a vast area lying behind the British territories of Gambia and Sierra Leone, and the republic of Liberia. France's little s'camers on the Niger in their second

journey to Timbuctoo, have made treaties of protection with several of the shore tribes. The territories that France has acquired within four years, not without several hard campaigns in the countries east and south of Senegal, extend north and south about 900 miles. No wonder that with such success the French are dreaming of a vast empire in west Africa which shall extend across the Sahara, and form an unbroken line of French interests and stations from Algeria to the Gulf of Guinea. Great opportunities for trade have been opened by these acquisitions, and French colonial energy has been rewarded with a rich share of the most tempting plums that have fallen to European nations in the African scramble.

Ask the average farmer when is a cow a cow? and he would likely answer, "When she has had a calf; give me something harder." Simple as the question seems it actually became the pivot on which a case, recently tried at the Division Court in Guelph, was made to turn. While no doubt the popular conception is expressed in the above answer, it does not harmonize with the limitations laid down in the dictionaries which define cow as "the female of the bovine genus." This definition, which is scientifically correct, is not sufficiently particular for practical purposes. Hence two terms have been pressed into service to cover the ground embraced by the dictionaries, viz., heifer, to describe the female of the bovine genus until such time as the period of motherhood is reached, and cow when the animal has had a calf. This popular distinction is not likely to be followed with any confusion or serious consequences unless, as in the case just decided, a money consideration should depend upon the proper definition of the word. The case is interesting as serving to show how the significance of words gradually changes until the old meaning gives place to a new and often very different conception.

The contention of Grant Allen, the distinguished naturalist, that "the instincts of mankind are not monogamous," has received additional confirmation by the conduct of a German who lives in the Canadian town of Berlin. This imitator of Brigham Young is now under arrest, charged with being the possessor of seven wives. His latest love, a widow residing in Berlin, was won only a few days ago, after a wooing, quite by incessant in its nature, of some two or three weeks. This victim of his prepossessing ways and oily tongue, when she learned of his other half dozen alliances strongly objected to being so small a sharer of her husband's affections, and took steps to avenge herself for the deception that had been practiced on her. It is expected that when this much-married man's whole career is overhauled it will be found out that, together with his seven reputed wives, he has all of thirty children, some of whom are married. The case is so aggravated that little mercy may be looked for from the court. An opportunity will no doubt be afforded this trifler with others, to realize, while pining behind the bars, the meaning of the old saw, "In haste, and repent at leisure."

No great surprise will be felt at the management just entered into by the Presbyterian and Congregational churches of Ottawa City, whereby for two congregations will worship together in Knox church in the Congregational church thus allowing each of

for three weeks without trouble or expense. Church union is in the air and most persons are prepared for almost any step in that direction. The circumstance is interesting, however, as a particular illustration of the growth of the union sentiment during the last decade or two. Had anyone ventured to predict, twenty-five years ago, that before his generation should pass away the things now happening would come to pass, he would have found few to believe his prophecy. This coming together of the churches, which, while still adhering to their peculiar doctrinal tenets, are recognizing the oneness of purpose and aim that inspires the different sections, and the many instances of Christly devotion that are found in all, is something in which all who sympathize with the work the church is commissioned to perform will heartily rejoice. The Ottawa example is a good one, and one that might be imitated in many other cities and towns to the mutual benefit of the pastors and people concerned.

What with the advice of Bob Burdette to his son concerning cranks, to whom the noted humorist gives this praise, that they are useful for turning something, and what with the recent theory of the physicians of the Indianapolis Insane Asylum that crankiness is caused by irregularities in the circulation of the blood, some parts of the brain receiving too much and others not enough, it may be taken for granted that the future lot of this much-berated and heartily despised specimen of mankind will be greatly mitigated. Henceforth the element of pity will temper the feelings and judgment of those who encounter these eccentric individuals, whose peculiarities will no longer be regarded as the products of natural perversity and waywardness, but as simply the result of abnormal arterial circulation. Cranks are to be placed among the world's invalids, among the maimed and incompetent, and their vagaries tolerated as signs of fluctuation in the public pulse.

The twin cities of St. Paul's and Minneapolis are furnishing considerable amusement for the citizens of the Union generally, by the warmth and energy with which they are contending over the results of the recent census enumeration. These cities have long been jealous of each other, and so nearly equally have they contended in the race for superiority that each has flattered itself with the belief that it was larger than the other. This delusion has been dispelled by the official returns, which gives the place of honor to the city of St. Paul. This verdict has raised a indignation, and charges and countercharges of stuffing the census are freely made. As an instance of the acrimony of the contest, one of the Minneapolis styles itself the Minneapolis *Gazette*, has wiped its feet of and now advertises itself simply *St. Paul Minneapolis Gazette*. The *Nov* rallies the warring twins in sincere ex-