

the Liberal Conservative party have permanently parted company.

WHEN one reads of the ferocities practised in by-gone centuries by the Spanish Inquisition, one is strongly tempted to call in question the truthfulness of some of the details. A similar disposition to doubt comes over the mind when one reads of the excruciating punishments which were inflicted, in mediæval times, for offences so slight as hardly to deserve any punishment at all. The history of European settlement in America, again, teems with accounts of cruelties so hideous that the imagination rises in revolt against them. Such narratives have to be gone through with as part of a liberal education, but they are far from pleasant reading. They make the reader ashamed of his species, and it is comforting to him to reflect that these things happened long ago, during a stage of civilization which humanity has long since outgrown.

Are we justified in laying this flattering unction to our souls? Do we really manage these things so much better than they were managed in the Middle Ages? Some features of a case which has just come to light in the Toronto Police Court may almost challenge comparison with the atrocities over which one grinds one's teeth when reading about "the Romans of the New World." A little child of eight years old—a girl—has within the last few days been veritably put to the torture in this city—this city which prides itself upon being the intellectual centre of Canada. The little sufferer has had the palms of her hands placed against a hot stove and held there until they were partly cooked. Then her lips and tongue were forcibly held against the same hissing stove until the skin adhered to the metal. One cold night in November last she was tied up in a stable, and left there until the following morning. The incarnate fiend who perpetrated these atrocities was a woman—the wife of the child's father, and by consequence the stepmother of the child. The father himself was *particeps criminis*, and upon the whole the more despicable of the two, for he was subservient to his wife, and too great a coward to take the part of the unhappy little martyr. Upon one occasion, when the child ran to him fresh from the torture, and with agonized cries exposed her blistered hands, she was informed by her loving parent that it served her right, and that she had not been burned enough. Such ghastly details as these seem hard to believe, but not only have they been established by the clearest evidence, but they have in all essential respects been admitted by the culprits themselves. The latter have been sentenced to a year's imprisonment each, the man going to the Central Prison and the woman to the Mercer Reformatory.

As was naturally to be expected, Henry George's espousal of the cause of Dr. McGlynn in the first number of his new paper has brought down upon his head the anathemas of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York. The proprietor of the *Standard* must be presumed to have counted the cost of the course he has seen fit to adopt, and is doubtless prepared to fight it out on that line. As one of the

most eloquent expounders of his peculiar platform, Mr. George was compelled to take a pronounced stand on this question, and is now reaping the fruits which he has sown. Many earnest Labour Reformers are deploring the inevitable split in their ranks, but Protestant opinion is of course almost a unit in favour of Mr. George's contention. As for the *Standard* itself, independently of this *casus belli*, it has started out under particularly favourable auspices, with a large capital at its back, and it will doubtless be an important factor in the moulding of opinion in the United States. But for some time to come, Mr. George must not expect to lie on a bed of roses.

A CORRESPONDENT in another column calls attention to the Sabbatarian wave which is sweeping with apparently resistless force over our city at the present time. The new organ of Secularism in Toronto has a note on the same subject in its last issue. It is impossible for anyone of liberal ideas to avoid feeling a certain degree of sympathy with the views expressed by these writers. The gloomiest and most unlovely periods in history have been those wherein this rigidly righteous principle has found most acceptance. Who would not pray to be delivered from a recurrence of the Puritan Sabbath? Religion is a thing which "exalteth a nation," as well as an individual, but there is no necessary connection between religion and Sabbatarianism, which is too often a mere synonym for bigotry and intolerance. Those who insist on a rigid observance of the first day of the week, to the inconvenience and discomfort of a large and respectable portion of the community, are surely oblivious of Who it was that said "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." They have forgotten how

"The Sabbath Breaker walked
Amid the golden corn,"

and how he inveighed against those who make clean the outside of the cup and the platter. It is hard, however, to kick against the pricks, more especially at the present time, when the labour organizations and the Sabbatarians find themselves upon the same platform on the Sunday question. The workingman is afraid that if street-cars are permitted to run on Sunday he will be compelled to do seven days' work for six days' pay, and that if milk is delivered or funerals are held on Sunday he will be placed at a similar disadvantage. The Sabbatarians are of course actuated by different motives. Most of them doubtless act from honest conviction; but there is a zeal which is not according to knowledge. Their star just at present is decidedly in the ascendant. They are in fact masters of the situation. But they would do well to bear in mind the old aphorism about the last straw and the camel's back. Several months ago Colonel Denison, in passing judgment in the Toronto Police Court on a case involving a similar question remarked: "There will be a revolt against this some day." Nothing is more certain than that after the wave comes the reaction; and this the ultra-Puritanical element in Toronto would do well to bear in mind.