

moderates of the two parties, Liberal and Catholic, which may eventually lead to concessions to the church, and possibly renewed influence and hope in the Vatican. Ultimately, it is thought, Italy might find in a federated republic a solution of some of the problems which are now creating a perplexity which threatens to culminate in political despair. But it is not easy to see how a change in the form of government could relieve the financial strain which is really the chief source of weakness and danger, unless, indeed, it could bring exemption from the burdens now imposed by the Triple Alliance. That radical change of some kind must shortly come in Italy seems almost inevitable. Whether the change shall be disintegration and ruin, or reconstruction and rejuvenation, time only can reveal.

Where will the ever-widening domain of the mysterious force which we call electricity end? Experiments have been made with the trolley as a mode of propulsion on the Erie canal, with such success that it is now highly probable that the occupations of the horse and the mule on the towing paths will soon be gone forever. Indeed there seems to be no good reason why this new application of electricity should not be at once made to canal boats. In most cases, no doubt, the canal itself could be made to supply the electricity, as it now supplies power for various manufacturing purposes. Among other results that may readily be anticipated from this new application of the trolley principle will be no doubt a great increase in the rate of locomotion on the water highways. Indeed it is not easy to see why canal boats constructed for the purpose may not one day almost rival the railway engine in speed. Such a change would probably make travelling by canal popular, for the motion would be no doubt delightful. From the economic point of view, the doubling of the rate of transit of freight vessels on the canals could hardly fail to have a most powerful effect in popularizing, and probably in cheapening, this mode of conveyance. It is also said that in one section of New York the storage battery for the street cars has been made a success at a cost but slightly greater than that of the trolley system. But imagination almost fails to picture the possible ultimate results of the successful application of the storage battery. The whirling of electrical carriages all over the country, without reference to rails or wires, would be but one of many wonderful adaptations for which we might confidently look.

Ontario seems to be in a fair way to earn a most undesirable fame as the land of brutal and mysterious murders, especially of the aged and defenceless. The past week, which witnessed the judicial "taking off" of one convicted parricide, brought also the news of a fresh horror at Cooksville. The past few years have in fact witnessed a

succession of this class of crimes in this Province. The number of such tragedies seems to be out of proportion to the population, and is in deplorable contrast with the generally peaceful and law-abiding character of our people. How are the facts to be explained? Is it that the unhealthy excitement caused by dwelling upon the horrible details of one story of crime acts upon weak and depraved imaginations until an irresistible impulse is begotten to do something of the same kind? But this law would hold good in one place as well as another, and we are not aware that the same effects have been visible elsewhere to the same extent. Is it the result of indiscriminate immigration, by which a larger or smaller percentage of criminals from other countries is being from time to time landed on our shores? Or is it simply that a certain classes of the employers of labour in the rural districts are too lax in examining the credentials of those whom they employ and admit to their homes and family circles? While Government detectives are diligently trying to solve the mystery of this last dark deed, it is no less desirable that our sociologists should set themselves to study the problem in its broader relations, and endeavor to ascertain what it is in our climate, location, institutions or circumstances, which causes our country to become from time to time the theatre of such deplorable tragedies.

It is gratifying to observe that, with few exceptions, men of both political parties and of all Protestant denominations unite in repudiating what are believed to be the principles and practices of the Protestant Protective Association. Should the members of that Association find themselves credited with aims and motives which are not really theirs, they cannot justly complain. That is often the fate, we dare say, of those who band themselves together in secret societies for the purpose of influencing the legislation and government of the country. Most people are ready to infer the worst. It is natural to assume that those whose principles and methods will stand the light, will have the courage to declare and advocate them publicly. As to this particular body, enough is surely known to make it certain that the organization is based upon creed proscription, and is, therefore, opposed to the spirit of civil and religious equality, which is the corner stone of the Canadian constitution, as it should be of that of every free state. It is beyond dispute that its members pledge themselves not to vote for the election to any office in the state or municipality of any one who is known to be a Roman Catholic. That alone is sufficient condemnation. The success of such a movement would be a long step backward towards the dark ages—the days of religious proscription and intolerance. If, in addition to this, the members

of the P. P. A. also pledge themselves not to engage a Roman Catholic themselves or recommend one to others for employment in any capacity whatever, save in case of necessity, the society becomes not only unjust and intolerant but positively cruel. It descends to the meanness of making war upon women and children by depriving their bread-winners of the means of earning a livelihood for them. It is to be devoutly hoped that the organization does not go so far as this, though some persons of the highest credibility, who claim to have access to the most reliable sources of information, assure us that such is the fact. It is quite probable, however, that just as, during the inception of the society, the public leaders and press failed to realize the strength of the movement, at a time when a little cold water in the shape of plain discussion might have had a good effect, so now that it has shown unexpected strength in one legislative contest, its numbers and influence are being greatly overrated. Yet it is high time, no doubt, for every lover of civil and religious liberty to be on the alert.

It will be remembered that last summer there was a good deal of agitation consequent upon a projected Government sale of the far-famed Thousand Islands, that cluster of emeralds in the St. Lawrence whose beauty is a household tradition among millions who have never set foot in Canada. Under the pressure of the strong and patriotic protests of Conservatives as well as Liberals, the Government was constrained at the last moment to cancel the announcement of the proposed sale. It seems, however, that the project was merely delayed, not abandoned, and now that the public may be supposed to have forgotten the affair, or to have its attention fully occupied with other matters, the announcement again appears in a modified form, intimating that arrangements are in progress for the sale of at least a portion of the islands at an early day. The islands which it is now proposed to sacrifice to the utilitarian and mercenary spirit of the time, or more probably, perhaps, to the persistent selfishness of local wire-pullers, are those known as the Admiralty Group, near the town of Gananoque. A number of these islands have formerly at various times been leased to private individuals, with the result that they are already built upon and monopolized, and thus made forbidden ground to the many who, though unable to afford a house and an island to themselves, are, nevertheless, as well able as the more wealthy to enjoy a few weeks' recreation on an island where they can pitch a tent without danger of being ejected as trespassers. To alienate, and alienate forever, many of these islands from the use of the Canadian people, to whom for generations they have virtually belonged and for whose use and pleasure