

TRUTH.

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

TORONTO, ONT., JUNE 28, 1884.

NEW SERIES—VOL. IV. NO. 195.

Dominion Day Ode.

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While the nations of antiquity,
The feeble and the strong,
Have their deeds embalmed in history,
Or immortalized in song,
Let us sing of youthful Canada, let her banner be unfurled,
And her name, and her fame, be proclaimed throughout the world.

May her sons be aye her glory,
And her daughters be her pride,
May her morals be her bulwark,
And her Bible be her guide,
May wisdom be her counsellor, alike in church and state,
And her motto ever be that the good alone are great.

May her press be aye untrammelled,
And her senate ever pure,
May her pulpit aye be honored,
And her school be made secure,
Till intelligence and enterprise be seen on every land,
And science and religion, be the glory of our land.

May her arts and manufactures,
With the products of her soil,
Be at once the wealth and witness
Of her hardy freeman's toil,
And in the cause of truth and freedom, may she ever lead the van,
In fostering and defending all that's dignified in man.

May her ever-growing commerce
Be aye rattling o'er her rails,
Or, borne onward by her navy,
Amid steam and prosperous gales,
Till her men and manufactures, be diffused through every zone,
And honored, loved and valued aye, wherever they are known.

May rapid be her progress,
May lofty be her name,
May honor, truth and liberty
Be law to her name,
Ever rising 'mid the nations, till like yonder shining sun
She reach that meridian glory, which can never be outshone.

TRUTH'S MUSINGS.

The two men hanged at Picton for the murder of Peter Lazier went out of the world protesting their innocence of the crime, and there has been a good deal of controversy over the matter. Some are convinced from this fact that the men were innocent. The Minister who attended them during the time of their imprisonment appears certain as to the innocence of one of them. Quite a number are inclined to raise the cry of a judicial murder. On the other hand the County Judge, who gave a good deal of attention to the whole case, is particularly severe in his denunciation of those who have given expression to any such sympathy. He is of opinion that the men got their just deserts and that those who cry out otherwise are acting a most criminal part in thus attempting to destroy confidence in our Courts of Justice. There is little or no evidence of the innocence of the two men but their own protests of it and, of course, it would be an unsafe precedent to set to reprove men on any such evidence, for it would soon encourage every criminal to stoutly deny his crime up to the moment of his execution. It is just possible that facts may yet come to light to show that the poor fellows were unjustly dealt by, but it is not probable. It is a very serious thing for men to be ushered into the presence of their final Judge with a falsehood on their lips—if falsehood it was—but what else could be done under the circumstances? No doubt the efforts made to save them,—the petitions in their favour, and the fact that a good many actual criminals have been reprimed by the present Government all had their influence with the doomed men.

It is certainly a very serious thing to punish an innocent man, it is also a very

serious thing to allow any man to escape punishment when little general doubt exists in regard to his criminality. Let it be well understood that every crime is sure to be confronted with its legal penalty and a good thing has been done for the community. The *Independent* goes so far as to suggest that it is even safer to execute an innocent man than to allow a murderous crime to be committed and no one punished at all. That is certainly going a great way. It says: "About a thousand years since that plan was adopted with most admirable results, for every 'hundred' was held responsible for the crime within its boundaries, and when a murder was committed, one of two things had to be done by the 'hundred'—either the criminal had to be found and executed, or some one of the residents in the 'hundred' had to be executed as his proxy. This plan was singularly effective. It had a remarkably deterrent influence, for the knowledge that in the event of murder being committed somebody would be inevitably hanged, made every man a policeman and crime was almost unknown."

Such a system was more in accord with the ninth than the nineteenth century. It is evident enough, however, in too many criminal cases, that our present system of trying and punishing criminals is seriously defective and out of joint. A man with plenty of money at his command to pay large fees to the most clever criminal lawyers evidently stands a fair chance of escaping speedy punishment, if not of escaping punishment altogether.

Recently Philip Emery, said to be a respected citizen of Guelph, became temporarily insane and committed suicide when in that unfortunate condition. He had been attending the meetings of the Salvation Army, and the blame of the poor man's aberration of mind is laid to the Army. It is not an uncommon thing for a man to attempt to do himself harm while "under religious excitement," and generally a good deal is said about it. The possibilities are that religious excitement is not so much the cause of insanity, as is often supposed, in many instances it is the effect and not the cause of insanity. This was the view expressed by Dr. Workman several years ago when he was the Superintendent of the Toronto Insane Asylum. Few men were considered better authority on such matters, and his opinion was generally received with a great deal of respect. He argued that in many instances the "unusual religious excitement" was the first indication of insanity and that other unmistakable indications followed, and people were too much inclined to mistake the effect for the cause,—that religious excitement did not naturally tend to mental aberration, but rather otherwise. This is a subject about which doctors differ and TRUTH will not undertake to decide. It is well worth inquiring into, however, whether the popular idea of the mental dangers of such ex-

citement are as great as many people are inclined to imagine they are.

Another outcry has been raised about "bungling hanging" in connection with the recent Picton executions, and the man who had the job of hangman on that occasion, has since been disowned by his fellow workmen at Kingston. The hangman's business as such, ought to come to an end, whether hanging ceases to be a legal penalty for capital crime or not. Why should not the sheriff in every instance be compelled to do this part of his official duty as well as anything else that may be disagreeable in connection with the duties of his office? The Sheriff is, in this instance a representative of law and authority and no one should be legally allowed to tamper with the life of a criminal but some such representative in his official capacity. There is something revolting in the very idea of allowing any one else, for the sake of a few dollars, to be the instrument of taking life. As well might the Judge hire some court crier to do the disagreeable work of pronouncing sentence. Surely the system of employing common hangmen, at so much for the job, ought to cease.

The semi-centennial celebration here next week promises to be a grand affair, and TRUTH would advise all its friends to come to the city and enjoy as much of the week's festivities as is at all practicable. Toronto is a fine city for a summer visit, anyway, and everything may be expected to be at its very best during next week. Little fear need be apprehended about procuring accommodation during the visit, and, judging by past experience, little fear need be entertained that such extortions in the way of charges will be practiced upon strangers as have made some localities to be dreaded. By all means visit Toronto next week if you can find it at all convenient to do so.

The dynamite agitators appear to be as active as ever in England, and the vigilance of the authorities is not of much apparent consequence in putting an end to their plans and schemes. The latest sensation is the proposal to carry dynamite across the country in balloons, dropping the charges in such places as very serious harm can be done. Some are inclined to treat the rumors with a good deal of ridicule, but it is quite evident that the government authorities are well convinced of the gravity of the situation. As it is, the country is kept in much suspense and dread because of the dynamiters. Nearly every public building of importance in London, or elsewhere, is constantly guarded, the Thames embankment is carefully watched, the leading members of the government are escorted by guards wherever they go, the Queen when on her travels is a source of continual anxiety, a pilot engine is sent in front of her train to see that all is clear, and the people are excluded from the stations through

which she must pass. How long this state of terrorism is to continue no one can tell. The only wonder is that lynch law is not resorted to in order to rid the country of such human pests.

The revelations made during the past few days in connection with the evident rascalities of the "Mutual Marriage Aid Association" in the Hamilton Police Court are additional evidences that "the fools are not all dead yet." Men are so greedy to become rich without honestly earning their money by actual industry that almost any proposed scheme of rapid money getting is sure to find devotees. For some time past the "Association" has been advertising very generally the facilities it gave to people to put in one dollar and take out five or ten, and it is now pretty evident that its leading spirits reaped a good harvest. It is well that the fraud has been exposed. In one small town alone it appears that three or four thousand dollars have been paid to the concern, and no one got any thing back. Some of these victims have the reputation of being sharp business men, too. Probably there is not a county in the Province where there are not some victims. Few can pity them. It is said that so many were the "insured" that, at times, as many registered letters passed the Hamilton post-office to this Association as to all other business men of the city combined. What will be the next grand scheme to induce people to part with their money? Probably we shall soon see. It generally happens that one scheme is hardly exposed before another one is proclaimed, and it generally happens, too, that each scheme has a fair share of dupes.

In Washington Territory, U. S., women enjoy equal rights of citizenship with men and serve on juries in the same way. As the experiment is now, as well as important the result must be of interest everywhere. One of the High Court Judges, Roger G. Greene, in his recent charge to the grand jury, gave his experience as follows:—The number of courts holden by me, since our laws that put woman on her present political plane became operative, is seven, at six of which women served on both the grand and petit juries, and as to the manner in which they performed jury duty I have yet to hear from any one who, by actual presence in the court and intelligent following of what was going on became qualified to pass an opinion, a single adverse criticism, or any word but praise. Heartily I concur in what thus appears to be the general judgment of competent observers. In selecting from the entire panel of jurors parties at every term have shown a decided preference for the women as jurors, and no grand jury ever in session in this Territory has done prompter, cleaner, better work than those which have sat in this district during the last six months.