

Reform in ladies' dresses is very much needed, both on the score of health, ease, comfort, and even appearance. It is a matter of wonder how women can move about so well as they do. They have not a fair chance. Nothing could be more abominably cumbersome than these long trailing dresses which seem intended to sweep up all the filth that is going. Then these stiff unyielding corsets are out of the question. They are better than they were, but they are bad enough still. TRUTH goes for women wearing trousers, or what is called divided skirts, with all earnestness. It would be better every way and is sure to come. When it does everybody will be astonished that women could have stood the abomination so long.

When so many are poking in the ash barrels of our back lanes and picking among the garbage they find there, mustn't things be in a pretty bad state? It does not look much like "booming."

Is this world getting worse rather than better? TRUTH hopes not, yet a good many things point in that direction. The struggle for life is said to be getting always harder, and the condition of women workers, especially in large towns and cities, seem to be perfectly deplorable. What wonder is it that in their recklessness they go to the bad. One almost wonders that men don't. Would all be put right if only the land were arranged as as Henry George would have it? Pahaw! It is moral remedies that are wanted, not merely material ones. Think of people having the face to offer a woman five cents for making a dozen shirts! Think of snug go-to-meetin' drygoods men offering salaries to lady clerks on which they cannot possibly exist, and then they coolly telling them that, like the rest, they could eke out their incomes by the way of iniquity! Such things are done though, both in London and New York, ay, and a great deal nearer home. In Toronto matters have not got to that pass in which they are in too many other places. Still things are tending in that direction. Life is a pretty hard struggle any way, but girls, don't make it worse by taking the downward way.

It is rather too much of a good thing for Matthew Arnold to be drawing a pension as a pauper or at least a poor literateur. He has a salary of six or seven hundred pounds a year as school Inspector and he gets well paid for anything he chooses to write. In the circumstances it seems rather beggarly for him to take such a thing as a hundred pounds a year from any literary fund. More like the thing for him to help some of his poorer brothers out of his abundance.

In Britain those who are not yet sexagenarians can well remember the time when it was thought a matter of wonder, nay almost for horror, that any one should wear his beard, while in those days Punch had his little joke to the effect that if one found a solitary mustache he could not be wrong in coming to the conclusion that it belonged either to a military man or a fool. How different it is now in England need not be said. At the same time the

beard has as yet never invaded the sacred Episcopal Bench in the House of Lords till the irrepressible Ryle, Bishop of Liverpool has broken through all use and wont by appearing with a full hirsute appendage to his face in the very presence of the Lord Chancellor, and on the bench where shavelings hitherto had exclusively been wont to congregate. Who shall say what will be the end? Perhaps all their Episcopal Lordships will yet be bearded like the pard and all their priests and deacons ditto. Shaving, after all, is said to be but a monkish innovation.

It would be curious if in their jealousy of England, Germany and France should join hands. Quite as strange things have happened. If it would serve his purpose Bismarck would go for such an alliance tomorrow. The man of blood and war is not wedded to one way. Nor does he fancy that it is compatible with high statesmanship to keep up enmities. He clearly recognises the propriety of the advise, treat your friends as if they have one day to be your enemies, and your enemies as if they have one day to be your friends.

What is to be done with the Federation of the British Empire? Is the House of Commons to become a mere local Parliament for England, and there be a grand new Federal affair got up for the whole empire? In the last degree unlikely. We shall see by and by what is proposed.

What is the right kind of dress for women? Who shall say with anything approaching to authority? Why should women have hard, stiff, stays? Why should they have long dragging skirts to sweep up any quantity of dirt and dust? What is there in the nature of things to prevent a woman with perfect propriety and womanliness wearing what are called "divided skirts?" As far as onlookers can judge there is no reason whatever. Is there anything offensive or indecent in a girl say of 12 or 15 having short skirts reaching not far below the knees and more or less ornamented trousers or drawers or call them whatever is preferred? We could never see that there was. On the contrary a girl of that sort with a nice broad brimmed hat and a becomingly made jacket with all the other accessories, has always struck TRUTH as specially comely. She used to walk with a free innocent step, all her movements natural and agile, a real thing of beauty and a joy to the beholder. Why that should be graceful in a girl of 15 and thought to be ungraceful or indecent when she has become three years older has always appeared something which no fellow could understand. As to trains a yard or two long there is no use speaking of them. They are too absurd and indefensible for a single word to be said in their defense.

TRUTH does not pretend to be a great champion of what are frequently called women's "rights," but it does claim to be a great champion of women. It will go as far as any in saying nice things about the sex. A misogynist is a poor fool and any man who affects to sneer at women is

no man at all. He will be found to have always but a small head and a still smaller heart. Of course he will pretend to be a great believer in man's superiority in every way, but if man's superiority depended upon his achievements it would be in a bad way. In many respects TRUTH thinks that women have not got fair play in the past. In many cases they are not getting it yet. But they are getting more of it, and will do. Their education has been neglected. Absurd laws and usages have hampered and depressed them. They are the weaker vessels and have in too many instances to go to the wall. Men have made all the laws and too often have made them for their own advantage. It is all right that women should look forward to being wives and mothers, and happy wives and mothers at that. But there is no use in saying that wifehood is the one great glory and ought to be the one great ambition of women. Many necessarily can never be wives, but they may lead honoured, honourable and useful lives for all that. Multitudes have to make their own living, surely they ought in that to have, at least, a fair field. Why should this, that and the other thing be called "unwomanly?" Of course the great danger with women is falling from virtue. The snares laid for them are so many. The power of resistance is often so small, and a fall with them is so infinitely more disastrous than with man. He can go in spite of his immorality. Alas! she can't. It tells upon her so dreadfully. The ruin is so complete. If woman could only be coaxed in to being more self-respecting she would have secured a very large portion of her "rights." Why will she be such a fool as to believe the lies that designing knaves whisper in her ears? Women who talk of the right of her sex should dwell especially upon the fact that unsullied virtue lies at the very foundation of all the respect and of all the rights women can ever secure. They can't dwell upon that with too great emphasis. TRUTH has tens of thousands of women among its readers. If all of them could be persuaded of the truth that unsullied virtue is the first thing, a great advance would be made. If men are allowed an inch they will take an ell. If women would all teach the other sex that they were neither fools nor toys, what a mercy it would be!

Why is the regulation at the Wiman baths forbidding bathers promenading the pier when vessels are leaving or coming in, disregarded in the way it is? It is not seemly to have boys and young men diving off the piers and the steamers, and in other ways posturing and making exhibitions of themselves in the way too many of them do. The regulation referred to should be enforced, or the Wiman baths will deteriorate even further than they have already done. Neither the Wiman baths nor those at Hanlan's Point are anything like what they ought to be or easily might be in point of water accommodation. At the Wiman the spot where the children go in is really nothing more than a mud puddle scarcely deep enough to cover the body of any one lying at full length. Nor does there seem to be any means of changing it. It is

dirty and apparently unchangeable, so when the breakwater is finished it will be a wonder if the sand does not fill it up altogether.

When the bathers enter the bay, the water is better of course in point of cleanliness, but there is no depth to it except alongside of the piers, precisely the place where the bathers have no business to be and where they would never be permitted if matters were properly looked after.

At the new baths, the water where most of the boys and girls go in is little, if at all, better than at the Wiman. It is simply stagnant water, and one wonders how any child with fair ideas of cleanliness could ever bring itself to go in.

In other respects, however, both bathing houses are quite well fitted up. Apparently they are well provided with bathing suits, though we would advise intending patrons to provide their own, and the dressing room accommodation is all that could be desired.

As to the bathing suits, however, complaints have been made in our hearing that boys have been seen in some which were the very reverse of decent. Care should be taken to prevent anything of this kind. The tendency always is where institutions, so sure to be popular as bathing-houses, are quite free or very nearly so, that the ruder classes practically gain complete control, and hinder more refined people who would gladly avail themselves of the benefits, from doing so. Therefore, it should be an object of very special care, and we have no doubt it will be, on the part of those who have the management of those baths, to prevent any conduct that might affect sensibility.

Far too few people know how to swim, and every opportunity should be given to all classes of the community to learn an art at once so useful and delightful.

Indeed we are of opinion that if it could only be managed a sort of swimming school for children should be established. The facilities already established in the shape of baths could be made use of, and regular classes could be formed, and meet on certain days at either Hanlan's Point or the Wiman baths. We are sure that many parents in the city would be glad to see such classes established. Professor Andrews, we understand, gives instructions at the Wiman baths, but not that we can discover in any systematized way. If swimming as well as some other not more useful accomplishments were looked upon as essential parts of every child's education, it would be a good thing.

We have been speaking most particularly of Toronto, but the same thing applies, with equal force to every part of the Dominion. Parents leave the acquisition of the art of swimming far too much to hap-hazard. As a general thing if a boy ever learns to swim he does so without any active co-operation on the part of the parents, sometimes in spite of quite active opposition. As for the girls, it seems never to be thought of. Now if matters in this respect were properly attended to, we might be known as a nation of swim-