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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1878.

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THE WEEK.

THE recent accident on the Thames was of an unusually appalling character. The excursion steamer Princess Alice, which was sunk with such frightful results on the 3rd inst., while on return from Gravesend to London, by the screw collier Bywell Castle, was one of the largest saloon steamers of the London Steamboat Company. She left London about eleven o'clock for Gravesend and Sheerness, many excursionists being induced by the fine weather to go for a holiday trip. The vessel left Gravesend on return soon after six in the evening and arrived within sight of the Royal Arsenal, at Woolwich, about eight. Bywell Castle was then approaching on the opposite direction. The steamers were near the middle of the stream off the City of London gas works at Beckton, and below the North Woolwich Gardens, almost the precise spot where the fatal collision occurred between the Metis and Wentworth ten years ago. All that is known amid the maddening excitement, is that a screw steamer struck the steamer Princess Alice on the port side and an unparalleled scene ensued. Very few clambered on the other vessel, but nearly all rushed to the afterpart of the boat as the bow subsided gradually under water. The shrieks were fearful, and nothing could be done to save life. There were a dozen or more life buoys on board, and some boats swinging in the davits, but even if they could have been got at they would have been of little service, for within five minutes the Princess Alice keeled completely over and went down. Some small boats hastened to the scene, and another steamer belonging to the same Company; also on the passage up the river with the excursionists went to the rescue, but the river for a hundred yards was full of drowning people screaming in anguish and praying for help, and as it was growing dark, not much could be done. It is believed that not more than 150 escaped out of 800 aboard. The cause of the disaster is believed to be that both the vessels were rounding the bend

in the river caused by the projection of the point of land whereon the powder magazine and Woolwich Arsenal is situated. To turn this point the Princess Alice had crossed over to the right bank and was thus out of her proper course; her lights were probably obscured by the shadow of the powder magazine, and being much smaller and lower than the Bywell Castle, the latter was upon her before danger was perceived.

Considerable attention has been drawn to the subject of mere secular education as productive of immorality and impiety, by the remarkable publication of Sergeant Cox on "Punishment," which is deserving a large amount of consideration. He is decidedly of opinion that the increase of crimes of fraud is the result of an education that is exclusively secular. He says: "The three R's alone do do but give to the evil disposition a greater desire for self-indulgence and more skill for the gratification of it by dishonest means * * Crimes of dishonesty are the product of selfishness. They proceed from the wish to possess without the labour of acquisition. Few steal for the mere pleasure of stealing, but to gratify some desire, or to supply some real or imaginary want. As the first and invariable result of education is to increase a man's wants, the immediate effect is to increase the inducements to crime among those who have not the means wherewith to indulge their wants. Hence education without the restraint of religion, far from being a remedy for crime, as some enthusiasts imagine, is more likely to multiply it. But under any circumstances education changes the direction of crime, and substitutes crimes of fraud for crimes of vulgar larceny and violence. * * * It gives a distaste for hard manual work. * * * The school-taught girl pants for more genteel and more liberty-giving employments than those of the nursery or the kitchen. The boy longs to be a clerk, the girl to be a milliner; but as competition for these employments multiplies, the struggle for honest life in cities grows more intense."

Now, the moral of all this is that no diminution of secular education is to be sought, but an increase of religious teaching. In Canada, the Church has all but entirely ignored her duty to feed the lambs of Christ's flock, having allowed the State to appropriate the secular department; and as for religious instruction, all that can be said about it is that an hour or two in a Sunday school once a week is deemed sufficient for all necessary purposes. No wonder that the sects and denominations around us make so much progress at the expense of the Church's interests.

The Southern plague has been raging during the past week with undiminished fury. The death rate has been as large as before. At New Orleans physicians have been fined fifty dollars for neglecting to report cases. The Peabody Subsistence Association issue an address to the people of the United States

for additional aid, for though large sums of money have been subscribed, and a great number of nurses and medical men provided, yet these have been quite insufficient to meet the demands made upon them. A member of the Board of Health recommends turpentine as a deodorizer, and some have recovered under what is called the cold water treatment; but, whether in consequence of it or in spite of it, is not stated. Appeals for assistance are exceedingly urgent from the relief committee of Louisiana, from the Association of the Army of Tennessee and from various other quarters; but although the whole country seems deeply impressed with the vastness of the calamity, yet the desired help is far from being sufficient. In Memphis 105 deaths took place in twenty-four hours; the next twenty-four hours reported a hundred and one deaths. The fever is all over the city, the condition of which becomes more desperate every hour. Whole families are stricken within a few hours. There were 300 new cases on the 8th. On the 9th at noon there were 70 deaths. At Holly Springs there is no help of any kind; the town is deserted, so that only six hundred people are left. Cooks, druggists and medical men are wanted. The Relief Committee are destitute of funds, having impoverished themselves to help Grenada. At Delhi, La., almost every individual is down with fever. At Grenada the fever has exhausted itself for want of victims. The mayor and postmaster are dead, the express agent is ill with the fever, and the mails are irregular. Of the 77 who died at New Orleans on Saturday, 28 were children under 12 years of age. It is feared the fever is about to take a new start. New York gives ten thousand dollars a day towards the relief fund. On Saturday last the amount was fifteen thousand; and the whole sum raised up to that time was \$150,000.

The Austrian occupation of Bosnia will evidently be attended with bad results. Their troops there number 200,000 men. Operations on a large scale are to be conducted at once, when the so-called "insurgents" in the neighborhood of the frontier, numbering 25,000, are to be taken in the rear by simultaneous movements from three points. We regard this as the one weak point of the Treaty. These people want their liberty. They are perfectly able to take care of themselves. And if neither Turkey nor Russia have control over them, why should Austria have the privilege of killing them off?

We are much pleased to chronicle the fact that those in Canada who are diving into the mysteries of the newly discovered Assyrian lore have trebled, if not quadrupled, their number during the last six months. They will be glad to learn that Mr. Rassam has just deposited his recently acquired treasures, consisting of portions of Assurbanipal's library, and other literary and artistic curiosities.