

The Planet

S. STEPHENSON, Proprietor.

ABOLISH THE USELESS OLD RELIGION

The Woodstock Express says: "There is some talk of reducing the advertising charges in the Ontario Gazette and otherwise improve that uninteresting journal. This brings up the question—What use is the Gazette anyway? Nobody ever reads it, not even those who take it, unless they are looking for some advertisement on their own. In the case of a sheriff's sale, for instance, it is money utterly thrown away. One insertion in a local paper is bound to reach some of the people interested and does more good than all the advertising that ever can be done in the Gazette. Its only use seems to be to give employment to a few favorites. It should at least not be compulsory to advertise in it."

The Express represents the popular opinion regarding this imposition upon the public. It serves no useful purpose, as only a few interested officials ever read it. It is one of those relics that have come down to us from a red tape period of early days. The Ontario Gazette should go and go at once, and so should the one published at Ottawa. They are both a charge on the public.

A GREAT RELIGIOUS REVIVAL AHEAD.

The world is on the eve of a great revival, according to the views of many Detroit clergymen. They think that free thought has reached its limit and that now the reaction is about to commence and last throughout the next century. Rev. J. M. Thoburn, a prominent M. E. ecclesiastic, summarizes the expectations of the clergy as follows:

"I believe we are on the eve of the biggest revival we have seen in many years, one which will extend to all churches. There is an extraordinary revival spirit abroad, one which has not existed so generally in the last twenty-five or thirty years, since Moody's great movement."

"There seems to be a widespread conviction on the part of men through the whole Christian world, that there is to be a great revival to mark the close of the century. Higher criticism and speculative art have reached their limits, and the reaction has come. The cry is 'Back to the church.'"

"I have had no special meetings myself. Every service I hold is a revival service. It often happens that the effort of a church to pay its debts results in increase of spiritual life. The more the purse-strings are opened, the more religion comes pouring in. Then again it is true that the more religion gets into a man the looser his purse-strings become."

"The end of the century is a fitting time for a great movement. Only one-third the human race sees a century mark. The rest are in between. The idea sobers men. It takes a great event to sober some people—as great as the flying of a century. And to-day there is certainly as much need of a revival of religion as there ever has been."

CANNOT FIND ANYTHING TO REFORM.

The government organs are trying to leave the impression that the government program for the coming session at Ottawa is to be short and simple. In the first session the government could not enter upon reforms, because there had been no time to get them ready. The last one has now been reached and behold there is nothing to reform. All the alleged evils that were condemned by the Liberal platform of 1893, except the franchise bill, remain. Most of them are intensified. This was shown last week in respect to the debt, the taxation and the expenditure. It could be shown that the number of ministers, pronounced by the party to be too large, has been made larger; that the government has practically abolished the competition system in making public contracts, and is now farming them out to favorites at private prices; that the attempts of the auditor general to keep the payment of money within the rules prescribed for the protection of the public funds have been set aside; that the expenditures on Rideau Hall and other establishments which formerly worried Mr. Mulock and Mr. McMullin have grown rapidly; that monopolies have grown more powerful and more oppressive.

Still there is nothing to reform. Insolvency legislation, promised year after year and always deferred, will stand over once more. The government railway law, which Mr. Blair has always been going to introduce, will not appear. Mr. Fielding's bill about fraternal societies is not forthcoming, though he has headed off many private bills because he has always had it in view. It is now known that no result of any kind has followed or is likely to follow or was ever intended to follow the plebiscite, for which the country paid a quarter of a million out of the treasury and several times as much in the time and money of the people interested. We have a fran-

chise law that does not work, a preferential tariff that does not prefer, two-cent postage which leaves a deficit to be paid out of the taxes, fast line steamship contracts which failed and lapsed, a senate reform resolution which the government withdrew and will not repeat, an appeal to the people on prohibition and a disregard of the verdict. And the government is disposed to let it go at that and close up the business of the term without further reforms.

If there is any preliminary work to be done before the council commences paving the leading streets, now is the time to do it. There is no use waiting until the men ought to be tearing up the roadbed to begin to talk about the kind of pavements to be used. Ald. Sulman's motion is in the right line.

The Ross Government has been holding a secret meeting with the American nickel refiners. Mr. Ross had better drop that sort of thing. The people want to know how their business is conducted.—Hamilton Spectator.

The fellow who stole those cigars, which the Banner had secured to send with the second contingent to South Africa, has much to answer for. The mental effect of the blow seems to have been paralyzing. That journal has taken to writing delirious interviews with itself under the guise of "Old Conservative."

The Ontario Government has changed the crown timber regulations so as to require spruce cut on crown lands to be manufactured in Canada, the same as pine. Over and over again The Record has advocated that this policy should be applied to all our natural resources, including timber, minerals and natural gas.—Windsor Record.

In other words the Record has advocated the Tory policy and voted Grit. There is consistency for you.

HOW LONDON GETS CHEAP TELEPHONES.

London Chronicle.

Hitherto, one of the greatest difficulties in the way of telephonic extension has been the great cost of laying a separate line for each subscriber. With the new year a new system is to be tried at Norwich, known as the "party line," which will obviate this and at the same time give telephone calls on the penny-in-the-slot principle. On the party line principle eight subscribers, for instance, can be put upon a single line, but as it will only transmit one message at a time, they must at times wait for each other.

Against this must be set the reduced cost. For two persons it would be only 10s. per month; for four subscribers, 7s. 6d., and for eight, 5s., which represents the minimum. If the penny in the slot meter does not total up to 5s. in a month they must be made up to that amount when the collector calls. A penny is put in the slot for each call; when a subscriber is called up there is no charge. Under the new plan there is no "ringing up," taking the receiver off the hook lights a tiny electric lamp at the exchange, and the attention of the lady clerk is at once gained.

LIFE'S A BLANK.

Without Hearing—Catarrh Induces Deafness—Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder Gives Quick Relief.

W. Ernest Lewis, of West Flamboro, was so bad with Chronic Catarrh that his hearing seemed permanently impaired. Doctors treated, specialists tortured for five months, but his hearing grew worse. He was recommended to try Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. One application gave him great relief, and a couple of bottles cured him permanently.

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The Day Rate, The minimum Night Rate is 25 cents except where the Day Rate is 1 s.

WORTH KNOWING.

There are over 10,000 villages in Russia where no school exists.

A recent census in Paris shows that there are no fewer than 17,735 doctors in that city.

The value of the fruit consumed in Great Britain every year is estimated at £10,000,000.

There is a "ready-made" tailor in Sheffield who has this advertisement outside his shop: "Wear our 21s Suits and you will have a fit."

While the number of children and youth in the United States is 21,082,472, the total enrollment of American Sunday schools is but 9,718,432.

German Anthony Comstock has had photographs of Lucas Cranach's "Adam and Eve" and Adrian Van der Werff's "Diana and Callisto" removed from Stuttgart shop windows.

Duke Karl Theodor of Bavaria, the sculptor and brother of the late Empress of Austria and of the ex-Queen of Naples, has just celebrated his silver wedding at the castle of Tegernsee.

Klaus Groth, the Plattdeutsch poet whose verses encouraged Fritz Reuter to write in his native dialect, recently celebrated his eightieth birthday. It is twenty-five years since Reuter died.

A gold cross of honor has been given to a Berlin cook, Johanna Mock, by the Empress Augusta for fifty-five years' faithful service in one family. She was passed on from mother to daughter.

In nearly every street in Japanese cities is a public oven, where, for a small fee, housewives may have their dinners and suppers cooked for them.

The proposal that the German empire should contribute \$12,000 towards the Goethe monument in Strasbourg has met with determined opposition in the Reichstag.

Herr Pollock, a well-known engineer and electrician, at Vienna, is said to have discovered a means to telegraph 60,000 words per hour over a single wire.

According to statistics gathered regarding the bubonic plague, it is established that there have been 250,000 deaths recorded in India since its beginning. These figures, however, are undoubtedly far below the actual total, as the natives are known to have concealed many deaths.

It is not generally known that the remains of all the Czars of Russia since Peter the Great lie in a memorial chapel built on one of the islands of the Neva. All the cenotaphs are exactly alike, each being a block of white marble, without any decoration whatever. The only distinction by which one is marked is the name of the deceased Emperor.

Miss Blunt, a great-granddaughter of Lord Byron, was lately married to Neville Lytton, a member of the Bulwer-Lytton family. After the wedding at Cairo the couple rode ten miles across the desert to her father's place, near Heliopolis, where they were welcomed by a troupe of Arabs and Bedouins, who, in honor of the festival, roasted a whole flock of sheep.

Judge Davis, a new occupant of the bench on the Lafayette county (Mo.) circuit, has set aside the long followed practice in that jurisdiction of locking up juries. At the conclusion of the evidence and argument in a criminal case a day or two ago the judge said: "Mr. Sheriff, show the members of the jury to their room, and give them the key and let them lock themselves in."

There is no more reason why a jury should be locked up than that a judge should when he is considering a case.

One of the oldest milestones is to be seen in the museum at Leicester, England. It is a cylindrical block of sandstone, roughly inscribed with an abbreviated statement to the effect that it was erected during the emperorship of Caesar Hadrian, son of Trajan, conqueror of Parthia. It also says: To Leicester, two miles." The Hadrian milestone was discovered over a century ago beside the ancient Fosse way, and narrowly escaped being converted into a lawn roller by the unromantic and practical rider.

SALUTES OF RULERS.

Emperor William is one of the two European monarchs who delight in a hearty handshake. He has a strong grip, and the person honored by him with a clasp of the hand is apt to remember the dignity thrust upon him. William usually kisses royal friends. When he visits or is visited by a monarch he kisses him three times on each cheek.

Under no circumstances will Franz Josef of Austria shake hands with anybody except brother sovereigns. A nod and kindly smile is all he ever vouchsafes the most distinguished of his subjects.

Nicholas of Russia shakes hands with no one but a fellow monarch. Relatives he kisses on the forehead. Every one who comes to see the king of Italy finds a handshake and hearty greeting if the king likes him. Humboldt is a democratic king.

Sweden's king does not like official handshaking, and rarely gives one of his ministers his hand. When he is off the throne and free to be himself he is different, however, and shakes hands as heartily as one of his own subjects.

Only with relatives will Queen Victoria shake hands. Outside her own family she occasionally gives her hand to be kissed. The Prince of Wales, on the contrary, likes to shake hands, and always offers his hand to the person who is introduced to him.

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