

ours under which all are free and equal." Yes, they need a good many universities in Brother Blaine's great "free and equal" country, to keep up the supply of "culture,"—especially at the Presidential election contests, when the language indulged in by editors and orators is enough to make even an uncultured man blush. What is needed about as much as anything in these days seems to be a university in which politicians and political writers shall be taught to be cultured and refined at all times and in all places.

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This is surely the age of syndicates and centralization: and we must confess to the belief that the large bazars of our great cities, as conducted on the present competitive cut-throat plan, are most hurtful to trade generally. In the larger cities of the United States these stores have made deep inroads into the bookseller's business, because selling at a slight per cent. above cost, they are able to sell much more than the legitimate bookseller. In Canada we have not had much of this heretofore, but we are unfortunately rapidly catching up to the United States idea, as may be seen from the following advertisement of a great Toronto dry-goods house, clipped from a daily paper:

"Yesterday's mention was of a new department soon to be opened. To-day we follow with another—a subscription agency. We are agents for two thousand leading American and five hundred British, German, French and Russian periodicals, any of which we can furnish to single subscribers at any time in the year at low rates. By this means any person desiring to subscribe for various magazines and newspapers may do so with the greatest economy of time and expense. Hand your subscription to us, and there your trouble and responsibility end. We take care of the rest."

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Just how far authors may go in denouncing our present social condition is a question evidently still unsettled. Mrs Annie Besant, of unsavory reputation, who left her husband because of their disagreement upon questions as to the relations of the sexes, is not meeting with much success in striving to pose

as a martyr on this point. She was friendly to a questionable extent with Mr. Charles Bradlaugh, and the two collaborated on a book called "The Fruits of Philosophy," the publication of which was suppressed. More recently she was a candidate for membership on the London school board, and the Rev. Mr. Hoskyns, a Stepney rector, issued a circular in which he animadverted severely on Mrs. Besant's career, alleging that she regarded chastity as a crime and unbridled sensuality as a virtue, whereupon the lady brought an action against the reverend gentleman, and on the case coming to trial, the judge charged strongly against the plaintiff, but the jury disagreed. Trial by jury may be a fine institution, but would it not have been better to have had a decision one way or the other on the point raised? If the present law that the whole jury must agree is found to work injustice or indefinitely postpone the settlement of important questions, then the oft-agitated proposal that a two-thirds vote of the jury should be accepted is surely worthy of further consideration.

SHOULD LIBRARIES BE OPEN ON SUNDAYS?

The *Library Journal* prints the paper on "The Sunday Opening of Libraries," by Mary S. Cutler, of the New York State Library, as read at the Conference of Librarians at St. Louis, May, 1889. The paper is supplemented by most elaborate statistics, which will prove very valuable for reference purposes, and which certainly demonstrate the care and attention given to the subject by the compiler.

Miss Cutler makes an earnest appeal for the opening of libraries on Sundays, but we cannot see our way to agree with many of the arguments advanced.

As usual, when the question of Sunday observance is under discussion, the "intelligent working-man" and the "laboring class" come in for no little consideration. Well, we do not know the sentiments of the working-men in the United States on this question,