

It is assumed by the promoters of the new Sunday Bill that the Street Car employees are debarred from attendance at Public Worship. This is not the case. Only a very moderate proportion of their hands are continually employed on Sunday, and, as we understand, provision is made for each of these to attend Divine Service, if he so desire, once during the day.

One of the provisions of the proposed new Sunday measure is, we believe, that, in effect, no man is to be allowed to pursue his usual avocation on the Lord's day. One of the duties of the sexton is to ring church bells. The ringing of bells is not a work of necessity, and it has been very fairly argued that a sexton doing so might himself be found guilty of an infraction of the new law, and become amenable to its penalties.

We cordially congratulate our St. John contemporary the *Sun* on its splendid special number of the 3rd inst., in which it gives a perfect historical summary of the business of that much-alive city. To comment on it in detail is beyond our space, but a perusal of it leaves us with the impression that the enterprise of the St. John Press is the natural outcome of the energy of the city. Among the very numerous subjects touched upon is that of the Carnival, in which we wish St. John every success.

The commencement of the St. John Carnival on Dominion Day is auspicious, but we are inclined to think that ten days, which we understand are to be allotted to it, is almost too long a period not to flag towards the end. We hope it may not be so, but be that as it may it has suggested itself to many Halifaxians that the time to begin our own Carnival would be in three or four days after the finish of that of St. John—say the 15th—unless the good folks of St. John see fit, on mature consideration, to curtail their time. With a day or two's intermission, many of the St. John visitors would probably be ready to come on to Halifax and "continue the motion."

An English exchange informs us that the scheme of an ocean penny postage has now been brought within the range of practical politics. "With £60,000 saved by the revision of the post-office stationery contracts, ocean penny postage may be established with the colonies, Canada, the United States and Australia. The Postmaster-General states that in one week 2,000 postal money orders came from Australia of the value of 10s. to £5, and from Canada 6,000 of the same range of value. This is more than a thousand postal money orders a day from kith and kin to the old folks at home." If this be correct, and so great a desideratum should be attained, it would become impossible to retain the high three cent rate for inland postage in Canada for any length of time.

Whether or no the French Government is wise in prosecuting the Patriotic League, it has certainly done itself credit by cancelling the decree of banishment against the Duc D'Aumale. Of all the Orleans Princes the Duc D'Aumale is the most respectable—perhaps we should say noble—for his long career is entirely untainted by pettiness or even indiscretion. Beneficent, firm, prudent, and ever ready for any duty, his country might impose upon him, a man of letters and a good soldier, his gift to the nation of his great estate of Chantilly after his ostracism had been pronounced, evinced a calm magnanimity which places him in the highest rank of Frenchmen. As the Duke is now old and has no children, the Republic runs but little risk in recalling to his native land a man of such incontestable purity and patriotism.

We are always sorry to find ourselves in antagonism to the clergy, or any section of them, but we are compelled to unqualified condemnation of the effort now being made to impose further stringent and unwarranted restrictions on individual liberty in respect to the observance of Sunday. It is assumed by the clerical promoters of the proposed measure that such restrictions are desired by the Province at large. We have good reason to believe that the assumption is without foundation, and that the movement is simply the outcome of a determined clerical hostility to the convenience of the citizens of Halifax in the running of the Street Cars on Sunday. As we have urged before, Sunday is better observed in Canada than in any other country in the world, and ecclesiasticism should be content to leave alone that which is well.

Owing to wide-spread and disastrous floods over vast Provinces in China, thousands of the subjects of the Celestial Empire are in imminent danger of starvation. Many have already thus perished miserably, and many more must die before succor can reach them. A pitiful cry for help is wafted from across the ocean to us in America. This appeal deserves a prompt and even a lavishly generous response. These teeming millions require not only to have their immediate wants ministered to, but they must be supplied with seed that they may raise the crops that are to feed them in the future. And these Chinese—though heathen—have just claim on the sympathy and generosity of the civilized and Christian world. The Hungarians, when flooded out, the famine-smitten Irish of Connemara, the Americans, fever and panic-stricken, all have been aided by Chinese money. Indeed, we know of no great public need of help in any part of the world that has cried out to a deaf ear in China. That human ant-hill, after ages of seclusion, no sooner admitted fellowship with the rest of the world than it recognized the brotherhood of man and its fraternal obligations, and dropped its portion into the contribution when the voice of distress was heard. China felt the thrill of the fraternity of man when the Western nations needed charity, and should now be made to feel the pleasures of Christian reciprocity when their own need cries for help.

The most fearful terrors the world has known have been those which have been perpetrated in the name of religion, and instigated by men whose sincerity had blunted their every sense of humanity. The most atrocious of these horrors were those of the Inquisition. Next, perhaps, the tyranny of the witch-burning Puritans, and this last was almost equalled by the autocracy of Calvin at Geneva. The difference between the persecutions of old and the intolerance of to-day is in degree only, not in kind, and there is not an instance of clerical dictation in legislation which has not contravened the better sense of the public. Very nearly all paternal legislation is in the highest degree objectionable, but that which is prompted by ecclesiasticism is the most meddlesome and mischievous of all. We rejoice to see that the Halifax Press is a unit on this question and unites in condemnation of the proposed new Sunday measure.

"Up to 1791," said a writer in the *Week* some three years ago, "the small French population of Canada was in a position to be converted into an English colony with traces of French sentiment and language, which would have slowly disappeared. But at that date William Pitt the younger brought into the House of Commons two Quebec acts, which constituted two Provinces—Lower Canada, with a full provision of French laws, language and institutions; Upper Canada, with a production of English laws and social system. During the debate Pitt declared on the floor of the House that his purpose was to create two colonies distinct from and jealous of each other, so as to guard against a repetition of the late unhappy rebellion which had separated the thirteen colonies from the empire." It is curious to note how far reaching may be the effects of political acts, and how totally opposite to the intent of the originator may be their far distant results. Little could Pitt dream that the civil and religious privileges he was craftily conceding to the French Canadians would become a factor often troublesome, sometimes dangerous, to the cohesion in the future of another set of Provinces.

Expressions of dissatisfaction about the Militia administration are becoming more and more frequent. The clothing is now furnished by Canadian firms, and even if it costs a little more under such an arrangement, the small extra cost would be worth paying, but if the quality is bad, as it is, asserted to be, the advantage vanishes. Some very strong opinions have been expressed in the Commons even by Conservative members. The fact is politicians, from Sir John Macdonald downwards, have got firmly fixed in their heads the idea that any partizan who has to be gratified will do for a Minister of Militia. We have never had a really good one since Sir George Cartier; though it is not improbable that Mr. Jones would have made a very fair one had his tenure of office been longer. This mischievous idea extended downwards for a long time, and one D. A. G., retired some time since, was the most extraordinary instance of incapacity ever put into a staff appointment. Without a good head, department or district goes to the dogs, and good military men are not to be picked up everywhere by the waysides of the muddy roads of party. This is a matter the public should be alive to, as an able man is always cheaper in the long run than a poor administrator.

The remote dates of any intelligence we receive of the gallant Stanley leave so terribly wide a margin for anxiety as to what may have happened in the interim, as to materially temper the satisfaction of being, at long intervals, carried a month or two down the sluggish stream of time. Nevertheless it is with renewed hope and confidence that from time to time we find success attending his heroic courage and energy. We now learn of his safety and that of the equally gallant Emin Pasha up to Sept. 4th last, at which time they were reported to be marching together towards Zanzibar with several thousand men, women and children. The thrill of satisfaction with which we receive this news will have been intensified to many of our fellow citizens by the accounts which accompany it of the capability and bravery of Lt. Stairs, Stanley's Chief of Staff. This gallant young officer, who, after graduating high at the Royal Military College at Kingston, was for three years a most efficient Surveyor and Civil Engineer in New Zealand, then received his commission in the Royal Engineers, and was subsequently selected by Stanley for the onerous position to which he has done so much credit. He had it appears been severely wounded below the heart by an arrow, and all Halifax will rejoice with his relations and more intimate friends that his recovery is, like his wound, a matter of the past.

The storm of aggressive ill-feeling, nonsense and opprobrium, which attended the Presidential election, having, as we expected it would, very considerably abated, it is now quite within a reasonable hope that the deeper substratum of mutual appreciation and good-will between England and Canada and the United States may experience a wholesome upheaval to its original level. Incidents sometimes happen opportunely. A new United States Minister, bearing a highly honored name, has been appointed to the Court of St. James, where he is certain of a cordial welcome, and there is no indication that the newly delegated Plenipotentiary of England to Washington will be otherwise than acceptable. Meantime, two international amenities which have recently occurred will certainly not tend to set back the returning current of good feeling. The officers of the British Channel Fleet, having cabled to the U. S. Secretary of the Navy their sorrow for the recent loss of life at Samoa, and their sympathy with the American Navy, received from Mr. Tracey a highly appreciative reply, and a similar satisfaction has been manifested in American naval circles at the marked respect shown by the English Fleet in Chinese waters to the memory of Rear Admiral Chandler, Commander-in-Chief of the American Squadron, at the obsequies of that officer at Hong-Kong. This is as it should be.

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