



TRUTH FOR THE PEOPLE

OLD SERIES—17TH YEAR.

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"TRUTH" VILLA!

In **TRUTH** Bible Competition now running, particulars of which will be found in Publisher's Department, there is a handsome Toronto City Residence to be given away, as well as a host of other costly prizes. This residence has just been completed, and is now occupied by Mr. Suckling, the junior partner in Messrs. Suckling & Sons, piano, organ and music dealers, 107 Yonge Street, Toronto, at a rental of \$22 per month. The number is 22 Ross Street, close to College street. It is one of the nicest residence streets in Toronto, block-paved, boulevard-ed, well-lighted, well sewered, and nothing but good residences on the street.

It will be positively awarded to the sender of the middle correct answer of the whole competition. Don't delay sending in your answer a single hour. One dollar only required for four months' subscription to **TRUTH**.

Other large and costly prizes will also be given, and this will, for the present, positively close our competitions, as they have not been nearly so well supported as our liberal outlay would justify.

WHAT TRUTH SAYS.

The contest in the House of Commons over the Government Franchise Bill appears to have resolved itself into a test of physical endurance. The Government party seem determined to press the measure through without much discussion, or real consideration, depending on the well understood majority in the House to push the measure through anyway. The Opposition, on the other hand, have resolved on the policy of obstruction, and at every stage of the Bill as much speech-making and delay is being tried as is possible. The hope is that, by some such means, delays may be so made that the members will get tired and compromise in some way rather than remain in Ottawa indefinitely, or something else may turn up to prevent the passage of the Bill in its present shape. We shall yet see what determination on the one hand and on the other will accomplish.

It is a pity that the attention of the country is so much drawn off to the North-West from Ottawa at a time when such an important measure as the Franchise Bill is before Parliament. One independent journal well says: "To bring on a political crisis with a military crisis already in existence, merely for the sake of forcing on everybody a uniformity which nobody desires, was surely not the part of a statesman." The independent papers of Toronto appear to be unanimous in their condemnation of the important features of the Bill, and of the policy of pushing it through at this particular juncture. There are strong evidences of the un-

popularity of the measure with the people. No doubt if party pressure was not brought to bear in its favor the great majority of the people would condemn the measure as unnecessary and unjust in some of its leading provisions.

As it is, party feeling runs so high in Canada—in Ontario especially—that it is a hard matter to get an honest expression of the people on any great party measure. The Opposition press appear to feel in duty bound to oppose every Government measure, no matter what it may be, and its influence is greatly lessened because of that understanding. The Government papers, on the other hand, never show any hesitation to endorse any measure proposed by the Government no matter what may be its objectionable features. Happily for the country a strong and ably conducted independent press is becoming well established, capable of discussing and of judging measures on their real merits.

There is a grievous disappointment among of the leading wire-pullers—the spoliemen—of the Democrat party at Washington because of the failure of President Cleveland to create vacancies among the present office holders throughout the nation. The clamour is not, really, so much because the men in office are inefficient or unworthy, but because they occupy places wanted for themselves or their friends. For twenty five years the President has been elected by the Republican party, and, of course, the men of that party got all, or nearly all, the offices. Now that the party has been defeated the wire-pullers are looking for a general overturn—a wholesale dismissal of the quarter of a million or so of office holders throughout the nation, and the division of the spoils among the victors.

The "spoils system" has been in operation so long in the United States that few seemed to expect it would stop. When the Democrats were in opposition many of them spoke loudly in favor of the civil service reform system—the appointment of men on the score of fitness rather than in consideration of mere party service—but probably all this was intended as a good bid for popularity rather than an honest expression of a desire for a change. President Cleveland appears to have become a convert to this kind of preaching and seems determined to practice in office what he advocated in opposition. Of course, that was not just what the spoils men expected. Many of them can see little advantage in a Democrat victory, or little use of a Democrat President unless it is the means of filling the offices with live Democrats.

Within a few days the long promised and long talked of Bartholdi's Colossal Statue, "Liberty Enlightening the World," will arrive in New York from France. It will be remembered that this is a present from the French people to their friends in the United States, prepared at a very great cost. It has been frequently described, but the figures will bear publishing again. The statue proper will be the largest one ever construct-

ed. It will weigh 440,000 pounds, of which 170,000 pounds is copper, and the remainder is wrought iron. It is nearly 160 feet high, and this is to rest on a stone foundation and pedestal of about the same height, making 305 feet in all. The French people expect the pedestal to be furnished at the expense of those to whom the great present is made, but for years the work of raising the necessary funds has been very slow, and it sometimes seemed as though it would fail altogether. The *New York World* recently undertook the matter and over \$50,000 have been secured through its efforts. A large number of men are now hard at work and probably by the close of the year the grand statue will stand at the mouth of New York Harbor blazing forth from its top a grand light arto be seen af, both on sea and land.

Writing of the probably successful efforts of Mr. Gladstone to avert war with Russia, regarding the Afghanistan question, *Harper's Weekly* very well says: "It is, indeed, hardly possible that any English statesman can doubt the significance of the whole movement in Asia, and as the Afghans are an uncertain ally, and as the Russians count on a mutiny in India whenever they make a serious and declared hostile demonstration, the situation is of the utmost sobriety for England. To avoid war, to satisfy English pride, and to restrain Russian encroachment at this juncture would be a stroke of more consummate statesmanship than has been seen for many a year. But to avoid war without sacrifice of honour or of any real possession, if it be possible, has been the duty and the aim of Mr. Gladstone, and every man who knows what war is and what its consequences are will heartily wish him success."

Riel's capture, following so soon after the fall of Batocho, marked the collapse of the rebellion so far as the Halfbreeds were concerned. And later dispatches bring the welcome news that Poundmaker has surrendered to Col. Otter. This intelligence, though coming sooner than was anticipated, was not altogether a surprise. That the Indians would continue in revolt after the Halfbreeds had been smashed was not to be expected. Indeed, if Riel and his emissaries had not excited them to rebellion, all the horrible atrocities of this Indian uprising would have been avoided. Herein lies Riel's greatest sin, and if by any extenuating circumstances he could be pardoned for persuading the Halfbreeds to take up arms, he must never be allowed to escape the punishment he deserves for enlisting the loyal Indians in his service.

Riel is morally and legally responsible for the murders and outrages committed by the Indians since the outbreak. For the indignities, worse than death itself, to which Mrs. Delaney and Mrs. Gowanlock have been subjected, he is answerable. For the broken hearts and desolated homes, made so by the "ruthless destroyer," the arch-rebel, is accountable. His guilt is fully established, and the infliction of a just punishment must be forthcoming.

Already, it is asserted, there is a hesitancy as to what penalty, if any, attaches to Riel's crime. The absolute stoicism with which the announcement of the rebel chief's capture was received by the House of Commons is ominous. Why either political party should hesitate to give expression to its feelings on the occasion can be accounted for upon no other ground than that they were afraid of alienating the support of those who may be more or less in sympathy with the insurgents. The conduct of the Opposition in thus displaying the spirit of the craven is even more reprehensible than that of the Government. From the former have come, ever since the outbreak, effusive protestations of loyalty and loud-mouthed expressions of hope that the leaders would be caught, but when the time for rejoicing arrives they are found to be possessed of the very same disposition of party time-serving which they have so much deprecated in the Government. But temporising will not be tolerated this time, and if the clemency extended to the rebel leaders after the former insurrection be again repeated, the consequences to the Government would be most disastrous.

The proposition made in some quarters to present the volunteers each with a quarter section of land, is a good one. Not only would it be a slight recognition of their services, but it would also give an impetus to settlement in the particular locality where the grants might be made. Of course if the suggestion is acted upon the grant would also extend to the friends and relatives of those who have fallen in the fray.

The revised version of the Old Testament, which was given to the public last week, has been received with every manifestation of approval and favor. Critics are almost a unit in declaring it to be an admirable and learned work, undertaken and completed in a brood, and yet conservative spirit, with the conscientious aim of giving to the world the true and literal interpretation of the original text. The revisers have proceeded cautiously, rigidly adhering to the old version where it truly expressed the meaning intended to be conveyed. In the labor of translation the profoundest scholars of two hemispheres have been engaged. The result is seen in the elegant diction and simplicity of expression characterising the whole work, and which, apart from its value as being the Divine revelation to man, possesses a literary merit which challenges the admiration of Christian and sceptic alike.

The cholera scare has not assumed the proportions in Canada which the subject demands. Not that there is any certain danger of the dread disease making its appearance here during the approaching summer. But if the people were more fully alive to the dreadful consequences which would result if the country were visited by cholera, there would be some preparation made with a view of preventing the spread of the terrible scourge. The extraordinary effect resulting from cholera inoculation, which is being practised in a province of Spain, is attracting great attention.