

WEEKLY WITNESS.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Births.	25c per insertion.
Deaths.	25c " "
Marriages.	50c " "
Contract.	1 year. \$3.50 per line.
Rates.	6 months \$2.00 " "
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DAILY WITNESS, 10c per line first insertion, and 5c per line after insertion, on outside pages.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

The "Supplementary" prize list, which appears in our last page, will astonish our workers. We believe that it is impossible to get anything more popular than the skates, but for those who have skates already and do not want a better pair, or have no use for any at all, we think that the list of prizes given contains just what everybody wants. Every boy, for example, wants a watch that will keep time, and the fact that the watch the picture was taken from numbered 937,436, shows that that number of the same kind has been sold, and they are consequently well recommended. The name of the Waltham Watch Company is sufficient guarantee that the watches are good. We could have obtained silver or imitation gold watches at much lower prices, but prefer our boys to have something genuine. No young lady objects to the present of a ring, and those advertised are quite as good if not better than those they commonly see for sale. They can get them from \$2 retail to \$10 retail, or more if they send in the requisite amount of subscriptions. The Mackinac Pen is a great favorite with those requiring to write constantly, and in a few months would save its cost in time and ink. Everybody likes an album, and the Mental Photograph Album is the newest and most popular of the kind. It is the very best photograph album known. Now that Mr. Vennor's album is about ready for sale, and it contains a very interesting article on cameras, thermometers, &c., there will be some enquiry for weather glasses. The Signal Service barometer which is given for \$6 in new subscriptions combines a storm glass and thermometer in one case, and is a very interesting instrument. We would like every one of our young friends to have one, at least, of these prizes.

IT MAY SEEM STRANGE TO SOME why renewal subscriptions are not included on the skates, watches and similar prizes. The reason is simply the WITNESS establishment could not afford it, and again it is natural to suppose that those who take the WITNESS, MESSENGER or DOMESTIC MONTHLY one year, would not care to give it up. The WITNESS has no desire to have unwilling subscribers on its lists; those who read it only because they have been urged to take it, or take it without reading it at all. The reason why we give a good commission on a new subscriber is that we can count with tolerable certainty on that subscriber renewing his subscription when it is up, if he does not send another with his own.

—We invite communications from farmers giving their experience on matters interesting to them as a class, also enquiries which, if we cannot answer ourselves, some of our readers may.

The Witness.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1877.

BILLS OF LADING.

Some very important legal cases which involve large commercial interests have just been decided in appeal in the Ontario Courts. If the decision in appeal is sustained, bills of lading will be of comparatively little security, as in any way representing property, and commercial men will have to devise some other way by which they can be assured of the property which from the face of a bill of lading ought to attach to it. In the cases in question a steamer on the Great Western Railway signed bills of lading for several lots of flour. These bills were attached to drafts and forwarded to parties in Montreal, and elsewhere, and the drafts were duly accepted. But the flour had never been delivered to the Great Western Railway. The steamer-agent was a partner in the firm which owned the mill, and he had signed the bills of lading, or caused them to be signed, in order to raise money by means of them. The bills of lading were not forged, but they were fraudulent. Suit was brought by the defrauded merchants against the Great Western Railway, and a decision was given in their favor in the first instance by different judges. The plea of the Great Western Railway was that they were not liable, as their agent had been placed in charge to perform legal acts, and not illegal ones, and that they were not responsible for his illegal ones. On the appeal, the first decisions were reversed by two judges against one, all the judges being different, and in one case Chief Justice Haggarty being the dissenting judge, and in another Chief Justice Harrison. In one instance a further appeal has already been made, and the matter will be passed to a final issue without delay. If the last decision is upheld, it will seriously weaken the confidence which has been generally felt in bills of lading representing property. Merchants have been accustomed to accept drafts without hesitation on the assurance of any bank that it held the bills of lading for the produce against which the drafts were drawn. They have also acted towards other merchants in the faith that bills of lading handed over meant a real transfer of the stuff which they pretended to represent. Under the present decision all this security would be swept away. If railway companies are not responsible for the acts of their duly authorized agents, how can it be possible to ascertain if bills of lading are worth anything? Merchants cannot know anything of the station-masters, and those who act for them, along a long line of railway. The assurance of a banker or some other trusted agent that he had actually seen the property in possession of the railway, would not be sufficient, for double bills of lading could be made out, and the same property be pledged twice over, or as many times as there were banks at the shipping point. In fact, if the railways, who have the appointment of, and ought to have accurate knowledge of their shipping agents, are not to be held responsible, then the transaction of business by the transfer of bills of lading will have to come to an end. Merchants and bankers will have to devise some other way by which they can promptly transact business in connection with produce in transit. The final decision will be awaited with very great interest by the commercial community.

INDUSTRIAL DRAWING A NECESSARY FEATURE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Such is the title of a pamphlet published this year by Messrs. Frang & Co., of Boston, in which a condensed report is given on the introduction of drawing in the public schools in nine of the States of the American Union as a compulsory subject of education. The New York Superintendent of Schools says, "It is three years since it was first introduced into our schools, and the progress of the scholars in this department has been surprising to all who have given any attention to it. Nearly all the opposition, which at the beginning was in some quarters very strong, has disappeared, and drawing is now considered one of the essentials in our course of study. All pupils, from the primary classes to graduation from the high school, are having semi-weekly lessons, beginning with the elements and ending with perspective, model, object and ornamental drawing. The interest and ingenuity manifested in designing in all classes where this is required indicates the mental as well as the physical culture our pupils are receiving through this instrumentality." Like testimony is given by the superintendents of the public schools in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New Jersey and in the District of Columbia. The subject is one of interest, as affecting modern public education, and is engaging the attention of the best intellects. On one side it is contended that the old system of university education in classics and mathematics affords an exercise of the intellect and a culture suitable for the mastering of any subject to which the attention may subsequently be directed. On the other side it is contended that education should be progressive and adapted to the requirements of the age, not only training the intellect by mental gymnastics, but also adding thereto technical knowledge bearing on the occupations and welfare of the people. It is a controversy between the conservatives and the progressives, between those who are content with the traditions of the past, and those who would have a new faith and new works. Man's occupation, have changed and multiplied greatly within the last fifty years, and knowledge that supplies the range of vision to demonstrate its infinity. The present age is eminently one of scientific investigation and mechanical skill applied to the arts of production, transport, communication, comfort and ornamentation. The substitution of machinery for hand labor has elevated the character of the workman by requiring greater knowledge, skill and taste. More time is thus afforded for improving the value of manufactures by adding to their attractiveness in design, form or color. To this end there is special need that the eye be trained to quick and accurate perception, the hand to quick and correct representation, and the taste to discriminate between the beautiful and the ugly. The education of to-day has to look directly to industrial results, and to create what is excellent in workmanship, beautiful in design, and comfort-promoting. Look at the matter, then, as we may, we shall find it essential that the whole people be educated in the elements of industrial science and art. It is only thus that the greatest degree of health can be secured for all; only thus that labor of every kind can secure its fullest reward; only thus that manufactures and commerce can attain their highest prosperity. Nearly all European governments recognize this truth, and so they have, during the last thirty years in particular, been shaping their legislation accordingly. The good results were well attested at the Philadelphia International Exhibition. In this country educators, manufacturers and merchants are fast coming to a full realization of the same truth. For the reasons enumerated it is clear that the study of industrial art must form one of the essential features of the new education. Hence the widespread demand that has of late sprung up for instruction in drawing, which is the primal element of all instruction either in art or in industry. What Europe has already done we are about doing for this study. Whether we consider the technical instruction required by men, or that required by women, for success in industrial pursuits, we shall find drawing to be the most essential single element of such instruction in all its grades—the lowest and the highest. The truth of this assertion anyone can substantiate for himself by personal enquiries among the more intelligent of the men and women engaged in the different industries, and by reading the official reports of the various commissions which have been appointed from time to time during the last twenty-five years, by European governments, to investigate the subject of technical instruction. Drawing not only expedites construction in all cases, but oftentimes construction is absolutely impossible without drawing. In order to the greatest expedition and economy, there must not only be professional draughtsmen to make the original drawings, but the workmen must know at least enough of the principles on which the drawings are made to be able to work from them understandingly, and without constant supervision. What has just been said of drawing refers to it only as a help in construction, regardless of whether the object made be beautiful or ugly. Now, there is no one who does not prefer the beautiful to the ugly, or what he thinks to be beautiful to what he thinks to be ugly. The commercial value of beauty is unlimited. Instruction for industrial purposes must, therefore, aim to cultivate the taste, as it applies both to the form of the object and its decoration. Though the latter adds nothing directly to the usefulness of an object, yet it often adds so much to its market value that almost everything now made receives more or less of ornament. The taste can be better developed by means of drawing than by any other one thing. A refined and intelligent taste, in respect of objects that appeal to the eye, is next to impossible without some knowledge of drawing. There should be good taste, it may be observed, on the part of the consumer as well as producer. Indeed, it is a truism that the taste shown in the manufacture of a country never rises, except in special cases and for special reasons, above the tastes of the people—of the home consumers—who provide the principal market. Elevate the taste of the people, and you inevitably elevate the manufacture. It is very generally but incorrectly assumed that a proficiency in drawing is limited to those having a natural aptitude for the same. This is true only in a degree, but experience proves that as a general rule this taste is a fallacy, and that drawing can be taught successfully to all pupils who can see, and that a larger number of pupils obtain proficiency therein than in the primary subjects of reading, writing and arithmetic. Great Britain has commenced at the top of the ladder through the South Kensington Museum, and is working downwards to the people. The United States are working upwards from the bottom with the children and youth of the whole States. Each system will probably attain the result sought, but the latter may prove more thorough and general in its application. It is further proved that the study of drawing does not interfere with the progress of the pupils in other branches of education, but is, on the contrary, an aid thereto. One of the noblest purposes to which this study can be put is in applying the arts of ornament to the productions of industry.

There is no class of our people so deeply concerned in making this matter of art a part of our commonest education as the men whose toll lies at the foundation of our industrial wealth. The Superintendent of Public Schools in Milwaukee says: "I believe the introduction of 'industrial drawing into our common schools to be the first step in the organization of a system 'out, will be productive of effects upon the social character of the working classes and the wealth of the nation, which even the most sanguine would not dare at this moment to predict.' Thus far we have endeavored to give a résumé of this pamphlet, and have followed the main arguments and adopted the wording of the same as closely as possible so as to bring the subject before our legislators, School Commissioners, and the people generally. It is evident that the United States are preparing, in an intelligent manner, for competition with the manufactures of Europe. Great Britain's power and supremacy are dependent on her commerce and manufacturing superiority. Let this be undermined, and the object Napoleon aimed at would be realized, not by war and blockade, but by the industrial superiority in manufactures and consequent extension of commerce. The race is open to all. At home our Board of Arts and Agriculture are doing their work faithfully and well. The progress made by the pupils is surprising and gratifying, but it appears to us that the extension of the system to our schools, as in the United States, is absolutely necessary in competing with the other sections of the world, and we commend the consideration of this interesting question to the people. The facilities for communication, locomotion and production are confederating the peoples of the world. Canada has great natural advantages and is peopled by a mixed race of English and French,—the one noted for skill in design, the other for perception of color. She combines in her vast extent unbounded resources for the agriculturalist, the miner and the artisan, and with a climate favorable to energy and the blessings of peace which are almost assured to her ingenuity, she has no excuse for not entering on the race for prosperity by the intelligent education of her people in the arts and industries of the age.

THE FATE OF ALCOHOL.

The great tyrant who has so long ruled our race with despotic sway, like many another who has been hurled from power, sees his kingdom rapidly tottering to its fall. From one after another of his strongholds he has been driven since the commencement of the great temperance reformation, and ere long there will be none so important, although there may still be some so vicious, as to do him reverence. The notion that alcohol wars was perhaps of all the most deeply rooted in the public mind, yet at the present time that error is very generally recognized as such by well-informed persons, and no physician who has a reputation to lose will pretend that alcohol supports animal heat. The old-time universal popular belief that it is food, and both nourishes the body and augments physical strength, is rapidly passing away, and on this point almost medical science is all but unanimous in its condemnation. There is doubtless, however, a vague idea still prevailing society that light alcoholic drinks such as beer and wine, when taken in moderate quantities, possess tonic properties, and in some way which no one can explain, and no one pretends to explain, assist and invigorate jaded nature when wearied by physical or mental effort. Alcohol is still held in high repute as a medicine by perhaps a majority of the profession, and it is this supposed merit which gives it its last and sole right to the recognition and protection of society. But even from this final stronghold it is likely to be driven by the advances of medical science. This revolution of opinion against alcohol is going on in Great Britain particularly in a remarkable manner. The most striking testimony against it has recently been given in that Sir William Gull, Fellow of the College of Physicians, and Consulting Physician to Guy's Hospital, before the House of Lords Select Committee on Intemperance, a Committee, by the way, which was named through the zealous efforts of the Archbishop of York. Sir William is physician to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and was knighted on the occasion of his triumphant treatment of the case of typhoid fever which so nearly cut short the Prince's life. He has not been known as an advocate of temperance, neither is he an absolute teetotaler. He says it is his constant practice not to treat fever in young subjects with alcohol, but with chamomile tea, and that, although alcohol is useful as a drug, it is over-prescribed as a medicine, and frequently might be dispensed with altogether. Nothing is more common than for business men, when wearied and fagged out, to resort to alcoholic stimulants, but Sir William Gull asserts that they would be very much better without them, and had better take food or drink water. When fatigued he eats the grapes instead of taking wine, and speaks from thirty years' experience. This testimony is worthy of attention by that large class of business men in Montreal who patronize the magnificent drinking saloons recently opened in St. James and Notre Dame streets, and other business centres of the city. Sir William denies most distinctly that intellectual work can be half as well done with wine as without it. The moderation theory receives no quarter from his words, as will be seen from the following quotations:—

Question.—Have you known cases, may I ask, where the effects of alcohol have been quite manifest, although there has not been any outward showing of drinking or obvious excess? Answer.—That is very common. I should say that one of the commonest things in our society is that people are injured by drink without being drunk. It goes on so quietly that it is very difficult to observe even. I should say from my experience that it is the most destructive agent that we are aware of in this country.

Question.—Setting aside the drunken part of the community altogether, great injury is being done by the use of alcohol in what is supposed by the consumer to be a most moderate quantity? Answer.—Yes, I think so; I think that taking it as a whole there is a great deal of injury done to health by the habitual use of wines in their various kinds, and alcohol in its various shapes, even in so-called moderate quantities. I would like to say that a very large number of people in society are dying daily from drink, poisoned by alcohol, but not supposed to be poisoned by it.

"been: If your patient were poisoned by arsenic would you still go on putting in the arsenic?" Sir Henry Thompson, one of the physicians to Her Majesty, a few years ago gave equally striking testimony as to the evils of an habitual use of alcoholic beverages in quantities conventionally deemed moderate, and such as thousands of business men in our society are indulging in. More striking still is the testimony of Dr. B. W. Richardson, who, according to the *Lancet*, the leading medical journal in Great Britain, has studied alcohol in all its forms, more, perhaps, than any other physiologist or physician living. Says Dr. Richardson:—"It will be asked, was there no evidence of 'any useful service rendered by the agent in the midst of so much obvious bad service? I answer to that question, there was no such evidence, and there is none." The *Lancet* opinion and adds, "Let there be no mistake about the voice of medical practitioners or authorities on this matter. It is on the side of temperance of extreme temperance. Any 'thing else is risky.' These words, it is remarked, are those of the most conservative journal of a very conservative body of scientific men. Five years ago the *Lancet* believed to a limited extent in the exploded notions of the virtues of alcohol, now it is practically on the side of teetotalism as a medical science. When the rank and file of the medical profession are thoroughly indoctrinated with the teachings of the eminent men above named, and of many others equally eminent, we may expect to see King Alcohol driven from his last stronghold, and suffer the fate of all tyrants. Apropos of this subject, it is a little while ago, in which the writer says:—"Society has a right to demand 'of its medical guides that now, the error being 'discovered' they shall at once bring their professional practice and great social influence 'into harmony with the teachings of their own 'science as expounded by its recognized 'leader'."

TWO TALES OF A CITY.

What many people would call temperance tales are frequent enough in any country that we know much of. In Canada men get drunk, and their wives, get drunk, and are drowned, are run over by railway trains, are killed or take their lives of others in many ways. So numerous are these cases, often several in a day, that it is impossible to comment upon them, although a little telegram or item of a few lines if expanded to say all that it indicates would often fill a volume. But two tales which came from New York in one day last week are so sad, those innocent suffering for the guilty, in the worst of ways, being driven to crime, that they deserve more than the mere telegraphic notice. In one case, a man had married the daughter of a saloon-keeper, and the habits natural to such a place, in course of time became fully developed. After eleven years of married life, he had several children, and matters, we suppose, became worse. A few days ago the man talked very seriously to his wife, and she promised to amend her ways, but one day last week he came home from his work, and found the house all dark, no fire, no light, and his wife lying drunk on the sofa. The children had been neglected, and the man thought that he had enough of that kind of life. So he procured a revolver, and carried out a previous threat, shooting his three children, and then himself. His bright little daughter of six years was killed at once, and neither the man himself nor one of the other children shot, is expected to live. This is a shocking tale of one class of people, but drunkenness resulting in tragedies is not confined to the poorer classes, however much more numerous the cases heard from in this class may be, and naturally so, from the greater number of poor people than of rich ones. The other case is one which has been more extensively noticed in the telegrams. It is that of Mrs. Stuart, a young bride only a few months married. The parties were all wealthy, and moved in the best society. Mr. Stuart was descended from an American admiral, and his mother has been married a second time, to ex-Congressman Elijah Ward, of New York, with whom she is now travelling in Europe. Mrs. Ward knew of her son's habits and did not do anything to forward the marriage, and cried all the time that the ceremony was being performed. The young lady also knew something of Mr. Stuart's intemperate habits, but trusted that she could reform him. Many are the touching details in connection with the story. A kind of diary was kept by Mrs. Stuart, and for all October and November so far as it had gone, nearly every day was heavily scored with black lines as a very dark day, one or two having only dots, but only one being white, as a bright one. Her sensitive nature shrank from the harsh language which was addressed to her by her husband under the influence of his drunken fits. Once or twice he struck her. Her friends tried to induce her to leave him, their last efforts being on the very day that she committed suicide, but she steadily refused, returned to the apartments which they occupied, and took luncheon, her husband finding her on the sofa in full dress in a senseless, when he came back, intoxicated as usual. He thought she was merely sleeping, and lay down himself, but finally got so far over his drunkenness as to try to arouse her, when he found out that something very serious was the matter. But the medical aid then summoned was too late, and the bride of May was dead in November by her own hand. Comment on such cases as these seems needless. What can there be said that will heighten the impression produced by the facts? Yet they are but events of one day in one city, and not the only events of a similar nature either. And yet so very many who call themselves after the name of Christ will countenance, and even uphold drunk drinking customs, which have such results, results which would be appalling to all if they were not so frequent.

THE FISHERY AWARD.

The arbitration provided for by the Washington Treaty, but so long delayed, principally by the bad faith of the United States, has at last been finished, and the decision given. This decision will, we fancy, be generally satisfactory to the Canadian people, who had feared that, as in so many previous dealings with the United States, they would have little but the satisfaction of honorable conduct as a return for sacrifices which had been made, if not by them, at least of them. Five and a half millions of dollars were more than Canadians have generally expected would be awarded to them since the discovery that a great part of their claim was entirely excluded by the terms of the treaty. That this matter has ended so differently from many others may fairly be attributed in great measure to the fact that the Canadian conducted their own case, hunted up their own proof, produced their arguments before the Commission, and refuted the special pleadings of the American counsel. Every one engaged in the Canadian case will have an increase of reputation from the result of the arbitration, which will be accepted as proof that they have done their duty well. Some

time ago the point was brought up that the clause of the treaty providing for a fishery arbitration did not provide for a decision by the majority of the Commissioners, as that for the arbitration in the Alabama case expressly did. This will give the United States Government an opportunity for refusing to recognize the award as binding, if they are so disposed. From the honorable way in which President Hayes and his administration have acted in so many ways we are not inclined to think that there is any very great danger of their making a stand against the award on this ground. But there certainly is danger that, if not in the Senate, at least in the House of Representatives, the wording of this clause may prevent an appropriation being made for payment of the award. If this surmise should be verified Canadians will have the satisfaction, and it will be no small one, of having put the Americans thoroughly in the wrong. They have the decision of a disinterested party in their favor, and the world will regard that decision as a just one, for European nations attach a high value to fishing privileges. It is quite possible that negotiations for a new reciprocity treaty may be the final result of this arbitration, and the award now made them will render it possible for the Canadians to obtain much better terms than they would otherwise have had any prospect of. If a fair reciprocity treaty is secured, Canada can easily afford to dispense with this money. The decision will be rather disagreeable to a number of American journals, which have been planning themselves on Sunday-school papers exclusively for Sunday reading, but the MESSENGER is specially designed to supply all the family reading in thousands of families which have no other literature.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN FRANCE.

The political events which have been taking place in France for a few days past, conclusively prove that the Republicans have determined to have their struggle with the Marshal President at once, and not to, as before, bring steady pressure to bear until he would in the course of a year or two be again served by Ministers from the Left. The new Ministry has been gazetted, and its declarations have been made in the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. These were to the effect that they would faithfully observe the laws and cause them to be observed, and that the Constitution would pass to their successors intact. Three or four of the new ministers, including the Prime Minister, are classed as Legitimists and ardent Roman Catholics, or in other words Clericals. The others are Bonapartists, M. De Welche, the Minister of the Interior, is said to be the greatest feature of this Cabinet. It is the Minister of the Interior who deals with all internal affairs in France, instructs the Prefects, and so on. M. De Welche's ideas are those of M. Fourton, who was so conspicuous in the late Ministry, but it is said that he will be even more energetic in carrying them out. The Left have entered upon the battle with both the President and the majority in the Senate. The Senate decided adversely to the right of the Chamber of Deputies to compel answers from public officials in their investigation of election abuses. The Chamber of Deputies promptly replied by a refusal to confirm the election of an official, M. Rielle, an under-secretary, until his conduct during the elections had been investigated. The reply to the declaration of the Ministry in the Chamber of Deputies was a question as to the formation of the Ministry, which the Minister in attendance declined to answer at the time, wishing for a postponement, no doubt for the purpose of a consultation with his colleagues. The Left refused the postponement, M. De Marcere, a former Republican Minister of the Interior, taking the lead, and declaring that the Ministry represented personal and not Parliamentary power, which was the exact truth. Want of confidence in it, because of the manner of its formation, was then voted by one hundred and fifteen majority, and the Left have refused to vote the budget until they have a Ministry with which they are satisfied, they will refuse to vote it now. President MacMahon is stated to have repeatedly declared in favor of a policy of resistance, after this vote on Saturday, and it is believed that the Senate will be summoned to pass upon the constitutional right of the vote of the Chamber of Deputies. What the Senate may do, the question of the constitution will soon have to be settled. There is no doubt about the constitution requiring the budget to be voted by the Chamber of Deputies, and the Chamber of Deputies will not vote it, until they have a Ministry to please them. The ground on which they find fault with the Ministry is therefore of comparatively little moment. The great fact is that they do refuse to accept it. The choice is between coming to an agreement with them, and openly violating the constitution. The wisest plan for President MacMahon and the Senate is to reconcile themselves with the Chamber of Deputies, but it is becoming more doubtful if they will adopt it. The *Moniteur* still urges a conciliatory course, and the *Soleil*, the Orleansist organ, says that a second dissolution would only complicate the crisis. But the Orleansist constitutionalist senators are stated to be abandoning their conciliatory attitude, and it is now believed that the Senate will sanction a second dissolution, which President MacMahon will request if the Chamber of Deputies does not vote the four direct taxes of the Budget this week. As another Chamber cannot be elected in time to vote the taxes, this would involve either grave financial trouble, or a violation of the constitution. It is not of very much use speculating as to what may be the result. Some important concessions will have to be made, or some violent action taken within a few days.

A PRIEST'S LETTER OF ABJURATION.

To Mr. Fabre, R. C. Bishop of Montreal: My Lord,—Allow me to inform you that I renounce from this day the Roman Church's errors, to follow only the teachings of Jesus Christ, such as the Gospel gives to us; and let me give some of my reasons: I was born of Roman Catholic parents in Italy, and was ordained a Roman priest in 1866 by Mr. Ignatius Selti, Bishop of Melphi, in the kingdom of Naples. But since that time the light which God has given me has weakened from day to day the convictions with which the ignorance and superstition so well cultivated at Rome had obscured my intelligence. And, truly, how puerile and ridiculous are those notions of the immaculate conception and of the dogma of infallibility, which the Pope has added to so many others, against which human intelligence and conscience protested already! And that Syllabus, which is nothing else than a large catalogue of all national liberties and all truths of the Gospel, has it not arrived to my intelligence as it does to the intelligence of so many others, as the knell of death of all the principles of truth and honesty which God had put in my soul? Although Italy has made a great step towards liberty, the Pope's yoke was yet too heavy for my shoulders. I came to Canada with the hope of breathing a purer and freer atmosphere. But I have not been long here without perceiving that the clerical tyranny which chains so many intelligences in Italy, is yet more heavy in Canada than in my fatherland. Therefore, by the grace of God, I am decided to break the chains by which the Pope has kept me too long at his feet.

I have been to hear and see Father Chénigny, whom divine Providence has chosen to break so many precious souls from the darkness of Romanism, and I have found in him all that I have longed for. He has shown me the way to freedom. With this new friend I have read the Gospel, I have meditated upon its

parently, have taken no notice of it. In the meantime the Napanee Circuit brings an account of another serious riot in Grey County, which is under the Dunkin Act. Some liquor prosecutions took place at Chateaufort, and at the close of the Court the friends of the proscribed traffic inaugurated a riot, assaulted the County Inspector, Mr. Pearce, and several other officers, and went to such excesses that the magistrates were obliged to telegraph to Owen Sound for assistance. The rioters smashed the windows of the passenger car which conveyed the special constables, both at Chateaufort and at Owen Sound, on their return. The railway company, fearing an attempt would be made to wreck the train, sent a pilot engine in advance to prevent such an accident. From Port Hope another outrage is reported upon a Methodist minister who had taken a prominent part in the Dunkin bill election. Acts of this kind exactly indicate the nature of the influence which the liquor traffic fosters in a community. They hasten the advent of the day when all that is respectable, patriotic, Christian, will be found in united opposition to it.

THE MESSENGER.—We have a letter from a very kind friend, expressing the opinion that the NORTHERN MESSENGER is not suitable for a Sunday-school paper, because it is in part devoted to secular matters. This is the first expostulation of the kind which has reached us. The objection would perhaps apply where families are in the habit of taking many papers, and use Sunday-school papers exclusively for Sunday reading, but the MESSENGER is specially designed to supply all the family reading in thousands of families which have no other literature. The MESSENGER is not a secular paper, it is a religious paper, and it is an eminent degree fulfilling this design, and as being the cheapest and most effective civilizer they can make use of in connection with the promotion of Sunday-schools and evangelization. This being the case, we have thought it wise to lay it before the friends of Sunday-schools everywhere, and have been encouraged by a very general and hearty response. Agricultural matter is, of course, not intended to be read on the Lord's Day, and we are inclined to think that if there are any who read it on that day they are not persons who would otherwise be doing anything more edifying.

THE STORY "Ship Ahoy," now brought to a close in the WITNESS, is one of much historical interest. It was published a year or two ago, during the heat of Mr. Pimms's triumphal acquisition against the unseaworthy ships which were being sent to sea with the expectation that they would be wrecked, the owners caring nothing about seamen's lives so long as they got their insurance, and was accompanied by an appendix by Mr. Pimms himself summarizing his charges and the evidence in support of them. The book caused much excitement, and was, we believe, much admired upon in Parliament by those whom it might be supposed to attack. We begin next week the story of "Rose Turquant," a tale of a very different sort, by Ellice Hopkins, meant to show the wretched fruits of worldly principles of life, even among the most favorable surroundings.

LETTERS FROM READERS.

THE WITNESS TESTIMONIAL FUND. SIR,—Being a subscriber to the above fund, and having recently visited the new building in which the WITNESS publications are now printed, the thought struck me that it might be donated to the proprietors instead of the much more expensive one that would have been erected but for the hard times that set in just when the worthy project was started. With this object in view, I would respectfully suggest that the amounts subscribed, which are now being gathered in, be supplemented if necessary, and that a final effort be made to purchase this building and the ground upon which it stands, from the friendly proprietor, Alderman Clendinning.

D. B. WYMAN.

PROHIBITION.

SIR,—Knowing you to be a true and faithful friend of the temperance cause and every measure having in view the moral good of the people, I venture to address you touching the practical question of working, and the best means to be adopted in order that prohibition may become the law of the land. I fear, sir, that no hope can be entertained from either side of politics at present constituted—that is, that neither of the political parties will make prohibition a plank of their platform, nor do I think that either side of politics will carry out their several pledges to support prohibition. The only way, therefore, to have prohibition is to have a new party, a new organization, a new platform, a new policy, to use no time in having alliances in every township, city and town throughout the land, for the simple purpose of pledging themselves to vote for no candidate, Whig or Tory, Conservative or Reformer, who will not pledge himself to support prohibition in Parliament, when, how or by whom introduced.

C. A. [Such a pledge on the part of voters would not do in this Province, where we have other issues quite as important as that of prohibition. The Alliance has done well to devote its present attention to the perfecting and promotion of local option laws. When the WITNESS campaign comes out it will be found that prohibition is already an accomplished fact over a great part of the country, and in another year is likely to be so in most of it.—Ed. W.]

A PRIEST'S LETTER OF ABJURATION. To Mr. Fabre, R. C. Bishop of Montreal: My Lord,—Allow me to inform you that I renounce from this day the Roman Church's errors, to follow only the teachings of Jesus Christ, such as the Gospel gives to us; and let me give some of my reasons: I was born of Roman Catholic parents in Italy, and was ordained a Roman priest in 1866 by Mr. Ignatius Selti, Bishop of Melphi, in the kingdom of Naples. But since that time the light which God has given me has weakened from day to day the convictions with which the ignorance and superstition so well cultivated at Rome had obscured my intelligence. And, truly, how puerile and ridiculous are those notions of the immaculate conception and of the dogma of infallibility, which the Pope has added to so many others, against which human intelligence and conscience protested already! And that Syllabus, which is nothing else than a large catalogue of all national liberties and all truths of the Gospel, has it not arrived to my intelligence as it does to the intelligence of so many others, as the knell of death of all the principles of truth and honesty which God had put in my soul? Although Italy has made a great step towards liberty, the Pope's yoke was yet too heavy for my shoulders. I came to Canada with the hope of breathing a purer and freer atmosphere. But I have not been long here without perceiving that the clerical tyranny which chains so many intelligences in Italy, is yet more heavy in Canada than in my fatherland. Therefore, by the grace of God, I am decided to break the chains by which the Pope has kept me too long at his feet.

sublime and consoling truths, and I have prayed the Saviour, who has said to all the unfortunate children of Adam, "Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." At the foot of the cross, I have found the light, the peace and Saviour I have found, and I cannot enough bless my God for his love, I pray Almighty God, who has saved me by His Son Jesus Christ, and who has enlightened me by His Gospel, to give me the same grace, the power and the light that you want to shed upon the heavy yoke that you carry, and with which you keep your people at the feet of the papal idols. Your Lordship's obedient servant, ANTHONY L'ESTRANGE.

THE OPEN AUTUMN.

SIR,—As early as September last I sent you from the Rivière aux Lièvres section of country my forecast for the months of October and November. By referring to this letter you will see that the first of these months was sketched as "a cold, wet month, with probably early snow," while the other was "an unusually warm and open November, with but little frost until towards the latter portion of the month, and probably a well-marked Indian summer." This last condition we have now been enjoying for some days, and the general remark from all parts of the country is, "What open weather!" The cold, wet condition of the weather through October I can well testify to, having been out in the woods the whole month. During the night of the 24th it snowed heavily, and on the morning of the 25th and for several days following the ground was white with snow. At this time, also, thick ice formed on both the Gattineau and Lièvres rivers, and the whole country wore the aspect of winter. It was the general impression with the lumbermen and lumbermen interviewed during this spell that winter had indeed set in, and one gentleman in particular, who has for a long time been predicting a gloomy winter for lumbering, triumphantly remarked to me, "Well, how do you like this snow, eh? Better change your almanac." To this my simple reply was, "Put your sleds up, and grease your wagon wheels for the mud." My Indian summer has yet to come. No snow until late in November, and possibly a thunder-storm or two more. As my almanac still lingers in the printer's hands, I think I will only say, as I have included to these early forecasts, and further will venture to mark on what is still before us.

SETTING IN OF WINTER.

The present balmy weather will abruptly terminate towards or in proximity to the 25th of the present month, and probably give place to a sharp spell of winter and snow. I shall not be surprised should the waters become pretty well ice-locked—as in 1874—in the latter part of November or the early part of December. This condition, however, will be of short duration, and will be followed by a return again to rains and open weather during December and January. Consequently, should the waters escape this first pinch of the winter, navigation will be open to an unusually late date. To all intents and purposes, however, our winter of 1877-78 will be upon us towards the last week of the present month; but this, as I have already several times stated, bids fair to be gloomy, wet and as well as short.

Yours truly, HENRY G. VENDOR.

Montreal, Nov. 16, 1877.

THE PHOSPHATE MANIA—PRICES OF LAND.

SIR,—A few evenings ago a telegraphic despatch from Ottawa informed us that the Messrs. Preston, of New York, had purchased from Mr. Brown, in Portland Township, Ottawa County, some 400 acres of phosphate land, at the very fair figure of \$16,000. Again, yesterday, we heard of Captain A. McNaughton's rich find in the same locality, which is valued at the moderate sum of \$100,000, but the same property is not stated. Respecting the first of these there is a trifling error, I am assured, for in a letter I received the same day it was stated that 600 acres was the area of land sold, and the difference between the \$100,000 and the \$16,000 is worthy of consideration. My information, it is also possible, may err on one side or the other, but I have good reasons for believing it approaches more nearly to the truth. The second of these, however, is a very different matter, and has yet to be sold at this figure, and I shall not allude to it further than is necessary for my present purpose. It is a fact, however, that the phosphate section of country in June last, when the ground was unbroken, and still more recently, this autumn, after a considerable quantity of mineral had been mined, I think it proper to present to you the prices which have been offered, and give my impressions respecting their future development. During the fall of 1876 I succeeded in tracing a belt of apatite-bearing rock from the Ottawa River, through the East Portland, and thence across the Lièvres, eastward to Portland west, and through portions of the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth ranges of this last township. This line was projected in my field notes, and was never before, and was shaded in. At that time the present valuable properties had not been secured. In June of the present year—some seven months having elapsed since my last visit—I again went to the Ottawa River, and traced the same line, and gave my impressions respecting their future development. During the fall of 1876 I succeeded in tracing a belt of apatite-bearing rock from the Ottawa River, through the East Portland, and thence across the Lièvres, eastward to Portland west, and through portions of the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth ranges of this last township. This line was projected in my field notes, and was never before, and was shaded in. At that time the present valuable properties had not been secured. In June of the present year—some seven months having elapsed since my last visit—I again went to the Ottawa River, and traced the same line, and gave my impressions respecting their future development. During the fall of 1876 I succeeded in tracing a belt of apatite-bearing rock from the Ottawa River, through the East Portland, and thence across the Lièvres, eastward to Portland west, and through portions of the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth ranges of this last township. This line was projected in my field notes, and was never before, and was shaded in. At that time the present valuable properties had not been secured. In June of the present year—some seven months having elapsed since my last visit—I again went to the Ottawa River, and traced the same line, and gave my impressions respecting their future development. During the fall of 1876 I succeeded in tracing a belt of apatite-bearing rock from the Ottawa River, through the East Portland, and thence across the Lièvres, eastward to Portland west, and through portions of the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth ranges of this last township. This line was projected in my field notes, and was never before, and was shaded in. At that time the present valuable properties had not been secured. In June of the present year—some seven months having elapsed since my last visit—I again went to the Ottawa River, and traced the same line, and gave my impressions respecting their future development. During the fall of 1876 I succeeded in tracing a belt of apatite-bearing rock from the Ottawa River, through the East Portland, and thence across the Lièvres, eastward to Portland west, and through portions of the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth ranges of this last township. This line was projected in my field notes, and was never before, and was shaded in. At that time the present valuable properties had not been secured. In June of the present year—some seven months having elapsed since my last visit—I again went to the Ottawa River, and traced the same line, and gave my impressions respecting their future development. During the fall of 1876 I succeeded in tracing a belt of apatite-bearing rock from the Ottawa River

this is the spirit now animating the Turkish Government and nation, and hence the vast importance of the issues pending on the battle field, the only forum of settlement.

