

WALL PAPER.

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The Watchman.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1889.

Editorial Notes.

THE local improvement system is at present receiving some attention in our midst, and it is a subject that is entitled to careful consideration. That there is considerable unfairness in the way improvements are distributed under the present system, especially in the case of those whose property is situated on sparsely settled streets a considerable distance from the main thoroughfares, is a matter that can be attested to by many who have patiently paid taxes for years without receiving in return the grading of the streets in front of their property so that the surface water even can be drained off the property in question. Under the local improvement system, however, the ratepayer who so desires it can have his taxes turned towards improvements in the vicinity of his own property. There is a tendency also as matters are now carried on to centralize improvements and outlays, to the neglect of the claims of property holders generally. This tendency would be obviated by the system proposed. That the ratepayers are to a great extent at the mercy of the designing ward politicians under our present system, will be pretty generally acknowledged. The public money is too often spent and improvements made where the outlay will "tell" best at the next election. The labor employed also is too often of an inferior character, and employed for the same ends. Corporation work is looked upon as a general rule as a "soft" job, owing to the indulgence of the vote hunters, and a poor equivalent is enjoyed by the ratepayers for the taxes paid. Under the system proposed, however, each ratepayer who so desires it can interest himself in the expenditure of his own taxes, and upon improvements that will enhance the value of his own property. The system will take away from certain officials the patronage which many of them use to further their own ends; and in consequence its adoption would be opposed by that class. We learn that the scheme is not looked upon with favor by several of our local wirepulling public men who have manipulated the patronage of the present system pretty successfully in assisting to keep themselves in office. There are many other good features about the local improvement system which ought to secure for it careful consideration on the part of our citizens. A correspondent in our last issue ably set forth many of the arguments in favor of the system.

THE exhibition to which the Victoria Warder has treated its readers for weeks past in its discussion of the Jesuit question, is to say the least, decidedly unique and extensive. It demonstrates also the danger of a mind naturally prone to eccentricity engaging too closely and constantly in the study of the workings and principles commonly credited to the Jesuit order. "Vice is a monster of such fearful mien, That to be dreaded, needs but to be seen; But seen too oft, familiar with her face, We first endure, then covet, then embrace, That's just how it works. Many who

have preached to others, have themselves become castaways. A sad commentary, but lamentably true. From scores of examples with which the last issue of the Victoria Warder abounds, we cite two or three instances of how prevalent has become the practice of the doctrine "that the end justifies the means." In referring to the "wily John 'Absent' Barron," it says, "He has been detected using his frank as member of Parliament to send to the honest yeomanry of North Victoria, annexation documents and stuff lying about and decrying Canada and Great Britain, and praising up the United States." The statement has not a particle of foundation in fact, not one. A similar charge was preferred against Mr. Trow, M. P., by a Toronto daily, and a trick of the age of "witch-burning and horrible superstitions" tacked it onto the member for North Victoria. "Do we live in the 19th century?" "Let in the light of liberty and truth." The public who must answer the Warder's interrogation about the time of day in the affirmative, will most earnestly join in its request for a greater supply of "the thing needful." However we may differ from the politics of the member for North Victoria, as one of the "noble thirteen" let him have British fair play at the hands of his opponents. Passing over the reference to the "buncombe agitation over the badly directed want of confidence motion of Col. O'Brien" to the unqualified praise of Dalton McCarthy and the equally unqualified abuse of John Charlton, and other dazzling acrobatic feats on the Jesuit question, we come to the strongest possible evidence of the utter collapse of the Warder's mental equipment in its struggle with Jesuitism and Rome with the big R. We refer to the classification of ourselves with the Canadian Post. "Both, if not entirely Jesuit, are at least three-quarter papist." The Post we always knew was bad enough, but we never thought it good enough to have a large J, or bad enough to get a small p. As for ourselves, our record on the Jesuit question is before the public. We always knew it would be too much for the Warder. But we have no hard feelings, and our sympathy for the wreck that has been made is extreme. We would ask the few friends left to kindly put the Warder to bed, and "let in the light of liberty."

THE eloquent words of Rev. Father McCallen before the St. Patrick's Society should be productive of good. They may prove the seeds that will spring up and spread their influence on the minds and hearts of his people. He denounced intemperance in strong terms, and said there were in the city hundreds of families who are suffering and will suffer from the curse of drink, and nevertheless there are in them those who will put down their signatures for a new saloon in the neighborhood. The benefits of the high license law were pointed out by Father McCallen. In such places as Pittsburg and Pennsylvania, where the high license system has been adopted, the number of drinking places has been greatly reduced, while at the same time the revenue from the licenses has not fallen off, the social habits of the people have been improved, and the cities have not been called upon to make a sacrifice. In Philadelphia the number of saloons was reduced from 6000 to 1347, and the fee for the license was increased from \$50 to \$500; the revenue was more than doubled and the arrests for drunkenness were less than half what they were before; besides all this the Sunday law was better enforced. In Pittsburg the number of saloons was reduced from 1500 to 214 last year, and to 93 this year. What is Montreal doing that it stands looking on at all this with its hands in its pockets? The prohibitionists would wipe out all the drinking places with one sweep of the sponge, but as far as can be seen in the Scott Act counties this is impracticable. Rev. Father McCallen has hit the nail on the head. High license is the key to reducing the evils of intemperance.—Star.

That \$18.00 Bedroom Set at the Auction Mart is a cracker for the money—14—1.

THE Mail says:—"The new theory of parliamentary duty advanced by erring legislators is fully endorsed by the press which acts with these gentlemen. One journal puts the case thus: A measure is brought forward by the Government, and a Government supporter thinks it is not in the public interests. Should the member oppose the measure because it is bad, or vote for it because he thinks the government is good? The reply is favorable to the latter course. Thus a bad measure should receive support if proposed by the party with which the member in question usually acts. This is somewhat at variance with Sir John Macdonald's frequently reiterated maxim, "By the party; with the party; but for the country." If the line of policy indicated is the correct one, each session of Parliament is a waste of energy and of money. The members should send their proxies to the Government, and save the time lost and the public money expended in meeting annually at Ottawa."

The Victoria Warder of last week with characteristic rashness published a charge against the Lindsay post office officials of carelessness in the forwarding to its destination of a parcel of precious Warders. The charge was, it is almost needless to say, without foundation. Two parcels intended for two separate points were by mistake of one of the "devils" in the Warder office tied together, one address only appearing on the outside. The natural result followed—the prompt despatch of the double-barreled parcel to the destination indicated. The mistake was at once discovered at the latter point, and the stray Warders hurriedly sent back, the usual supply being considered quite sufficient for any one given point at one given time. Hence the "charge" against the Lindsay post office. No apology of course will follow, disallowance being all wrong, except applied for in the usual constitutional way. The frequency and persistence with which complaints have been trumped up for some time lately in certain quarters against our local postal service is creating the impression that there is a scheme under way to prejudice the minds of the public against the service for a certain purpose, and speculations are indulged in as to who is the "unknown." Considering the inadequate accommodation which the present building affords, our postal service will compare favorably with that of any other town in Ontario to-day, and the "agitation" won't fizzle worth a cent.

THE reports concerning emigrant children sent out to Canada are so favorable that it is too bad that nothing is done for native born children. If room can be found for little emigrants, room should also be found for little Canadians, whether they be of Scotch extraction, English, Irish, French or German. It is made clear from a discussion in the British House of Commons that the selected children who were sent to Canada were applied for by farmers three or four times over; that nearly all the children sent out became prosperous citizens, and that the reports in regard to the boys and girls were gratifying, 95 per cent. of them being entirely satisfactory. This is done with boys and girls from the slums and alleys of Old Country cities. Why cannot something of a similar kind be done with the boys and girls belonging to the cities of our own country? To begin with, our own street Arabs are accustomed to the climate and have not to be taught the ways of the people amongst whom they would be sent; they are quite as bright, and are equally deserving of a home; in addition to all of which they are on the spot and would not have to be brought all the way across the Atlantic. While everybody is glad to see boys and girls, most of them orphans, provided with homes in Canada, it really does seem to be unfair that so many native born boys and girls should be left to shift for themselves, without a helping hand being extended to them. They are pushed aside to make way for outsiders, and nobody seems to think it in the least out of place. Star.

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D. C. TREW, Lindsay, Mar. 20, 1889.

STOCK.

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