

the verdict could be nothing else than an act of providence.

Every bridge in the country with the exception of three railway bridges were swept away, and the roads are so badly torn up that it will cost an immense sum to repair them.

#### HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES ARE HOMELESS

and great distress prevails. Assistance is needed quickly. Clothing and food are both essential.

#### GOING TO THE RESCUE.

PITTSBURG, Pa., June 6.—At the citizens' meeting held here this afternoon, it was decided to send a committee to the oil regions to administer relief to the unfortunate inhabitants of that stricken district. At the head of the committee is Major Gourlay and James B. Scott, director of Johnstown relief force. Complete arrangements were made for the transportation of all supplies to the sufferers and nothing is being left undone to render aid generously and without delay.

#### WOMEN AND THE STUDY OF LAW

[The Week, Toronto]

Prejudice dies hard, even in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Witness the attitude taken by some legal lights in the Ontario assembly on the debate on Mr. Balfour's bill to confer on the law society power to admit women to the study of law. What possible reason can there be why women should not be permitted to study law if they wish to do so? Is not jurisprudence one of the noblest, the most profound, the most broadening and elevating of all studies in which the human mind can engage? By what right, human or divine, should the masculine moiety of our citizens take it upon themselves to say that they must have a monopoly of the study of this ennobling science? The men, pure-minded, far-sighted creatures that they are, are afraid, forsooth, that if women are permitted to get a knowledge of law, they may wish to enter the courts to practice it, and in the course of their practice may some day come in contact with something so pitchy as to be fit to be handled only by their counterparts of the other sex. Is not such an argument as this a little too late in the day? Has it not now been pretty well demonstrated that women may be safely left to follow the dictates of their own innate and cultured sense of propriety, and that they are quite as well qualified to judge what is modest and becoming for them as are the average of their mentors of the other sex? Is it not, indeed, just as possible that the presence of ladies at the bar should have the effect occasionally of modifying the character of the cross-examinations in certain classes of criminal cases, and of preventing the putting of unnecessary and outrageous questions, neither justice nor modesty would suffer from the change?

But the question is not whether it is desirable that women should practice as barristers in all kinds of cases. It is whether they shall be permitted to share educational advantages which are furnished at the public expense, and to which women therefore contribute their share of taxation. It is also whether women can be trusted to

govern themselves in accordance with their own sense of propriety, or whether it is necessary that they should be restricted and hampered at every turn by limitations prescribed by the sex which has hitherto had a monopoly of the law-making business, and which is only just learning at this late day to use that monopoly with anything like a just and reasonable consideration for the rights of the other sex.

We certainly are not particularly anxious to see women advocates in the civil and criminal courts, but we are anxious that women should be at liberty to follow this or any other honorable business or profession, if they choose to do so and can find a demand for their services. We confess that we have never before given much thought to this particular phase of the question of woman's sphere, as it has never before, we believe, been made a living question in Canada. May we be pardoned if we add that the weakness of the objections raised against Mr. Balfour's bill, even more than the cogency of the reasoning in its support, have convinced us of the essential justice of the measure. When able opponents of a given proposal are forced to resort to such reasoning as was used by Mr. Meredith in the case in question, it seems pretty safe to conclude that they have somehow got on the wrong side.

#### NOTES FROM THE EAST.

This part of Wisconsin is now seen at its best, the trees now being in bloom and the hills and valleys covered with luxuriant verdure. It is a very productive region and the inhabitants appear to be generally prosperous. The Fox river, which courses through Appleton, is one of the finest streams in America for furnishing water power, and it is being very generally utilized by the establishment of paper mills, grist mills and other manufactures along its banks. The great number of paper mills located in this region consumed such large quantities of spruce and poplar that the accessible supply within a reasonable radius, which was thought ten or a dozen years ago to be exhaustless, seemed likely to give out, but now a new source of supply has been opened up in Canada, where it exists in large quantities, and from which point it is floated over the lakes on rafts and then down the river and canal on barges. The paper making business, of which this is one of the chief centres, has undergone an almost complete revolution in the past fifteen years, wood having very largely taken the place of the rag-fibre, formerly used, and notwithstanding the prices of paper have so greatly depreciated, the machinery for the manufacture of the same has been correspondingly improved, so that the manufacturers have in many instances become immensely rich. This is a great grain producing region, too, and not subject to the drawbacks in the way of floods that the Mississippi valley is, where the suffering has been very great during the past few weeks from this cause.

I visited St. Louis day before yesterday and found almost everything on the east side of the river in that region afloat. For many miles, out from the

river the houses were surrounded by water and very generally abandoned by the inhabitants, many of whom were to be seen paddling about in improvised canoes or boats, fishing out effects that were in danger of floating away. The railway tracks, too, were submerged to such an extent as to render travel thereon very slow and hazardous. The crops in many parts of Illinois, so far as I was able to observe from traveling through by train, seemed to be very greatly damaged, and, in a few localities, apparently totally destroyed by the flood.

One good result that is likely to accrue from the present high water is the elevation of the railway tracks that extend for long distances along the rivers which overflow, and the consequent protection from inundation of the adjoining farms and villages. The inhabitants of East St. Louis are especially bounting on this.

The distress resulting from the floods has appealed to the charitable, and it is encouraging to observe the response which is being made thereto. The milk of human kindness is not all dried up in the breasts of the people of this nation, and there is no lack of such public enterprises as the *Post-Dispatch* of St. Louis to remind the charitable of their duty and head the list with a handsome contribution.

G. C. L.

APPLETON, Wis., June 2, 1892.

#### THE PLUMBERS STRIKE.

About a week or ten days ago the local Plumbers' Union sent a communication to the Master Plumbers' Association saying that after July 1st the members of the union should expect to get \$5 for every eight hours' work. In case the demand should be unfavorably considered they would go out on a strike. The communication has been under advisement since that time. The plumbing companies of the city believed that they had until July 1st to take action in the matter. The plumbers, however, gave a different construction and at 9 o'clock this morning every union plumber in the city struck for the sum named, and consequently there is little or no plumbing being done today though such work in some of the buildings in course of erection is an imperative necessity. The plumbing companies were taken wholly by surprise and were in every way unprepared for the strike. When asked for an explanation as to why they had struck the union men responded that they believed that their demands would not be complied with on the date named.

There are about one hundred and fifty union plumbers in the city and a member of a prominent plumbing firm said this afternoon that about two-thirds of that number were transients.

When asked as to whether the demands of the plumbers would be complied with, he replied that he was unprepared to answer that question, as the new phase of the strike had not been considered as yet. Both himself and his firm were opposed to yielding and did not propose to do so. There was a principle involved; the whole thing was unjust. The plumbers were now getting \$4 for eight hours work and that was as