

LOOKING-GLASS (Continued.)

numbers. The Australians, also, particularly those of New South Wales, have come to the front in grand style, and many of the English regiments have faced almost impregnable positions without turning a hair. In fact, all the troops have acted most admirably—in the words of General Buller, "they are splendid." I am aware that an honor, if made general, ceases to be an honor. But it seems to me that, henceforward, the wearing of local emblems, which has been contrary to the Queen's regulations, should be recognized and encouraged on particular days, throughout all the fighting forces of the British Empire, as a measure tending not towards disunion, but towards a proper spirit of emulation and local pride.

IN an article on the "Development of the Dominion," by Mr. Waldon Fawcett, in the last number of Harper's Weekly, there is a covert and unmerited sneer at Canada. After pointing out that a New Yorker is at the head of the syndicate erecting the largest of the Cape Breton steel plants; that almost all the machinery installed there will come from the United States; that during the past year Americans have largely increased their holdings in Canadian lumber lands, and that, finally, a Buffalo syndicate has secured a foothold in the Canadian grain trade, the writer goes on to speak of the development of Canada's natural resources as if it were dependent upon American money and American brains. It is a short step to the inference that Canadians are pitifully lacking in both of these desirable things, possessed in such bountiful measure by their neighbors. This may be the case, but the history of the past couple of decades would not so indicate. I am not going to discuss the question of the relative wealth and enterprise of the two peoples, but, as a Canadian, I protest against the innuendo that my fellow countrymen are lacking in that inventiveness, initiative, staying power and balance summed up in the one word, "brains." Canada has produced her share, and more than her share, of brainy men. They are to be found in all parts of the world—for the trouble is that Canadians, as a rule, are not sleepy stay-at-homes. Indeed, it would have been a good deal better for Canada (and, perchance, somewhat worse for a few other countries) had the sons of the Dominion been less willing and able to take care of themselves amongst strangers.

CANADA has given to the United States such men as President Schurman, of Cornell—who, by the way, cracked the Philippine nut for Uncle Samuel—Senator McMillan, of Michigan; "Jim" Hill, of the Northern Pacific Railway, and many others high up on the rungs in literature, education, finance and industrial organization. The inventor of the Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles is a Canadian. Col. Girouard, the young fellow who, by his genius as a railway constructor and administrator, made Kitchener's brilliant campaign in the Soudan possible, and is now making Roberts' campaign against the Transvaal possible, by the same means, is a Canadian. The late Grant Allen—distinguished alike in literature and science—was a Canadian. One could go on multiplying names for an hour. In proportion to its population or its age, Canada has turned out, perhaps, as many brilliant men as any country in the world. Of course, it is a well-known fact that the people of the United States consider they have just about all the intelligence the Creator allotted to mortals. If mentality were measured by mouth, we might be prepared to admit the claim. But as it is not—backward though we Canadians are in self-confidence and self-praise—we must dispute the assertion that our country is compelled to look southward for its supply of grey matter. We have many brilliant and successful Americans in Canada. We are glad to have them, and shall be pleased to have more of the same stamp. They know too much, however, to suppose that they have a cinch on all the brains in the Dominion, and if those they have left at home are deluded by such an idea, it is on a par with the notion that Dewey is the greatest admiral the world has produced.

FELIX VANE.

IN THE EVENT OF SECESSION.

LETTERS FROM EMINENT CANADIANS DISCUSSING
LAST WEEK'S ARTICLE.

OUR article of last week, discussing what would be likely to happen in the event of an attempt to break up Confederation, written by a well-known French-Canadian Member of Parliament, was the subject of widespread discussion and of considerable newspaper comment. The editor of LIFE has received, amongst others, the following communications from two eminent Canadians:

FROM NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN, Esq., M.P.—The article "In the Event of Secession" seems to me to be unexceptionable, save from this point of view. The idea of the secession of any of the Provinces is a wild absurdity, and, in the case of Quebec is not less but more absurd than in that of her sister Provinces. In my opinion the secession of any of the Provinces is outside the pale of the practical.

The practical part of the excellent article before me is the last paragraph. A solid Quebec would be a calamity, and in no part of the Confederation would the calamity be so closely and keenly felt as in Quebec. The writer, I think, is at fault in a comparison between a possibly solid Quebec and the solid South of ante-bellum days. The solidity of the South gave it power, and power which enabled it to preserve its special institution beyond the natural period; the solidifying of Quebec would make it weak; its weakness would make it fretful; and in regard to purely Provincial questions would lead to new movements and new agitations. A solid Quebec would mean at an early day Quebec reduced, to insignificance in the Confederation.

As long as the people of Quebec think on political questions on their merits Quebec must remain a power; the moment her people cease so to think and guide their actions by chauvinism of race she will be on the road to impotence and her political action will lose rational significance. One of the results of such a position would be revolutionary movements within the domain of Provincial action, and we should see men rising up ventilating projects of socialism. Mr. Gladstone's disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church would furnish an example firing to the imagination of an ambitious politician, or he might go for his model to the French Revolution. Whatever brings our French-Canadian fellow-citizens more closely in touch with the slower blooded English-speaking races helps them in working and living under British constitutional government.

The greatest enemy of French-Canadians is the man, whether Conservative or Liberal, who tries to build, on the base foundation of prejudice and passion, a solid Quebec.

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN.

Ottawa, March 15, 1900.

FROM SIR JOHN BOURINOT, CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—I see no reason whatever in the existing political, social, or economic conditions of the Dominion, or of any section in particular, for discussing, or even suggesting, the possibility of a secession of a Province, or the breaking up of the Confederation. On the contrary, these conditions point not to the establishment of an impossible Nation Canadienne, like that rashly imagined by the brilliant and unsafe Papineau, but rather to the strengthening of the bonds that unite the different members of the federal union. The union of French and English-Canadians on the battlefields of South Africa must have a more potent influence for the national advantage than the ebullitions of indiscreet speakers or irresponsible journalists. I see before me, in the years to come, a United Canada and a United Empire.

JNO. GEO. BOURINOT.

Ottawa, March 14, 1900.