

### Britain's Guest.

Dr. R. J. Wicksteed, of this city, founder and first editor of this Journal, first President of Bowood Lodge, S.O.E., thirty years member of St. George's Society, President of the League of the Rose, and draftsman of the constitution of "The Anglo-Canadian Political Party," has returned to Canada, after a ten months absence in Europe.

He took advantage of the winter season to cruise in the Mediterranean and visit the biblical and classical countries on its borders. Besides sojourning in Switzerland, Germany and Belgium.

Eight months of this holiday, however, were spent in the British Isles; and the longer portion of this time in Old London, the Cockney's "little village." London the heart of the world,—and the light of it.

He found the name "Canadian" to be sufficient to unlock readily the Englishman's reserve, and his castle. He worked for self-improvement and the acquisition of knowledge. With this object constantly in view, he wasted no time or opportunity,—as can be proved by his taking advantage, to a great extent, of the many courtesies extended to him by more than one hundred corporations, societies, associations, institutions, clubs, etc.

One of his most pleasant recollections is the dinner of the Society of St. George, held on the 22nd April last, with Mr. T. Gibson Bowles, M.P., in the chair, at which a large company of ladies and gentlemen assisted. Our brother was an honoured guest, was placed at the right hand of the chairman, and responded to the toast, "Kindred Societies in the Colonies and Abroad."

Mr. Wicksteed has lately received the following letter from the secretary of this last mentioned society:—

"THE SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE,  
"No. 241 Shaftesbury Avenue,  
"Bloomsbury, London, England,  
"9th December, 1899.

"DEAR DR. WICKSTEED:—

"I have the pleasure to enclose report of committee for the current year, by which you will learn of the progress we are slowly making; but perhaps it is better than a mushroom popularity, and the revival has assuredly "come to stay."

"Thank you very much for the newspaper containing account of the honours paid you; I am sure it was more welcome than all your receptions from home, pleasant as your reminiscences must always be of your visit to the "Old Land." We have issued our report

late, so that it may act as kind of half-way reminder, and keep the light burning towards St. George's Day next. Trusting that the Canadian winter, which you so much missed, will keep you in perfect health. Believe me, with kindest regards,

"Sincerely yours,

"HOWARD RUFF,

"Hon. Secretary."

In acknowledgment of this letter, the following motion was moved by Mr. Wicksteed, seconded by Mr. Geo. E. Preston, and it was resolved:—

"That the St. George's Society of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, hails with delight the revival of 'The Society of St. George' in England; with the object among others, of reviving the recognition and celebration in every part of the world,—and especially throughout the whole Empire—of the old English National festival of St. George, on St. George's Day, the twenty-third of April,—

"That this, our Society in Canada would have this day more and more observed and celebrated as the Festival of England. Let Britons wherever living, hold in mind on that day, not the Empire, not the United Kingdom, not Canada, not this or that outlying portion of the Realm, but England herself, the 'predominant partner,' the immensely powerful, wealthy, important and patient part of the British Isles, which part really makes the others rich, safe and respected;—and from her vast capital, the city of London, rules the world of commerce, the ocean, and the other Dominions of the Queen and Empress."

"That this Society of Englishmen in the capital of Canada, hopes in the near future, to see the universal observance throughout the world of St. George's Day,—made and held sacred by and to the unity and fraternity of the great Anglo-Saxon race and the English-speaking communities on this globe of earth."

Passed on the 9th day of January, 1900, and the Secretary ordered to engross the same and forward it to the Secretary of the Society of St. George in London, England.

### News in Brief.

A British patriotic fund has been started in Fiji.

Canada offers 40,000 militia for garrison duty.

British Columbia has subscribed over \$5,000 for the relatives of the troops ordered to South Africa.

The war is greatly benefitting the British steel trade among other industries.

A very graceful and appropriate present is the gift of a Union Jack to the *Maine* by her Majesty the Queen.

Rio Janeiro Britishers have sent £700 for Tommy Atkins. Burma has sent a first installment of £500.

The Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements has unanimously voted \$50,000 for the relief of those connected with the expeditionary force in South Africa.

A Melbourne insurance company has offered a life-long pension of £1 a week to the first Australian who gets the Victoria Cross.

Out of the two thousand men wounded since Lord Methuen started from Orange River one-third have sufficiently recovered to be able to resume their military duties.