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OF OLD SAT FREEDOM. — A POEM BY ALFRED TENNYSON.

BY F. O. MABER, WINNIPEG.

OF the three political poems of Alfred Tennyson, "Of Old Sat Freedom" has most power to charm us. A perusal of it brings to our minds the struggles of a great nation after liberty; their successes and failures; their weal and woe.

Many years ago freedom in some parts of the world was an uncommon thing. In Europe it was an everyday occurrence to see men thrown into prison, and sometimes subjected to severe torture, merely for giving utterance to their thoughts or opinions, if they happened to be contrary to the express wishes of their leaders.

At present we have but to do with England. It is well known that during the time of the Commonwealth every sport and pastime was disallowed, and every infringement of this rule was punished with great severity. One statute of this age ordered that all May-poles in the country should be hewn down; another that Christmas Day should be

kept with sobriety and fasting to atone for the great sins of their ancestors in keeping this day with frivolity and mirth. The walls were not to be decorated with holly, and mistletoe must not hang from the ceiling. The fir must not be laden with presents, nor must the children crowd around with merry faces to receive them. On no account must they eat mince pies. Bear-baiting, horse racing and village brawls were strictly forbidden. No person was allowed to attend a theatre, and the actors when caught were lashed at the cart-wheel. Even the youths who contested in the Grinning Matches on the Greens were severely reprimanded.

When Charles the Second ascended the throne, the pent-up feelings of the people burst forth. All matters disallowed during the Protectorate were taken up and carried to excess. The theatres were re-opened, the saloon doors unlocked; and "gallant gentlemen" lay rolling in the streets. Female