

SHUT THE DOOR SOFTLY.

Shut the door softly, mother's asleep,
Her fever is broken, her slumber is deep;
Look in her pale face, and see there no pain—
Darling, be thankful, we've mother again.

Shut the door softly, and come to her side;
What should we do if our mother had died?
She who has loved us our weary lives through;
Shut the door softly, and do as I do.
Shut the door softly, and kneel with me here,
To Him who has spared us our own mother dear;
Who has given her back to our arms once again,
Borne her through danger, and softened her pain.

Shut the door softly, and look in her face,
And see how it gathers in health and in grace.
Is she not handsome, this mother of ours?
Waking to life like the budding of flowers;
Let us lose all in this fast flying life—
Sister and brother, and husband and wife;
Mother's love only, all times has defied;
Shut the door softly, and come to her side.

Back from the shores of the fathomless lake;
Weary with travel, but laden with charms,
Longing to clasp us within her fond arms.
Mother, dear mother, we loved you before,
Now we shall love you a thousand times more,
Welcome, dear heart, from the shadowy land,
Shut the door softly, and kiss her dear hand.

ENGLAND.

"The Queen of England rules over 234,762,593 souls; her people dwell in 44,142,651 houses; the area of the lands they inhabit is 7,768,449 square miles." These are the stupendous figures disclosed by the "imperial census" of the British dominions taken in 1871 but only now fully tabulated. How insignificant appear the extent and the population of our republic compared with the territory and the people over whom Queen Victoria, or the clique of gentlemen who rule in her name, reigns supreme! We have an area of 3,034,459 square miles, she has more than twice as much; we have a population of 40,000,000, she is the ruler over six times as many. Her dominions are in Europe, in North America, in Central America and the West Indies, in Africa, and the Indian seas, in Australia, and in Asia. Less than 40,000,000 of the Queen's subjects are Christians; there are 30,000,000 Mahometans, 98,000,000 Hindoos, more than 2,000,000 of Buddhists, and 58,000,000 of "others"—"heathen" of this kind or the other kind, for the sects of heathendom are as numerous as the divisions of Christianity. Imperial Rome at the summit of its glory exercised dominion over 1,600,000 square miles of territory, and 120,000,000 of people yielded obedience to her sway. But Victoria rules nearly twice as many people, and is the sovereign of a territory more than six times as large. To count the people in England and Wales alone on the third day of April, 1871, required 32,513 census takers, who were supervised by 2,195 registrars and 626 superintendents. They did their work in a single night, and it was so well done that not a man, woman, or child escaped them. They counted a population of 22,856,164, and they found to the indelible disgrace of the Englishmen that while 39 out of every 100 men between the ages of twenty five and thirty were unmarried there were 1,246,000 women between the ages of fifteen and twenty one who were unmarried. The 'professional class' in England comprised 680,000 persons; the 'domestic class,' wives, mothers, hotel and lodging house keepers, and servants, more than 5,000,000; the 'agricultural class,' 1,600,000; the 'industrial class,' 5,137,000; the class of 'rank and property,' 168,000; and there were 7,500 children.

Crossing the channel to Europe, the Queen's subjects are found in Heligoland, in Gibraltar, and in Malta; but all of these, numbering only 77,000 souls, do not amount to as many as are counted in an English town of the second class. In Canada and

the Bermudas there are 3,789,690 British subjects, with plenty of elbow room, since they inhabit an area of 3,376,025 square miles. In the British West India Islands there are about 1,000,000. On the continent there are British Honduras and British Guiana, with a population of 218,000 souls. Coming to Africa and the adjacent islands, Queen Victoria finds herself the ruler of 236,860 square miles and of 1,813,450 persons. These dwell in Ascension Island, St. Helena, Sierra Leone, the Gambia settlements, the Gold Coast, the Cape Griqualand and Natal. In the Indian seas she has the Mauritius, with 330,469 people West Australia, with 978,000 square miles of territory, has only 24,785 inhabitants; South Australia with 760,000 square miles has 189,000 people; Victoria with only 88,000 square miles has 731,528 inhabitants; New South Wales, on its 323,437 square miles has 502,981 residents; Queensland has 120,104; Tasmania, 99,328, and New Zealand has 293,893.

Finally comes India, the greatest and most splendid division of the British Empire. There are twelve Provinces in British India over which the Queen Viceroy rules supreme. These Provinces number 191,307,070 souls; they occupy an area of 938,366 square miles and they live in 787,061 towns or villages. The Provinces of Bengal and Behar have a population of 56,000,000, and it is here that the famine is raging; the northwest Provinces have 30,669,000 people; Oude has 11,220,000; the Punjab, 17,596,000; the central Provinces, 9,066,083; British Burmah, 2,562,823; the Madras Presidency, 31,000,000; Bombay and Sind 14,000,000. And the islands of Ceylon and Hong Kong, the peninsula of Kowloon, Singapore, Wellesley, Penang, and Malacca, have together a population of 2,837,278.

Nominally it is Victoria who is the reigning Queen of all these people. Practically, they are governed by the working king who happens to be the most in favour with 350 or 360 of the elected and representative gentlemen who form the Lower House of the British Parliament. His name to day is Disraeli. The 31,000,000 of people who live in Great Britain and Ireland, rule the destinies of the 203,000,000 of British subjects who dwell in the rest of the world. There are those who believe that this rule would be much better exercised if those 203,000,000 were permitted to send men of their own choice to represent them in Parliament. The politicians, if not the people of Canada, are anxious for this reform—and the appointment of Mr. Edward Jenkins as the political agent of the Canada Government at London is said to have been made with a view towards the accomplishment of this desire.—*N. Y. World.*

At the San Francisco of Science, February 16, Prof. Davidson reported upon the result of the soundings made by Commander George E. Belknap, of the U. S. S. *Tuscarora*, during the year 1873, having especial reference to the project of laying a telegraphic cable from the California coast to Japan. This examination determined the fact that the sudden descent of the bottom of the Pacific is continuous down the entire coast, at a distance from shore varying from twenty to seventy miles. On the latitude of San Francisco Bay the great beach is reached a short distance off the Farallones, where the bottom suddenly descends to a depth of two miles. Off Cape Foulweather the bottom descends precipitously from 400 fathoms to a depth of 1,500 fathoms, and then the plateau

continues westward for hundreds of miles, and comparatively as level as a billiard table. Prof. Davidson, in discussing some of the questions connected with the temperature observations obtained by this expedition, remarked that the passage of Behring Straits permitted no large underflow of the Arctic waters, but a branch of the great Japanese current set northward and eastward. The effect of the small Arctic current from the coast of Kamtschatka was in the scanty and boreal character of the fauna of the region in striking contrast with the influence of the warm Japanese current along the coast of Alaska in the same latitude.

The effective of the French army which is this year set down at 419,978 men, arranged next year, says the *Army and Navy Gazette*, to reach 442,000. The Infantry this year number 272,000 men, the Cavalry 53,444, the Artillery 50,520, Engineers 9,000, Military Train 5,000, Gendarmerie and Municipal Guard 27,014. The latter denominations of armed men can hardly be called soldiers, being rather police. Out of these 419,978 men there are so many on furlough that the War Minister is in a position to save 80,000,000 francs out of his estimates, and to devote that amount to other purposes than paying men. General de Wimpffen who succeeded to the command of the Army at Sedan after MacMahon had been wounded, has written to the papers making suggestions how things should be managed at the War Office. The General evidently objects to fortifications on a large scale and states that a country is best defended by the number and quality of its soldiers. He therefore hopes that, instead of laying out the 80,000,000 fr. in earth and stone works General du Barrail will see to arming and equipment of the active Army and the Reserve, and will form camps of instruction, where soldiers will learn to manoeuvre and generals how to handle their troops. Looking at the French Budget for 1875, one finds that the Navy will be composed of 92 vessels, 7 of which are plated, 78 are in reserve or on trial, of these 31 are plated. The total effective of the marine is set down at 29,477 men. There are two Admirals, 15 Vice-Admirals, 30 Rear Admirals, 100 First Captains, 201 Captains, 640 Lieutenants, 500 Second Lieutenants, and 210 Midshipmen. In addition to these are 16,000 Marines and 4,500 Marine Artillery.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London *Morning Post* gives some interesting particulars as to the numerical strength of the Russian military forces. He says:—The Russian Army is, next to that of Germany, numerically the strongest in the world. In time of peace the Czar has 765,879 men under arms; in war time he can put 1,213,176 fighting men in the field. During the great war of 1870-71 the Emperor of Germany had at his disposal 1,350,787 men and 263,735 horses; the largest Army ever got together, even in Deutschland, where every man, gentle or simple, is a soldier. In Russia the Army is divided into regular and irregular troops divided into (1) the Army of Russia in Europe, (2) the Army of the Caucasus, (3) the Turkestan Army, (4) the Army of Siberia, and (5) what is called the 'Administration,' the last comprehending what is known in England as the 'establishment.' The war strength of the Russian Army in Europe is 879,755, of the Caucasian Army 163,757, of the Turkestan Army 22,294, and of the Siberian Army 11,041.