

## THE "HAYTHEN."

Who is he? Where is he to be found? We have known of him who "bows down to wood and stone" for over half a century, some of us too well. Yet, as we quote "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," our distaste to that heathen (converted) is almost put to shame by the spirit of that sweet hymn which is the standing rebuke of a real poet to the smug *farceur*, who complacently lay before the Almighty as a tribute of praise the inanest doggerel it has entered into the heart of man to conceive. Yes, we know a good deal of this "haythen," and we have an innate—we had almost said a congenital—preference for him unregenerated; for it has been much borne in upon us that in many of the theatres of missionary effort it is but a spurious christain that has taken the place of a savage respectable according to his natural lights. In so far as education has had anything to do with our ingrained prejudices we have sat at the feet of Boz. We have a keen appreciation of the inky fingers of Mrs. Jellaby, and the miseries of Carrie, overshadowed and oppressed by the claims of Borioboolah-gah, and we are entirely with the late Mr. Samuel Weller as to the inanity of subscribing money to send "flannel weskits and pocket 'ankerchers to the niggers." But there is a "haythen" close at the doors of all of us, whose needs spiritual and temporal confront us at every turn. Charity, it is rightly said, begins at home, and of this "haythen" we do not, from Whitechapel to Albermarle Street, know or care half as much as we ought to do. We have been somewhat startled of late by statistics of the extraordinary cost of the conversion of a single "mild Hindoo," and now a dignitary of the Church of England, Canon Taylor, makes a calculation of the amount of money subscribed in the old country for missions to the heathen, and at the same time furnishes the results obtained by "conversions."

In continuing, we quote a spirited article from the *London Weekly Bulletin*:—"These are obtained from the published statistics of the various missionary societies, and are therefore impossible to be disputed or gatus'd—indeed, represent probably the bright and not the dark side of missionary enterprise. Canon Taylor shows that as population increases in heathen lands at an enormously more rapid rate than converts are made, it would take all the missionary societies of the world together 183,000 years to convert their inhabitants to Christianity. He demonstrates, further, that the system in many 'fields of missionary labor' results in a game of spiritual 'beggar my neighbor.' A heathen 'inquirer' may consider himself secure of a steady weekly income. He goes the round of the emissaries of the various societies in his locality, and makes a draw from each, to be eventually baptised, perhaps, by the last comer. Canon Taylor shows that the practice of sending out smug young men, who have begun life as grocers' assistants, to contend with the acute intellects of Hindoos is a perfect farce, which costs many thousands a year, with no results at all. These gentry draw a salary of £300 a year from head-quarters. They marry at three-and-twenty, have their bungalow, their punkah, and their pony-carriage, and are especially conspicuous in following the Biblical precept to be 'fruitful and multiply.' At home the faithful are plied with sensational stories of the harvest reaped abroad, by astute secretaries, who draw handsome salaries, and have comfortable houses in Westbourne Park. The religious public, who supply the sinews of war, are kept up to the mark by the gratification of seeing their names figuring in the annual report as subscribers to the funds of the society to the amount of one guinea per annum, and a very cheap advertisement of piety, too! It seems that the only people who have had any real success in evangelising the heathen have been the Moravians and the Jesuits in the past, and the Wesleyan Methodists and the Salvation Army in the present. They lived, and live with, and like, the people they come to convert, and have some chance of making converts; while the missionary of the orthodox Islington type has just about as much chance as a pig-tailed Chinaman who should open a conventicle in London in the expectation of converting the Cockney to Buddhism.

Let it not be supposed that we are insinuating any doubt of the moral value of Christianity to heathen nations; but we hate shams; and Canon Taylor has done a good service in exposing 'The Failure of the Great Missionary Enterprise.' He instances numbers of missions the result of which is *nil*, and which ought in common honesty to be given up. The moral we draw is that if people here want to indulge proclivities for converting people to new faiths, they might subscribe their guineas, now wasted on black or copper-colored heathen abroad, on the equally necessitous, if not so picturesque, heathen at Whitechapel, St. George's in the East, Ratcliff Highway, and the like." And the moral is applicable to other Christian centres besides London.

## THE NEW SOLOMON.

We have been a little curious to get some inkling of what manner of man Mr. Solomon White, the so-called Conservative Annexationist, might be. If the information of the *Ottawa Evening Journal*, one of whose reporters is stated to have interviewed him, be correct, we can gauge him pretty accurately. When he says—"I am a staunch Conservative, and the views I hold regarding the union of the two great nations of North America do not in the least affect my political opinions," an inconsistency crops out that points to a crude and illogical mind. But when he goes on to prate—apropos of British emigration—that emigrants leave the old world "to escape the tyranny of monarchical governments, and eschew Canada upon learning that the form of government here is the same as in England," we are at once enabled to sound the very shallow depths of Mr. Solomon White's mind—or what he may haply fancy to be a mind. Solomon must have had cruelly thoughtless parents to have handicapped him with the irony of such a name.

Mr. White does not think the Great North West is being peopled as we

expected, because emigration is diverted "on account of our being under a monarchical form of government." We are quite safe in concluding that Mr. White did not see the North-West in 1870. He is still indeed so evidently young and verdant that he could scarcely have been more than a baby at that time, and he is apparently likely to remain a baby intellectually, whatever his age and physical growth may be. He is certainly an unique specimen of conservatism, and the doom of the annexation folly is certain and swift if it can find no wiser advocate than this cheap namesake of the father of wisdom. Truly, "wisdom is before him that hath understanding, but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth."

"He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow, and the father of a fool hath no joy." It is to be hoped the respected progenitor of the modern Solomon was gathered to his fathers before his offspring went astray.

## AN EXPLODED MYTH.

Some regret has been felt by thoughtful people who bear in mind the lessons and analogies of history at the apparent certainty that has been expressed as to the multiplication of the French-Canadian. Fecundity is often a characteristic of impulsive yet stationary races, and it seemed not improbable that the assumption were true, trouble in the future might grow out of it. High hopes have indeed taken possession of our French fellow citizens, which have been inflated by the belief of some Ontario writers that the tendency of the Gallic nationality in Canada is to crowd out all other people, and to establish the French language, and French laws throughout the Dominion.

That this would be an unmitigated calamity to civilization goes without question. Happily a change has come o'er the spirit of a disquieting dream, and, like all fevered visions of superstition, the nightmare has been dispelled by a little careful scientific investigation. This is the more satisfactory as the assumed fact disquieted the mind of Dr. Goldwin Smith, who saw no remedy for the apparently inevitable but the usual panacea of weak-kneed Canadians—Annexation.

By reference to the Census Returns it is found that the family raised by the average French-Canadian is little, if at all, larger than the average Ontario family.

Quebec it appears has more children under 11 years old in proportion to population than Ontario, but the population between 11 and 20 is larger in Ontario than in Quebec. The greater birth rate in Quebec is more than balanced by the greater death rate under 10 years.

In Quebec there were, in 1881, 33 infants per 1000 of population, under one year old. In Ontario, a fraction over 26. At five years of age the difference was only two in the 1000. At eleven Ontario had the advantage. Between 15 and 16 the proportions are, in Ontario 22.78 to 21.96 in Quebec per 1000. Between 19 and 20, Ontario 21.60 Quebec, 20.08.

As between Quebec and New Brunswick the analysis gives the following results:—

	Quebec.	New Brunswick.
Under 1 year.....	32.9	27.5
Between 1 and 2 yrs. ....	23.5	23.8
" 5 and 6 " .....	29.2	27.3
" 10 and 11 " .....	24.9	25.9
" 19 and 20 " .....	20.0	21.1

We omit the intermediate ages, the proportions of which, though unimportant, show even greater gain in several instances for New Brunswick. We have a doubt whether the figures for "under one year" are correctly given in the table from which we copy. If they are, they are significant of less congenital strength in Quebec. At all events, the statement clearly indicates that the families brought to maturity in New Brunswick are larger than in the vaunted households of Quebec. There is no reason to question the accuracy of these researches, and, if further investigation sustains them, the unwelcome tradition dies the death of a thousand others, and there remains no reason to anticipate the threatened preponderance, least of all in a country which is attracting so large and fast-increasing an immigration of other stocks.

In the *Chronicle* of the 27th ult. appeared the following:—"THE CRITIC, which has a painfully manifest leaning towards Toryism, says that General Laurie has been elected in Shelburne by an increased majority of 45. As his total majority is only 41, and the increase only 33, it is clear that our independent contemporary likes to place things in the most favorable light for its Tory friends. We have often observed this peculiar type of independence before." The *Chronicle* is perfectly aware that we note the results of elections without comment, except in the rarest instances; and had we desired to do so in the case of the Shelburne election, there might have been a good deal to say, but it has not perhaps occurred to it that the day on which we go to press most frequently obliges us to record these items before returns are finally revised. We did not intend to convey the impression that the number, 45, was the excess over General Laurie's previous majority. The *Chronicle's* insinuation that we desired "to place things in the most favorable light" for our "Tory friends" is somewhat unworthy. Four votes would indeed be a vast inducement to THE CRITIC to prevaricate! We have a prejudice in favor of truth and unvarnished facts.

The Liberal press persists in representing the guarantee of interest on \$15,000,000 to the C. P. R. as a direct appropriation of that sum, and no doubt this disingenuous representation is accepted as a simple fact by thousands. We live, unhappily, in an atmosphere of chicanery and untruth, nevertheless falsehood will in the long run recoil on the party, whichever it may be, that resorts to it.