

LITERARY NOTES

The Rev. J. H. Ratcliffe gave an instructive lecture last week before the Literary Society of St. Catharines, Ont., in connection with the Collegiate Institution of that place.

Mr. Arthur Buies has just published a new work entitled "L'Outaouais Supérieur," which is full of valuable information, and is marked by the author's well known merits of style.

A new edition has been brought out of "Parliamentary Government in England," by the late Dr. A. Todd, C.M.G. It has been edited and revised by his son, Mr. A. H. Todd, of Ottawa.

Mr. W. Blackburne Harte, from whose paper in the *Cosmopolitan* we obtained the striking pen portrait of Sir John Macdonald which appeared in our issue of the 8th inst., has an article on "The drift towards annexation" in the June *Forum*.

A pathetic interest attaches to the latest volume issued by Sir Edwin Arnold, author of "The Light of Asia," etc. It is entitled "In My Lady's Praise," and is described as "Poems Old and New, Written to the Honour of Fannie, Lady Arnold, and now Collected for her Memory."

The publishing firm of Walter Scott, 24 Warwick Lane, London, is still busy sending forth its cheap and tasteful editions of treasures, new and old. Among the latest issues are Prof. William Sharp's "American Sonnets" and Mr. W. D. Lighthall's "Songs and Poems of the Great Dominion."

An English publishing firm has recently received a letter the writer of which offered to sell an "autograph communication" from a person of eminence for the sum of two guineas. The offer was not accepted, the firm questioning their correspondent's right to dispose in that way of what had been sent to him in kindly confidence. And the firm was right.

At the last session of the Association Perpétuelle des Palmiers, a medal of honour was awarded to M. l'Abbé Laflamme, professor at Laval University, Quebec; a prize to M. Faucher de St. Maurice and another to Mr. Joseph Marmette. Silver medals were also decreed to M. le Curé A. Gingras, of Ste. Claire, to M. le Chevalier Baillargé, and to Dr. N. E. Dionne.

Montreal, says C. H. Farnham, in *Harper's Monthly*, is said to be the chief book centre of Canada, but the city does not possess a public general library, excepting the Frazer Institute, just struggling into existence; the libraries of individual institutions do not cover well any other topics than theology and civil law, and the six chief libraries together, of both languages, contain only about 100,000 volumes.

AUSTRALIA.

PROGRESS, PEOPLE AND POLITICS.

IX.

It has been my object, in those somewhat rambling articles about our fellow-subjects in the land of flowers and ferns, as Australia might well be styled, to give brief sketches of the most salient points in their political and material progress. And in summing up, it appears to me that the people are an impulsive, warm-hearted and energetic race, uniting, apparently, many of the sterling qualities of the land they sprang from, with those incidental to the warmer climes in which they live, the attributes of the Saxon and the Celt, of the Englishman and the Yankee, combined in one. Thoroughly loyal to British institutions and British connection, yet headstrong in their political passions, and easily thrown into a fever heat of indignation over what we should probably consider a trifle, the future of the country presents some cause for anxiety, more especially if any event should cause a sundering of the ties which now unite the colonies to Great Britain.

Even now the jealousies between the colonies often give rise to grave apprehensions and work much injury and inconvenience to themselves. If the all-powerful arm of Britain were removed, the result might be troubles which can now be regarded as utterly impossible. There can, however, be little doubt that events are gradually drawing the various colonies together, and that the time is not far distant when the last internal custom house will be removed; when railways and telegraphs and a central legislature will draw the people closer together, and raise upon a sure foundation of internal unity a nation second to none upon the face of the globe, and one able to take its place in that galaxy

of auxiliary kingdoms to which all true British subjects look as the one solution of the questions which now confront the countries of our Empire and the nations of the world.

Unlike the United States, Australia has no varying nationalities to assimilate, and, unlike the mother country, she has no section of her people educated into an unreasonable and unreasoning hostility to her institutions.

Of the material welfare and progress of the continent in the future there need be no fear whatever. When we look back at the beginning of the Queen's reign, in 1837, and find a population of 143,000, land under cultivation amounting to 181,000 acres, and sheep numbering 3,500,000, and see that Australia now has a population of 3,500,000, land under cultivation of over 8,000,000 acres, and possesses 74,000,000 sheep; when we find that at the former date exports were valued at \$6,500,000 and are now worth \$270,000,000; that imports amounted to \$10,000,000 and are now worth \$320,000,000; when, at the former period, we see the revenue amounting to \$2,145,000 and now footing up to \$115,000,000, and the shipping tonnage of 283,000 grown to 15,000,000, we must, indeed, realize the enormous strides the Australians have taken in every branch of material progress. Even of late years the wealth of the country seems to have continued growing in the same proportion, the deposits in the banks having increased from \$320,000,000, in 1881, to \$400,000,000 in 1884. Queensland, a couple of years ago, experienced a great mining boom. Gold and silver, diamonds and tin were all suddenly discovered, and induced a considerable increase in the investment of British capital, which has for many years past been pouring into these colonies like water.

At the same time a rise in the value of copper and tin produced a period of great prosperity in New South Wales, while sales have recently been made of city property in Melbourne, Victoria, at ten and fifteen thousand dollars a foot. What then is to be the future of this great continent? I venture to hope and believe that it will be found in the words: "a united empire," and that it will be the greatest future that could be conceived possible, even for so vast a territory and so prosperous a people.

Great Britain and Australasia, Canada and the Cape, East Indies and West Indies are all alike, bound together by a triple tie and a common interest. The ties are found in a world-wide commerce, in mutual trade, and a common sovereign. The one great and supreme interest of all alike is a safe and sure trade, and to obtain that the different parts of the Empire must organize some form or system of closer union, in order that the efficiency and strength of the Imperial naval forces may be increased, so that they may be able to perform not only the multifarious duties of protecting the commerce of the Empire, but of preventing the possibility of attack from hostile nations.

When that is done, the British Empire will be, indeed, an oceanic commonwealth, unassailable except by sea (with the two exceptions of the frontier of Afghanistan and of Canada), and with such a force upon the oceans of the world as to render a consummation so disastrous as war practically impossible.

The trend of the present age is undeniably in the direction of closer trade relations between kindred peoples, and every effort is now being made to encourage trade between the various parts of the Empire. A conference is being arranged between the different self-governing colonies to consider the question of establishing a system of preferential duties, and we may, with considerable hope, look forward to the day when Britain will find her best market in the great and growing colonies, and they in turn will be able to utilize and supply the great demands of the mother country by means of a similar system.

Then, as a result of gradual development, as a natural consequence of successive conferences held in London to consider burning questions, without friction and without injury to any of the interests concerned, we may expect to see in the years that are at hand, the creation of a Council of the Empire, which shall have control of the main principles

which underlie the administration of the exterior affairs of a vast Empire.

When that time comes we shall see the Canadian and Australian nations of the future joining hands across the oceans with the great Mother of Nations, and forming a league of power, of peace and of prosperity unequalled in the annals of the past.

In conclusion, Australia is a land of summer beauty and tropical luxuriance; a land teeming with natural resources and hidden wealth; a land of flowers and fruit; of minerals and grain; of cattle and sheep innumerable; inhabited by millions of prosperous, enterprising, patriotic and intelligent people, with a future as great as its past has been progressive, and as glorious as the flag which waves over its destinies.

Proud Queen of the Isles! Thou sittest, vast, alone,
A host of vassals bending round thy throne;
Like some fair swan that skims the silver tide,
Her silken cygnets strew'd on every side,
So floatest thou, thy Polynesian brood
Dispers'd around thee on thy ocean flood,
While every surge that doth thy bosom lave
Salutes the "Empress of the Southern Wave."

Toronto.

J. CASTELL HOPKINS.

THE ETHNOLOGY OF THE BRITISH RACE.

The intimate relation of the Gallic tribes in the time of Cæsar with the British is a fact clearly stated in Cæsar's Commentaries (Book III.) It would be interesting perhaps to our readers to try and trace the possible connection of these Gauls with Asia Minor and the East, and to show what sympathy should exist to-day between the British as a colonizing people in Canada, and the French-Canadians who dwell in our midst; and, although 1400 years at least have passed away since the two were united together as one race, we hope that the time may not be far distant when the Gallic tie will again become sufficiently apparent as to, at any rate, excite an interest in the enquiry as to origin, to such an extent as to, if possible, unite the severed portion once more to its parent stock. Our object at present being only to tentatively put forward our views, we will not unnecessarily give the original matter in detail, for fear of tediously lengthening out what just now is better kept in the ethnologist's reserve.

Those who are acquainted with such atlases as Cellarius', for example, will find ample proof from ethnographical research in tracing back the names Caledonia, Ibernia, Pictones, Ebor, Britium, Damnonia, Albion, etc., etc. Every one of these names in their original occurring from Britain right across Gaul, Spain, Italy, Greece, Asia Minor and to the region between the Caspian and the Black Sea to the south. We take the three names of races which included the whole of the British tribes at the time of the landing of Cæsar—Cymry, Brython and Llögryr. We trace these to the west coast of the Black Sea, and including the Cimmerian Sea itself in the name Brito-Lagæ. Another most interesting research may be touched upon, and this has been said to be at present the only true guide to ethnology, that is the system of numismatics. The coins known to have existed in these several localities at the time of their passage through those regions have followed the race in their symbolic character. Thus, from Asia Minor and Syria, we trace the *Trident* of the British half-penny, the *Trincria*, or three-legged man, on the modern coin of the Isle of Man, the *Duo Gasa* or two-spears of the Fingal warriors, and the horse (or *Pegasus*.) Again as to philology we learn that the ancient Celtic is clearly a language that was derived from no European tongue; but, rather the contrary, the European derives many of its roots from the Celtic, and that the Celtic claims the same relationship to the Hebrew on the one side as the Sanscrit does on the other. We do not wish to start an argument upon the priority of either of these two latter, although it may be admitted that the Sanscrit is very ancient. We merely say that Hebrew is prior to the Celtic, but that the Celtic is mainly derived and that immediately, we believe, from this language, call it Punic, Aramaic, Syriac or Hebrew.

L.G.A.R.