

America, to Mexico, to the United States and to Canada. There are said to be 200,000 of them north of the Gulf of Mexico. What that number would soon grow to if Chinese immigration were encouraged may be imagined from their increase in Siam, Cochin-China, Java, the Straits Settlements and other parts of the world where they have been freely admitted.

It is not their increase alone, however, that has to be taken into account. They grow up an alien community in the heart of the land that shelters them. The Chinese quarter is a recognized locality in all cities where they have gained a footing. They practically drive other nationalities before them. Citizens they rarely become or want to become. Where they have formed unions with American women, the offspring are Chinese. They remain pagans. While missionaries are sent to China, the Chinese in America have their joss houses. If any marked success were attained, in their evangelization, the fact would not remain unknown. They cling obstinately to their own usages, have their own tribunals and form an *imperium in imperio*. Then, not to speak of the gross immorality with which they are charged, the conditions in which they live are clearly unfavourable to the healthfulness of their neighbours. There is nothing new in these representations. They have been repeated over and over again with an emphasis varying according to the party needs of the moment. But economists are now taking them up in a different spirit. Mr. Willard B. Farwell, in the *Popular Science Monthly* for November, discussing the question as one which concerns all civilization, directs attention to the circumstances under which the last hasty measure of exclusion was enacted as "the most shameful page in American history." Of its inefficiency he has no doubt. But such as it is, its provisions cease to be in force in May, 1892, and unless some effective legislation takes its place, the Chinese will be free to come in in millions. It may be asked, if the Chinese must emigrate or die, and the less densely settled parts of the globe are closed against them, what will be the result. As railways extend through Asia, they will by and by have direct communication with Europe. What if some Attila should arise to insist on new homes being given to his people? There are some who hold that before the Huns invaded Europe, the great upheaval of that time had forced the tribes of Asia eastward, even across Behring's Strait into this New World of ours. Charlevoix cites the experience of a missionary, Father Grellon, to prove that communication was kept up between Asia and America as late as the 17th century. If China overflows, the surplusage must find room somewhere. To keep them out of America will only force on the crowded Old World a solution of the question. However it be solved, it is clear that it is too important to be treated as a weapon of party warfare. Of China's 400,000,000, thousands upon thousands are now awaiting the chance to expatriate themselves, and before the needed equilibrium has been attained, a material transformation must take place in the peopling of the globe.

If the United States are interested in this vexed question, so also is Canada. It may be recalled that a few years ago the Hon. Mr. Chapleau, with the late Hon. Justice Gray as associate, and Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P., as secretary, was sent as commissioner to investigate the subject on the Pacific Coast. After hearing a great deal of valu-

able evidence in California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, the commission presented a bulky report which deals with Chinese immigration from every point of view. The result was that, after a provincial exclusion act had been disallowed, the provision actually in force for the restriction of Chinese immigration was made by an act of the Federal Parliament. Though not all that our western fellow-citizens desired, it has served as a check on the increase of the Mongolian population. It is impossible to regard it as an ultimatum, but what the future may bring about it would be rash to prophesy.

A SIGNIFICANT FACT.

Some time ago we published an article on Canadian school histories, showing that there was no lack of such text-books and that some of them would stand comparison with the approved historical class-books of other countries. The discussion which prompted the article arose out of the expressed desire of a number of teachers for a book that could be used, with satisfaction, all over the Dominion. We cannot say whether the aspirations for the model text book embraced French as well as British Canada or was confined to the English schools. Probably, it was deemed hopeless to attempt anything so broadly generous or so non-committal that it would pass muster with English and French, Catholic and Protestant. Yet, strange as it may seem, such a marvel has come to pass in our day, and in this "benighted province." It is this unblazoned miracle that Mr. S. E. Dawson has brought to light in his letter (to which we have already referred) in the *Sherbrooke Examiner*. An editorial had appeared in that journal, urging the necessity of placing an impartial history of Canada in the hands of our young people, and in casting his eye over the small knot of men of letters from whom the fair-minded historian (who should also wield a lucid and graceful pen) might advantageously be selected, his searching gaze naturally rested on Mr. Dawson. Patience, accuracy, clearness, the faculty of "putting things," and a style that combines grace with power—these are the desiderata, and Mr. Dawson has them at command. In acknowledging the compliment paid him, Mr. Dawson reviews what has been already done—the good work and the bad work. The one was the result of a life spent in acquiring a knowledge of the country and its people; the other was due to pretentious ignorance. Mr. Dawson points out that it is not in Canada only that this teaching of history is a vexed question. It is receiving attention at this moment in the United States magazines and in European countries—in those which most concern us, especially France and England—what a diversity of opinion there is on the subject! It is just as hard to compile a history of the Stuart period that would satisfy both Anglicans and Non-conformists, or a history of the last hundred years that would be acceptable alike to French Royalists and French Republicans, as it is to produce a book of which the French and English in Canada could say with one voice: "This just suits us."

And yet, for years past a series of manuals, written by an ex-Professor of an Anglican university, has been in use, with the approval of the highest educational authorities in the land, in both the French and English schools of this province! Let those who delight in aggravating and exaggerating our divisions take heed of this fact. On the text-

books in question let Mr. Dawson have the word. After emphasizing the rare triumph of mutual forbearance and good-will which made it possible to teach history to Protestants and Catholics out of one book, Mr. Dawson thus writes of the series:

"They were written by Dr. Miles, formerly secretary of the Protestant Committee of Public Instruction and at one time Professor in Bishop's College, Lennoxville. As before stated, they have the sanction of both the Catholic and Protestant Committees. They were submitted in manuscript to the Anglican Bishop of Quebec, to the Rev. Dr. Cook, of Quebec, to the late Ven. Archdeacon Leach, then Professor of Literature in McGill College, to the Professor of English Literature in Laval College, to the Superiors respectively of the Jacques Cartier and Laval Normal Schools and the Rev. Father Thebaud, S.J., formerly of St. Mary's College. The series met with approval from all these authorities. The books are written in an easy and attractive style and the middle one of the series—the School History—is one of the handiest and most succinct histories of Canada existing." Then, after indicating certain exceptions to their use—as too Protestant for some, and too Catholic for others, Mr. Dawson adds: "But to me it seems to be a great thing that a historical series should be used at all by both Protestants and Catholics—and more—that one of the books should be translated into French and used in French schools." In closing his letter, Mr. Dawson regrets that the relations between the two great religious communions of the country are less cordial and harmonious now than they were when the series was adopted, and is hardly inclined to hope that an equally wide sanction would be obtained for any new series that might be prepared. However that may be, the agreement to which he has called our attention is a precedent, the significance of which should be borne in mind by all those who "seek peace and ensue it."

CANADA.

'Tis a very good country to live in
Provided you've plenty of pluck,
And provided you've plenty of ballast
And not too much faith in "Good Luck."

For whiskey and av'rice are wreckers,
On which you may easily strand;
And fortune will slip through your fingers,
If held with too heedless a hand.

And company to keep there is plenty,
Of a kind that wont "go in and win;"
And of help t'other way there is little,
Though plenty to help you to sin.

So if of high aim and set purpose,
And money you own a fair share,
You may venture to try the new country
And count on its treating you square.

'Tis a very good country to die in,
Though the daisy wont grow on your grave,
Yet the sod will lie close o'er your ashes,
As on the green mounds o'er the wave.

And though no soft bells in the distance
May wing your soul upward in trust,
There's a cable throbs through the Atlantic
Uniting your dust unto dust.

And that sun is the same which shines o'er you,
That shone on the home of your youth;
And yon moon is the same silver crescent,
That witnessed your first pledge of truth.

And the stars that shine out through the darkness,
Bring hither their message of bliss,—
That the highway to Heaven is no shorter
From that side of the ocean than this.

'Tis a very good country to die in,
God's love being ever the same;
And nought of your dust will be missing
When His roll-call shall reach to your name.