

UNUSUAL BITS OF LITERATURE OR EXPRESSION.

Says Principal Grant of Queen's University: The annexationist at the outset surrenders the name of Canada, with all it involves—its history, its constitution, its past struggles, its present life, its hopes and aims—as things absolutely worthless. Of course, to some men—and all cattle—such things are worthless.

Principal Grant, D.D.: France gave without stint the great explorers, whose names are sown all over this continent thick as a field—martyrs and missionaries of deathless fame, saintly women whose works do still follow them. Their blood was not lost in vast inland seas and on rugged Laurentian and Huronian rocks. It fell on good soil, and we see its permanent memorial now in a noble French-speaking people, enjoying their own language, laws and institutions under a flag identified with their liberties, and under a constitution that they and their fathers have helped to hammer out. Their children sit side by side in our Federal Parliament with the children of their ancestral foes, and the only real contest between them is which shall serve Canada best.

A distinguished English historical writer, W. E. H. Lecky, has issued a work entitled "Democracy and Liberty." In it he declares the opinion that the abuses that flow from the system (of Democracy) are very apparent. He attributes most of the political and social evils of the present period to the "complete displacement of the centre of power in free governments," and to the supremacy of the ignorant and propertyless in national life. Governments are deteriorating, political morality is vanishing, and society itself is in danger of disintegration. The cause of all this is found in the new system of Government—in a system which Mr. Lecky believes leads to the "submerging or swamping the varieties of genuine opinion by great uniform masses of ignorant and influenced voters." Premising, the author says: "The evil of evils in our present politics is that the constituencies can no longer be fully trusted, and that their power is so nearly absolute that they have an almost complete control over the well-being of the Empire. One of the great divisions of politics in our day is coming to be whether, at the last resort, the world should be governed by its ignorance or by its intelligence."

The books of Oliver Wendell Holmes are full of admirable bits of humor, of nice observation, of kindly expression. Not often does he blaze into indignation, either personal or patriotic. But when he does his words are neither weak nor wavering. Writing to Motley in 1862 he uses some of the strongest language seen in any of his letters regarding a large class of objectionable people whom we may take to be Democrats: "You know quite as well as I do that accursed under-current of mercantile materialism, which is trying all the time to poison the fountains of the national conscience. You know better than I do the contrivances of that detested horde of mercenary partizans who would in a moment accept Jeff Davis, the slave trade and a southern garrison in Boston to get back their post-offices and their Custom house, where the bread they have so long eaten was covered with slime like that of their brother serpents before it was swallowed."

Reviewing a recent book upon the life and letters of this delightful Bostonian *Autocrat*, Mr. Martin J. Griffin says, in the *Montreal Gazette*: In his letters there are always sentences full of felicity of expression. Thus, in writing to Mr. Howells, he says: "Of course, I was pleased—how could I help being pleased?—with the penetrating and nicely accented praise you awarded me. We know the difference between the smudge of eulogy and a stroke of characterization." And in the same letter, referring to Howells, he says that Howells has "assimilated all that Boston could do for you, so completely, that it seems as if you had cheated somenative Esau out of his birthright." In writing to Whittier, he says: "At seventy we are objects of revereration, at eighty of curiosity, at ninety of wonder." In 1890 he very facetiously says, "The truth is, I received such a number of flattering letters, poems, etc., that I have to 'buck' like a Mexican pony to get rid of my load of gratitude." To James Russell Lowell he writes: "We Boston people are so bright and wide-awake, and have been really so much in advance of our fellow barbarians with our 'Monthly Anthologies' and 'Atlantic Monthlies' and 'North American Reviews,' that we have been

in danger of thinking our local scale was the absolute one of excellence—forgetting that 212 Fahrenheit is but 100 centigrade." Concerning the fuss that was made about him socially in New York, and on certain "occasions" he says: "These occasional *Autos-da-fe* at which I am a kind of asbestos victim, are almost wearing the life out of me. It is as bad as habitual drunkenness, this habit I have been led into."

A woman who, upon a railway car, had been rudely jerked by the conductor, was asked why she did not report him, and replied: "Oh, he is an ignorant creature, and he probably has a wife and children to support." There are Americans who have argued in favor of this spirit in our uneducated classes. They say it shows "independence"; that this is a free country, where no man "toadies" to another. "They forget," says *Munsey's Magazine*, "that mutual respect is the first principle of really free and enlightened people."

THE WOOD MARKET IN BRITAIN.

Farnworth & Jardine's wood circular, dated Liverpool, 1st July, 1896, says:

"The arrivals from British North America during the past month have been 30 vessels, 33,699 tons, against 22 vessels, 20,117 tons during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1894, 1895, and 1896, has been 119,056, 118,869, and 178,464 tons respectively."

"The business on the whole during the past month has been quiet, and there is little change to report. Imports, with few exceptions, have not been excessive; the demand has been fair, the deliveries generally satisfactory, and stocks are moderate; values of most articles are firm."

"CANADIAN WOODS.—*Waney and Square Pine*—The arrivals, especially of the former, have been large, and chiefly by steamer; the deliveries have been on a correspondingly large scale; there is no change in values to report, which continue steady. *Square pine* is difficult to move, and prices are easier. *Red pine* has been rather more enquired for, but there is no change in value. *Oak*—The arrivals have been heavy, both from the Canadian and United States ports; there has been a fair enquiry, but prices of the latter are easier; the stock is quite sufficient. *Elm* has come forward freely; there is a fair demand at steady prices, but the stock is quite ample. *Ash*—The import, chiefly from the United States, is very heavy; the deliveries have also been large, but prices are easier and the stock is ample. *Pine deals* have moved off freely, and the stock is still in a moderate compass; there is no change in values to report, which, however, are difficult to maintain."

"NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA SPRUCE AND PINE DEALS.—Of spruce deals the import has been 7,696 standards, against 3,584 standards same time last year; the deliveries have again been satisfactory, most of the arrivals going direct into consumption; the stock is now very moderate; prices have continued very steady although there is not much change in value to record; with moderate supplies prospects are fair."

"BIRCH.—*Logs*—The import continues too large, and although the deliveries have been satisfactory prices have again given way, recent sales being at very low rates; the stock is too heavy. *Planks* have also come forward too freely, and have also declined in value; the recent low price, however, has stimulated consumption, but the stock is too heavy."

"UNITED STATES OAK.—A parcel of fresh wood from New Orleans has just arrived; the demand is limited, and prices continue low. Of planks there has again been a very heavy import; the demand is dull, stocks are increasing, and prices show a further decline; the total stock amounts to 301,000 cubic feet."

"PITCH PINE.—The arrivals during the past month have been on a large scale, viz., 13 vessels, 18,438 tons, against 7 vessels, 7,811 tons, during a like period last year, but the consumption has also been phenomenal, being about 770,000 cub. ft., against 367,000 cub. ft. last year, and though we find stocks heavier, we expect soon they will be normal again, as reports from the other side point to a light import for the remainder of the season. Of hewn the consumption has more than kept pace with the import, and stocks are lower than for some time past. Of sawn the import has been unusually large, being 941,000 cubic ft. for the month, and though nearly 600,000 cubic ft. have gone into consumption, we are left with

the large stock of over 1,100,000 cubic ft. Of planks and boards the import has again been heavy, but with a good consumption stocks are only slightly increased."

"SEQUOIA (CALIFORNIAN REDWOOD).—The recent sales have all been in retail quantities, prices are well maintained, but the stock is quite sufficient."

"BRITISH COLUMBIAN AND OREGON PINE.—No import. There has been rather more enquiry, but values are unchanged and stock is still too heavy."

"UNITED STATES STAVES.—There has been a heavy import during the past month and a fairly good consumption, but the stock is increasing, the demand at present is not very brisk, and moderation in shipments is desirable."

"BALTIC AND EUROPEAN WOODS.—The arrivals during the past month have been 19 vessels, 10,291 tons, against 31 vessels, 15,535 tons, during the like period last year. *Fir Timber*—The import consists of one cargo from Dantzic; the demand is very limited and stock sufficient. *Red and white deals* have been imported moderately; the consumption has been fairly satisfactory at steady prices; stocks are not heavy. *Flooring Boards*—The arrivals have been moderate, and as there has been a good consumption, the stock is now light; prices are firm, and sellers are asking advanced prices for forward delivery."

UNITED STATES BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

Closing of mills and shops about midsummer is by no means unusual in prosperous years. In order to meet the rush for goods at particular seasons, more machinery is put in than can be profitably employed the whole year, not only in textile but in other manufactures. The cotton mills have for some time been overloaded even more than is usual in a dull season, and temporary stoppage was the only relief. Large sales of print cloths are reported at 2½c., slightly above the bottom price, but other goods have not yet been strengthened. Nor have woolen goods improved, but the tone is rather less hopeful and the demand for goods is even more slack than was expected, and sales of wool at the three chief markets have been only 2,067,100 lbs. for the week, against 12,716,500 last year, and for two weeks of June 6,401,881 lbs., of which 3,830,181 were domestic, against 26,500,114 last year, of which 16,885,109 were domestic. Western holders are stiffened by the tone of foreign markets, and as manufacturers have little encouragement to expect large orders for goods, dealings are remarkably light. Some decrease appears in the demand for boots and shoes since higher prices have been asked, but where manufacturers have orders for as long ahead as they think it safe to contract, having in mind possible fluctuations in leather, they are apt to ask higher prices than others who stand more in need of business. Quotations are changed, and shipments on former orders were larger than in the corresponding week of any other year except 1895.

Not much can be said of a market so flat as that of iron and steel products, but part of the inactivity is strictly seasonable, part is due to still unsettled questions about wages, and much more to a general disposition to defer orders until the future is clearer. Whether prices for finished products are too high or not, they average relatively at least 10 per cent. higher than prices of pig iron, which necessarily causes inaction when pig is going lower. Bessemer fell this week to \$12 at Pittsburg, and grey forge to \$10, but some contracts of importance have been placed, one for 7,000 to 8,000 tons for a new building on Park Row, and another for 13,000 tons cast pipe for Fifth Avenue is pending. Quotations for finished products are not lower, but are sometimes cut. —*Dun's Review*, July 11th.

BRITISH FOREIGN TRADE.

The United States Treasury has issued a table which presents at a glance the status of the foreign commerce of the great nations of the world in 1894. Diagrams exhibit the comparative volume of this trade and its gradations in value by decennial averages in the period 1885-94. Of course the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland has the largest foreign trade. Its decennial average is \$3,361,318,870 of foreign trade, or \$1,500,000,000 more than that of France, which ranks second