

HERE AND THERE.

HAD Hanlan's career been entirely free from suspicion he could not have received more loyal support from his admirers and the Canadian sporting fraternity generally. Not content with maintaining that it is impossible for any living sculler to beat him on his merits, Hanlan's champions have the courage to claim that the idea of his having sold the race is not a contingency that can be entertained in discussing the Australian fiasco. If it was not the "foul," it was the "climate," he was "not fit," he had "eaten plum-pudding the day before the race"! To clinch the whole, it is triumphantly pointed out that Australian papers are content to accept the foul as a sufficient explanation of the result. But this only shows that if fraud were resorted to the antipodean journalists were as badly deceived as other people. It is not to be supposed that a sculler of Hanlan's repute dare trust to a transparent device for gaining his ends, supposing those to be dishonest. He carried too much money to risk discovery. It is possible to prove that letters written in Australia before the Hanlan-Beach race by brothers of the Canadian to whom they were addressed announced that Beach would win. The object of the writers was to give the recipient of the letters an opportunity of making money by betting against Hanlan. The exact words used in the first epistle were: "I had conversation with Hanlan. Be not surprised if Beach wins. I stand to win thirty guineas on Beach winning." The writer states that he knew Hanlan in Toronto in 1877, and that the champion went up to him in Australia, recognized him and fraternized—the implication being that the "tip" was a result. The writer of a second letter "stood to win fifteen guineas" by Hanlan's defeat. Both correspondents appear to be "well posted" in sporting matters, and are men of repute and substance. All this gives colour to the suspicion that the foul—if that were the means used to lose the race—was preconcerted. This may be matter for regret, but it can cause no surprise. Athletic competitions for money stakes almost invariably end in chicanery. Hanlan is known to be a needy man, fond of money, given to gambling, and his only chance to make a considerable sum was to lose the race and lay against himself—a device which it is only too apparent he resorted to.

THE advocates of Prohibition who, under the intoxication begotten of the success which has in some counties attended the submission of the Scott Act, are in danger of losing sight of the rights of property and of the individual would do well to pause and ponder the words of a great and popular Temperance leader—John Bright, than whom it is impossible to name a more consistent upholder of social and political morality. In the current number of *Lippincott's Magazine* is a paper on "John Bright as a Temperance Reformer," in which occurs the following passage: "Mr. Bright does not believe in legislation as a cure for the drinking and drunkenness which still prevail among Englishmen to such an alarming extent." Speaking of the friends of the United Kingdom Alliance—who advocate a measure in some respects resembling the Scott Act—he said "their mode of proceeding was not likely to attain the end they had in view."

"I think," he continued, "there would be in all probability sudden, capricious, and unjust action under this bill, which would have a very unfortunate effect upon the interests of those immediately concerned. And I think it might also create throughout the country violent discussion on the question, and I am afraid might even produce a great and pernicious re-action against the very honest and good objects which my honourable friend desires to carry out."

These words were spoken in the House of Commons in 1864. How well might they have preceded the passing of the Scott Act, and how amply the results of that measure where put into operation justify the great reformer's predictions, is known by every unprejudiced Canadian. It is deeply to be deplored that the mistaken zeal of a pronounced party should have so blinded it to the lessons which he who runs may read from all past endeavours to make men sober by Act of Parliament. It is still more unfortunate that badly-informed advocates should have been put forward to make incorrect statements in order to catch the suffrages of unthinking if well-meaning voters. For the result is that the adoption of a sumptuary measure is obtained to some extent by false pretences; and when law-abiding citizens discover—as discover they must—that the Act they were persuaded into voting for has deprived them of a comfort without checking drunkenness or bringing about the social millennium promised, their awakening will bode evil to the men who led them astray.

THE poetic desire to be in England in April has become incorporated amongst the stock phrases of many modern writers. Unquestionably the fresh-budding beauties of Old Country meadows and hedgerows have a charm all their own after a murky winter; but an English Autumn is not without its beauties, favourably contrasting with the Canadian Fall in its reluctance to suddenly part company with all that makes Summer lovely.

Bright berries in the hedgerows, the ripening acorns, the falling leaves "like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing," the robin's sweet and sober song, the crisp morning air, and the waning harvest moon, are usually the premonitory signs of a break-up of summer, and this year has been no exception to the rule, albeit there, as here, the first snow of the season has appeared—bulky, well-developed flakes, no starveling summer visitant—emphasized by incisive hailstones, driven along under the impetus of a roaring nor'-wester. These things are not at all strange to "chill October," which is really as changeable as the "month of many-weather." It is thought that in England, as in Canada, a hot and dry summer will be followed by a milder winter than usual. Severe cold is much more likely to follow on months of rain. But the prudent will be ready for whatever comes. Those who have luckily escaped catarrh with the downward rush of thirty or forty degrees in the thermometer will need no other reminder that warmer clothing must be worn if chills are to be avoided. In both countries, thanks to the bounteous harvests, when winter actually arrives it will find the masses able to buy the staff of life at a cheaper rate than most of us remember; but with this exception the outlook for them is none of the best. That large class which is able to look forward with more than complacency to the next four or five months, knowing how pleasantly the dark season of the year is lit up by the attractions of city life and the pleasures of social intercourse, will do well at this time not to forget their less fortunate brethren. The biting wind, the driving snow, and the keen frost, only nerve the strong and well-clad to their task. But to the half-starved denizens of our city courts and alleys these ministers of winter must add unimaginable wretchedness.

As having provided considerable discussion upon the values of foods in common use there is no doubt that the English Vegetarian Society has scored a great success at its restaurant at the Health Exhibition, London. A dinner was given chiefly for the benefit of journalists, over which Dr. Richardson, of hygeia fame, presided. The doctor confessed to still hankering after the fleshpots, and cannot quite content himself with the onions and the garlic. But he acknowledged that he had almost been persuaded to become a vegetarian on the strength of the very satisfying meal he had eaten. What was more important, he gave his evidence as a medical man that there is a growing desire among his patients to rely more on vegetable diet and to avoid strong meats and stimulants. The conference which followed Dr. Richardson's speech revealed the existence of very remarkable differences of belief and practice among vegetarians themselves. Incidentally the Chairman had praised a dish of curried mushrooms and rice and advocated the cultivation and consumption of bananas—mushrooms and bananas having, in his scientific opinion, the closest chemical affinity to flesh and fish. This tacit admission of the value of meat as an article of diet was too much for a strapping old soldier who believed that bread and apples are sufficient for the food of man, and rather thinks bread a superfluous; and he attacked Dr. Richardson with a vehemence befitting a religious zealot. Incidentally this gentleman declared that he did not even wear anything that had ever been on another animal's back. His suit was made of cotton velveteens, and he put his foot on the table to show that his shoes were of sewed canvass.

IF we may place reliance upon the gossip of "society" journalism in England, the reign of plates is over. Jugomania (pronounced Jew-gomania) is the latest craze, and very soon everybody who aspires to be anybody must have their walls fitted for the display of innumerable jugs. These useful and sometimes ornamental articles are usually "published" in sets of three, consequently the great aim of Jugomaniacs is to acquire an unbroken series of any particular pattern; and as the Mary Anns and Betsy Janes of previous generations have been guilty of fearful massacres among the crockery, there is a wide field of amusement open for the busy idlers. Hunting high and low, writing to friends, attending sales of household effects, keeping watchful eyes upon every little girl who is sent to the public house or the milkman's, will give occupation to the numerous devotees of the latest fad, while to aid in their collections a periodical will be published to be known as the *Jug Journal and Swapper's Medium*.

THE following extract from the letter of a journalist who has just completed a "tour through eleven English counties," will be read with especial interest by those whose acquaintance with the Mother Country ceased a couple of decades since:—

The thing that has impressed itself upon our minds is the increasing comfort in England. Twenty years have made a remarkable change, even in the cottage, life of the country. In the remotest hamlets the strains of the harmonium—generally the harmonium, not the piano—came from rooms which seemed too small to hold both an instrument and a table. In the poorest cottage evidence of a higher taste in art, of