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SALTCOATS CROFTERS.

WHATEVER difference of opinion exists among those who have paid visits to the crofter settlement at Saltcoats, there can be no two opinions as to what Sir George Trevelyan, the Secretary of State for Scotland, thinks of the whole case. Questioned by Mr. Weir, the member for Ross-shire, on the subject Sir George, in his place in Parliament, replied that the settlement had not been a satisfactory one. During the earlier period of the settlement the circumstances were such that of the forty-nine original families only eighteen remain. Agricultural implements and cattle were supplied to them on which a lien was taken by the agent of the Colonization Board. A succession of bad seasons and an attack of farcy among their cattle followed. On the representation of the local sub-committee, the crofters were permitted last December to sell some of their young stock of cattle, and they have from time to time been assisted with grants of grain and potato seed. Recent complaints are now being looked into by the sub-committee at Winnipeg, and Sir Charles Tupper, Agent-General for Canada, has promised personally to inquire into them during his visit to Canada next month. Under the latter circumstances he did not consider it necessary to appoint a special commission to enquire into the matter, but in further answer to Dr. MacGregor he said that the money allotted could not have been worse spent than under the circumstances of the emigration to Saltcoats. It is possible that one result of this exposure will be a greater desire to spend government money in an effort to re-people the depleted glens and straths of the Highlands than hitherto, and less inclination to aid mushroom or interested emigration schemes.

SCOTCH POPULATION.

THE Dominion census returns bring out some curious facts. The nationalities that go to make up our population affords interesting study. Scotland does not send many immigrants our way now-a-days—only two per cent. of her total emigration, while ninety-one per cent. went to the United States. It is a fact that from various causes the Scotch element in Canada is dwindling down year by year, and had it not been for the ample supply with which the Dominion began it is hard to say how few there might be now left. We are told that eight thousand fewer Scotch born people are in Canada to-day than were ten years ago. There are various causes why the stream of

immigration has not kept up its volume. The United States have allured many of our countrymen on account of higher wages and more steady employment. The United States are more extensively advertised in the Old Country than Canada. Large cities, immense business enterprises, and the wages' scale do more for a country than dozens of immigration agents can do. The system of settlement in the North-west is too narrow to induce small farmers to give a preference to Canada; therefore they choose the United States. Patriotic considerations do not as a rule enter largely into the calculations of people who are compelled to leave their native land by the hard iron of necessity, or who are ambitious to carve a fortune on a foreign shore. It is gear they are after, and should it appear that the chances are more propitious on the other side of our boundary line, there will they go. It is much to be regretted that Canada does not appear in a more favourable light to our "brither Scots." We have suffered greatly from depression of trade and business has been at a low ebb, in which circumstances it is not surprising pushing young Scots would pass us by. But the depression is passing away, while business in the United States is extremely dull, and it may be hoped that, with better times and an improved method of settlement, the surplus population of Scotland will again turn towards Britain's greatest colony, the Dominion of Canada.

LORD ABERDEEN'S PLAN.

THE Earl of Aberdeen is known not only as a statesman and a public man, but as a philanthropist. His Excellency has already been engaged in a scheme which is partly directed by philanthropic motives, but which partakes also of the nature of an emigration movement towards Canada. He has placed at the disposal of the Young Colonists' Aid Association the sum of one thousand pounds to enable it to commence operations. Fifty lads have already been sent out in charge of one of the directors to Manitoba. It has been represented in some quarters that His Excellency might be better employed than in shipping off the London street arabs to this country. These representations are wholly misplaced. The boys chosen by the Association are not waifs and strays, but are respectable young fellows of the lower, middle and artisan classes. Places are arranged on their arrival in Canada where they are apprenticed to farmers for a term of years, repaying the whole cost of their establishment here out of their wages. After that amount is deducted, they receive the balance earned during apprenticeship in a lump sum on completion of their term of service. A party of girls will leave at the end of August also for Manitoba. The Governor-General is performing a genuine service in thus

promoting the emigration to this country of boys who shall settle upon land and become farmers. We cannot get enough of this class. We require also,—indeed, we are in the most urgent need of a large supply of farm labourers, and anyone who can induce such persons to come to Ontario will be rewarded with the benediction of the Ontario farmers. The last report of the Department of Immigration for the province of Ontario states: "With respect to farm hands, the difficulty has not been to find them situations on arrival, but rather to find immigrants to supply the current demand. The forecast in the last report, that there would be a greater scarcity of agricultural labourers than usual, was fully borne out by this year's experience." Again it says: "Immigrants arriving during the year were generally of a desirable class, though the number of experienced farm hands was rather fewer in proportion than in former years." Under these circumstances we say that it is a patriotic endeavour of His Excellency to induce boys of industrious habits, who may become farmers, to come to this country; and he would also set on foot a means of bringing here a greater supply of agricultural labourers.—Exchange.

LITERARY NOTES.

DR. JAMES MACAULAY, who long edited the *Leisure Hour*, and is still a frequent contributor to it, was a pupil of the Edinburgh Academy, under Archdeacon Williams, and a student of the University of Edinburgh in the days of Professor Pilans, "Christopher North," and Professor Forbes. He became a licentiate of the Church of Scotland before the disruption, but afterwards turned his attention to editorial work. Dr. Macaulay is now engaged on a volume of personal recollections, entitled "Incidents of Fifty Years of Editorial Life."

A new story from the pen of General Lew Wallace will soon be issued from the press of Messrs. Harper & Bros. in the United States and England, and the Methodist Book & Publishing House, Toronto. This new story is entitled, "The Prince of India; or, Why Constantinople Fell," and like General Wallace's preceding works, it is an historical romance. The story begins in 1395; its continuous movement, however, is in a period from 1445 to 1453, the date of the conquest of the old Byzantine capital by Mahommed II. The assault and sack of the city, and Mahommed's entry into Sancta Sophia (the final degradation of Christianity in the East), forms the catastrophe of the book. Speaking generally, the book is a tale of love, war and religion. The incidents are natural, rapid in occurrence, astonishingly varied, and from first to last subservient to the catastrophe.