

is that we would have worse houses to live in and more machine politicians to support. A good stone-cutter is in every respect a more useful member of society than an inferior politician.

Mr. Mackenzie, very soon after his arrival in this country, naturally became a factor in local politics, and by dint of his strong individuality made his influence felt wherever he acted. He was fortunate in being a native of Scotland. A Scot, to use a slang though expressive phrase, is essentially a "hustler." In his personal character he showed many of the traits of his pushing countrymen. He had little of the *bonhomie* and grace of demeanour of the French-Canadian statesmen of his times, like Dorion, Laurier and Chapleau; he had a brusquerie of manner which disappeared in some degree as he grew older, and was brought more into contact with men of fine culture and large intellectual attainments; but despite all the fortunate surroundings of his life he was always Alexander Mackenzie, incisive, emphatic, and even curt to the degree of incivility when his contempt of humbug and trickery could not be repressed. Yet withal there was running through the Scotch granite of his nature a golden vein of kindness and gentleness which was revealed to those who had won his personal affection and friendship. A Scotchman, he had still a sense of humour in others, though it was not possible for him to tell a joke or witty story except in a somewhat clumsy way. He was animated by a high ambition, but not even the impulses of that sentiment could force him to support any unworthy object for personal or political gain. Like all men who wish to be useful in public affairs, he believed in party as the only feasible means of achieving great ends in the government of a country; but not even for party would he sacrifice his personal, honest, well-considered convictions of what was best calculated to promote the public good. It was, perhaps, his too great confidence in himself and his own opinions that made him ill-fitted at times to understand the drift of public opinion on some important questions, or unable to make such concessions as might meet the growing sentiment of the country or the necessities of the times, without at the same moment giving up the essential principles to which he was sincerely and deeply wedded. His very rigidity of purpose and adherence to principle were undoubtedly the cause of the fall of his administration in 1878. Had he possessed something of that wonderful knowledge of men, and of that admirable capacity for gauging the conditions of public opinion which made Sir John Macdonald a wonderful success in politics, he would probably have been longer in office. In some respects he appears to have lacked that statesmanlike grasp of mind and breadth of view which would have enabled him to mould a vigorous national policy in harmony with the growing desires of the people at large, to fit themselves for a higher position among the communities of the world. Had he been prepared to concentrate all the energies of the country on the construction of a great enterprise like the Canadian Pacific Railway as absolutely essential to the unity and success of confederation, he would have met the natural aspirations of an ambitious people. But on this and other questions of his time Mr. Mackenzie had his convictions of what was best for the masses of the people under existing conditions. He stated the guiding principle of his public policy in 1878, when he manfully left office in obedience to the country's verdict: "I would rather be defeated than retain office by accepting or defending views which I believed adverse to the public interests." Yet there was no man in Canada who had a more thorough belief in the country and its future, if its affairs are wisely administered. He believed in local self-government in the fullest sense, and during his administration he upheld in every way the interests of the Dominion when there was a controversy with the imperial State. He was a staunch supporter of imperial connection, but at the same time he was of opinion that "everything which extends the liberties of Canada, everything which accords to Canada and her statesmen greater breadth of view in the management of their affairs, is more likely to conduce to the advancement of imperial interests and greatness than any curbing policy that keeps us down to the grindstone." Conservative politicians may take strong exception to his public opinions and his conclusions on great questions, while the historian who reviews the facts of his times in a critical, judicial spirit may doubt whether he had that political genius which constitutes a great statesman; whether his inflexible adherence to those principles he had formed did not prevent him from exercising that direct and permanent influence on the public policy and future development of the country that might have been expected from a man of such eminent ability, sound knowledge, natural shrewdness, and honest endeavour. Be that as it may, one thing is certain that Canadians, irrespective of creed and party, in the present and in the days to come, will—to quote the words of Lord Dufferin, who knew him well—"respect and honour the straightforward integrity of his character," and always do full justice to his "unmistakable desire to do his duty faithfully to the Queen, the Empire and the Dominion."

J. G. BOURINOT.

If faith were always equal, where would be its merit?

A NOBLE deed is a step towards heaven.—J. G. Holland.

CALVARY.

O SORROWFUL heart of humanity, foiled in thy fight for dominion,
Bowed with the burden of emptiness, blackened with passion and woe;
Here is a faith that will bear thee on waft of omnipotent pinion,
Up to the heaven of victory, there to be known and to know.

Here is the vision of Calvary, crowned with the world's revelation,
Throned in the grandeur of gloom and the thunders that quicken the dead;
A meteor of hope in the darkness, shines forth like a new constellation,
Dividing the night of our sorrow, revealing a path as we tread.

Now are the portals of death by the feet of the Conqueror entered;
Flames of the sun in his setting roll over the city of doom,
And robe in imperial purple the Body triumphantly centered,
Naked and white, among thieves and the ghosts that have crept from the tomb.

Soul, that art lost in immensity, craving for light and despairing,
Here is the hand of the Crucified, pulses of love in its veins,
Human as ours in its touch, with the sinews of Deity bearing
The zones of the pendulous planets, the weight of the winds and the rains.

Here in the Heart of the Crucified, find thee a refuge and hiding,
Love at the core of the universe, guidance and peace in the night;
Centuries pass like a flood, but the Rock of our Strength is abiding,
Grounded in depths of eternity, girt with a mantle of light.

Lo, as we wonder and worship, the night of the doubts that conceal Him,
Rolls from the face of the dawn till His rays thro' the cloud-fissures slope,
Vapours that hid are condensed to the dews of the morn that reveal Him,
And shine with His light on the hills as we mount in the splendour of hope,
Drummondville.

FREDERICK GEORGE SCOTT.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—Mr. Crerar, of Hamilton, whose letter, in reply to Mr. R. H. Lawder and in condemnation of the National Policy, appeared in your columns, expressed a desire to have the trade question viewed solely from an economic standpoint and free from partisan bias. This is commendable, though it may be doubted whether the general tenor of Mr. Crerar's letter warrants the assumption that he has reached the high standard set for others. It shall, nevertheless, be my aim; in offering a few words in reply to the questions so confidently propounded, to confine myself entirely to the economic aspects of the case in hand.

In reference to the contention of Mr. Lawder that because Canada bought \$200,000,000 worth more from than she sold to the United States during the past ten years she therefore received a less benefit than she conferred. Mr. Crerar says: "In this proposition Mr. Lawder has to face and accept one or other of these alternatives: (1) that Canada paid in 'money' for this excess of \$200,000,000, or (2) that the small Canadian exports paid for the large imports—that is, that each \$100,000,000 of Canadian products exported purchased \$120,000,000 of American products imported. Assuming that he will accept the first—I am sure he will reject the second alternative—he will find, to begin with, a statistical obstacle of formidable proportions to overcome. Canada has not paid away—could not if she had tried—two hundred millions of 'money' (gold) to the United States, or anywhere else, during the last ten, or probably during the last thirty years." He then asks how Canada could have squared her commercial indebtedness to the Republic. The "alternatives" it appears to me are not at all difficult to face. There are two or three ways in which the difference between the value of imports and exports might be adjusted. We might pay for the excess of imports in gold if we produced or procured sufficient; we might pay for them in exchange received for goods shipped to other countries, or we might pledge the future labour of the country, or in other words go in debt for them. This, in fact, is what we have done; we have borrowed the money,

mostly in Great Britain, and with that paid for a large part of the excess of imports over exports; not only from the United States, but from other countries as well. The remaining portion was adjusted as will appear hereafter.

During the twenty-five years since Confederation Canada's imports from all countries have exceeded her exports about \$20,000,000 a year, and her debt has increased nearly if not quite \$500,000,000. This, of course, includes, with the national, the provincial and municipal indebtedness, as well as foreign investments in railroads, manufactures, and real estate. Some of the goods for which this debt was incurred were used to increase the wealth-producing capacity of the country, but many of them were of a different character, and perishable, and, though the future labour of the country is pledged for their payment, are no longer of any value. Again, Mr. Crerar says the United States have exported during the last ten years about a thousand million dollars' worth more than they imported, and in addition twenty to fifty millions in gold each year and asks: "If their excessive exports over imports represented more sales than purchases, how comes it that instead of getting back the difference in money, they have annually sold more money than they received?" If Mr. Crerar will look a little more closely into United States finances he will find that this excess of exports was applied in payment of debts previously contracted and not in exchange for goods purchased during the period named; and that the thousand million dollars with the excess of gold added is an approximately correct measure of the reduction of the nation's indebtedness in the time specified.

The other problem, wherein Mr. Crerar shows that the world's excess of imports over exports is in the vicinity of \$1,000,000,000 each year, is, notwithstanding its "startling" nature, just as easy of solution. This excess is simply that part of the cost of distribution, or the earnings of the world's carriers, that is included in the values of the imports and excluded from those of the exports. Of course all goods are of greater value at the point of consumption than at that of production. If you ship a cargo of ten thousand dollars' worth of oats from Montreal to Hamburg, you may buy with it there eleven thousand dollars' worth of sugar, which on your return to Montreal may be worth twelve thousand dollars. If this is done by a Canadian merchant with a Canadian vessel, the two thousand dollars accrue to Canada; but if done by a German merchant in a German vessel you will have to export something else to pay him, for Canada will be in debt for the difference. Or if the transfer is made by an English merchant in an English vessel it will be to England the two thousand dollars' worth will have to go; and it is because Great Britain enjoys so large a share of the carrying trade of the world, coupled with her large investments in foreign countries on which interest is paid, that she can continue importing much more than she exports without going in debt.

In our trade with the United States the cost of carrying from one country to the other is not very great, and it is probable that the large share of it has gone to the Americans, but the value of the share that has fallen to Canada must in fairness be deducted from the gold or notes, or other securities, that we have paid to cover the difference between our imports and exports. During the civil war the United States imported vastly more than they exported and incurred thereby an enormous debt. This could only be paid by turning the balance of trade the other way; and it was, at least partly, for this purpose the high protective duties, designed to encourage home production and restrict foreign importations, were imposed. Whether they have the desired effect it is not my present purpose to enquire; I may safely, in the meantime, allow Mr. Crerar's figures to supply the answer.

The rule will apply with equal force to Canada. Her exports plus her earnings in carrying and profits in foreign trade must exceed her imports plus the interest she has to pay, before she can even begin to reduce her debt. The only way this can be, in any degree, obviated is by the foreign investors following their capital or by our receiving more by immigration than we lose by emigration.

It may, as Mr. Crerar says, suit the individual to get as much and part with as little as possible, but getting more than he parts with and pledging—as he must—the labour of future years in payment, is not always wise either in the individual or in the nation.

Iroquois.

ADAM HARKNESS.

ART NOTES.

MR. W. A. SHERWOOD has just disposed of a small portrait painted by him from life of the late Walt Whitman, to Mr. Amilius Jarvis. The portrait represents the famous poet seated and gazing downward, seemingly buried in contemplation; the expression is unlike that in many representations of Whitman which we have seen, and the left hand is, we think, scarcely adequately treated—but for all that it is a strong picture, and fair justice is done to the massive head with its wealth of long snow-white hair and the profuse and shaggy beard. Mr. Sherwood, it may be added, has in his possession the large pen-holder and pen with which he says the famous American wrote the most of the poems published under the general title "Leaves of Grass."

HAPPINESS is a woman's rarest cosmetic.—Melville.