

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

GREATER BRITAIN WHEN FEDERATED.

Secure may Greater Britain rest,
True common wealth in heart and deed,
Within whose States from East to West
Is found resource for every need ;
In Northern and in Southern zone
The chosen lands of earth our own.

Rich yields from meadow and from mine
Of bounteous grain or precious ore,
Of horses sleek, and fragrant kine,
And fleecy flocks, and fruits in store.
All these are ours ; and, free from care,
Our native food our children fare.

A race of sturdy human flowers,
Brave youths and maids we thus have bred ;
Brothers and sisters—equal powers—
With gentle heart and steadfast head ;
What need have we, made strong in these,
Of foreign aid from other seas ?

We deal our States, in measure fair,
Their mutual profit, mutual pain ;
For cheerfully our men will share
Some private loss for general gain ;
With helpful trust, with willing hand,
Each cares for each throughout our land.

So shall our Union evermore
From strength to fuller strength progress,
And stand erect from shore to shore
In stalwart self-sufficingness—
One people—growing, sweet and good,
Their body's and their spirit's food.

Without, the old-world wars may rage,
Or old time factions vent their strife ;
They shall not daunt our higher age,
Nor penetrate our truer life ;
A world to us our States shall be,
Serene, intact, and nobly free.

—Ben Elmy, in *Belfast Telegraph*.

UNEXPLORED CANADA.

In a paper recently read before the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, by Dr. G. M. Dawson, F.R.S.C., it was stated that the unexplored and unoccupied regions of Canada present an aggregate area of nearly 1,000,000 square miles. A good many of the districts included, however, lie to the north of profitable agriculture, which Dr. Dawson defines as the isothermal line, 60 deg. Fahrenheit in the month of July. The following are the tracts which await the explorer: The country between Alaska, the Porcupine River, and the Arctic Ocean, 9,500 square miles; between the Lewis and Yukon Rivers and Alaska, 32,000 square miles; between the above rivers, the Stikkeen, and the coast ranges, 27,000 square miles; the territory between the Pelly and Mackenzie Rivers, 100,000 square miles; between the Great Bear Lake and the Arctic Ocean, 50,000 square miles; between the Great Bear and Great Slave Lakes and the Mackenzie River, 35,000 square miles; a tract of 81,000 square miles, bounded by the Rivers Stikkeen and Liard on the north and the Skeena and Peace on the south; 75,000 square miles between the Peace, Athabasca, and Loon Rivers; 35,000 square miles to the south of Athabasca Lake; an area of 7,500 square miles between Bathurst Inlet and the Coppermine River; and a territory of 31,000 square miles between Black River and the Arctic Ocean. There is also a vast region made up as follows: An area of 178,000 square miles between the lakes already mentioned and the western shore of Hudson Bay; an extent of 22,000 square miles between Hudson Bay and the Rivers Severn and Attawapishkat; an area of 15,000 square miles between Lakes Trout and Seul and Albany River; and about 35,000 square miles south and east of James Bay. Finally, almost the whole of the interior of Labrador, estimated at 289,000 square miles, is unexplored country.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

THE BATH IN VENICE.

THERE is one great popular enjoyment in Venice, the bath. Every one bathes. There is no place in the world, perhaps, where there is such a general taking to the water on every summer day; and not day only either, but all night as well. It is so convenient to walk to the door of one's own house and plunge from the very threshold into the clear, cool water. So at almost any hour, gliding in your gondola along the smaller canals, you pass among merry parties of bathers, who swim about your boat like sea nymphs and tritons about old Neptune's car. They chatter at you gleefully, perhaps splash water at you, or swim up and insist on shaking hands, with dripping fingers, over the gunwale of the boat. These swimmers in the canals are mostly children, but sometimes they include a whole family party, old and young. In the great harbour the street boys plunge by hundreds. Such swimmers as they are, too! They turn somersaults as they leap from the quays, and perform almost countless tricks in the water, until one fancies them a school of dolphins at play. These are the people, with the accent

on "people." The people with the accent on "the," go elsewhere to bathe, and chiefly to the Lido. There are glorious sands, and the water is perfection, despite the absence of surf. A barrier of rope, by no means impassable, divides the women bathers from the men. Nowhere can one find more accomplished swimmers, or more graceful, than on the women's side of the rope at Lido. As a rule, too, their bathing dresses are handsome, modest, and well designed to give freedom to the muscles and to offer as little resistance as possible to their wearers' passage through the water. For head-gear, broad-brimmed straw hats are worn, though generally half of them are left floating on the water while their owners dive and swim. Italian women are not afraid of getting their hair wet. Is there any esoteric significance in that fact? At any rate it is a fact. One sees no oiled silk caps at the Lido, nor any women fearing to go far into the sea lest they should wet their hair. On the contrary, they all get their hair soaking wet, and when they come out they loosen it and let it dry hanging over their shoulders. The men are fine, strong swimmers, too, the equals of any in the world. Swimming, indeed, is an important part of an Italian's life. People here do not content themselves with a quarter-hour's frolic in the waves. They go in for a good, long bath of an hour, or two, or even three. And this is not only a daily practice, but often occurs two or three times a day.

MUSIC.

Oh, take the lute this brooding hour for me—
The golden lute, the hollow crying lute—
Nor call me even with thine eyes; be mute,
And touch the strings; yea, touch them tenderly;
Touch them and dream, till all thine heart in thee
Grow great and passionate and sad and wild.
Then on me, too, as on thine heart, O child,
The marvellous light, the stress divine shall be,
And I shall see, as with enchanted eyes,
The unveiled vision of this world flame by,
Battles and griefs, and storms and phantasies,
The gleaming joy, the ever-seething fire,
The hero's triumph and the martyr's cry,
The pain, the madness, the unsearched desire.

—A. Lampman, in *the November Century*.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN COLLEGES COMPARED.

PERHAPS it must be conceded, too, that the old country has still the advantage in refinement. That manners are substantially less good here than there I fail to see: perhaps in these matters a student's eyes are not the sharpest. The behaviour of Oxford or Cambridge students towards each other is regulated by the code, and reflects the habits of a polished society. Practical joking is not unknown, and never will be unknown where boys are gathered together. A student has even been ducked by his fellow-students in the college fountain; but it was for "Vulpicide," the most heinous crime known to a community of fox-hunters. The unspeakable practice of hazing does not exist. An English university also has an advantage in being a federation of colleges, each of which is a little community in itself, supplying a genial bond and affording happy facilities for friendship. It is partly, perhaps, the lack of something of the kind that has called into existence what we style our "Secret Societies." The relation between tutor and pupil in the English college is close, sometimes affectionate, and useful if the tutor is a man of the right sort. The "tutor" designates a member of the college staff of teachers, "professor" being reserved for members of the university staff. The limits of the two sets of teachers are not very well defined; but, in the main, the professors are supposed to take the higher work. Physical science, requiring laboratories and demonstration-rooms, falls almost entirely to the university professors. There is much less idleness, much less extravagance, far fewer snares for the feet of the weak and foolish in the American university than in the English. No one, I should think, in an American university can have such power for evil as a wealthy and vicious young nobleman, with the influence of his rank added to that of his purse, has at Oxford and Cambridge. That prince of heartless sybarites, who figures as Lord Steyne in Thackeray's "Vanity Fair," began at college his career not only of licentiousness but of corrupting and ruining his companions. One of them, who could ill afford it, lost heavily to him at play; the father of the victim paid the debt, exacting from his son a solemn promise that he would play no more. The nobleman induced him to break that promise by an assurance that, if he lost, any amount of time should be given him so that he would not have to encounter his father's wrath. He lost again, and gave his note to the nobleman, who negotiated it next day. College debt is a cruel thing: I have seen the misery which it entails, and which is often prolonged for many years after leaving the university. I could mention a case in which the accumulating weight was dragged through a life of distinction and of high ferment till the man died, as was generally believed, by his own hand. It must also be borne in mind that the benefits and pleasures of life at Oxford and Cambridge depend in some degree on the connections and habits which the student brings with him at entrance. The influence of the great public schools predominates in university society, and the great public schools of England have a social character of their own. An American youth would find himself perfectly well-received, and see at once that

there was not a particle of national prejudice among the Britishers; but he might not at once find himself at home. The discipline at Oxford and Cambridge, though it has none of the strictness of a seminary, proceeds decidedly on the theory that the student is *in statu pupillari*. I am not sure that it would suit a young American who had become his own master in his teens. English universities, I have said, are federations of colleges. Not long ago the rule was that every student must be a member of a college, and at Oxford that he must board within the walls. That rule is now relaxed. But a student must still belong to a college and live in it if he would enjoy the full advantage and pleasures of English university life; and to get into a good college his name must be put down several years beforehand.—*Professor Goldwin Smith, LL.D., in Youth's Companion*.

THE best receipt ever given for a lady's dress may be found in the works of Tertullian. He says: "Let simplicity be your white, chastity your vermilion; dress your eyebrows with modesty, and your lips with reservedness. Let instruction be your earrings, and a ruby cross the front pin in your head; submission to your husband your best ornament. Employ your hands in housewifely duties, and keep your feet within your own doors. Let your garments be of the silk of probity, the fine linen of sanctity, and the purple of chastity."

AMONG the stories which are being revived about the late Archbishop of York perhaps the best is that of Sir Robert Anstruther's pregnant summary of his speech on the Irish Church. Dr. Magee concluded, it will be remembered, by saying that he could not reconcile it with his hopes of heaven to vote for the Bill. As Sir Robert left the house of Lords, magnetized by this peroration, he was met by a friend and asked who had been speaking last. "M-m-aggie, making a sp-sp-lendid sp-sp-speech. He s-s-said he'd be d-d-d-d if he'd vote for the Bill."

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