

tance, and are very handsome as to the interior. Close by, too, are the cosy premises of Hiram Walker & Company, whose Canadian friends are always welcome; and almost next door to it, at 21 Cockspur Street, is Hamilton Grant McMicken, who, although representing an United States Railway (Jim Hill's Great Northern), is one of the truest and best-known Canadians in London. Going thence round by the river and passing Westminster Bridge and Abbey, one reaches Victoria Street, where are situated the offices of the High Commissioner for Canada, and here it did one good to read the array of names of Canadian callers.

Attention of our travelling party was called to "A bit of Old London," at the bottom of Gray's Inn Road, near the Holborn Viaduct, consisting of ancient houses. And, again, when returning from a trip to Woolwich Arsenal, the boat slowed up to permit a good look at a remarkable group of ancient English houses at Wapping Old Stairs, having what looked like toy galleries and childish stair-cases leading to the water. Such houses as Charles Dickens and Walter Besant loved to draw. There was "The Harbor Master," which might have justified its title as a residence of that official long ago, but is now a sort of inn, perhaps a sailors' crib, if such things still exist. Here and there about London are yet to be seen Elizabethan houses, such as may be seen in the quaint city of Chester. At 109 Fleet Street is "The Cheshire Cheese," a resort of Samuel Johnson in the eighteenth century, which at my visit was pretty well filled, as to the tables, with Canadian and American visitors, votaries of pastry and old ale, each of whom wanted in turn to sit in the burly Doctor's accustomed seat, which is marked by a brass plate.

We could never see too much of the London streets. Naturally, from the fact that our headquarters were at one of its big hotels, the Strand was most familiar to us, and a wonderful street it is, with its kaleidoscope of vehicles and humanity, the ever-changing aspect of its perpetual traffic. To see fashion, or to do fashionable shopping, of course, one had to go to the district of Regent Street. But to drive about the city in hopes "to see London" is a huge task, almost as great as that of the fabled unfortunate (called by an American humorist "Old Sisy"—for short) who was condemned to roll a huge rock to the top of a mountain every day—only to find that it would roll down again every night and he would have to begin again. The great size of London was expressed by the French writer, Henri Taine, in this curious but graphic sentence: "Enormous, enormous—this is the word which always recurs. It is necessary to take a cab several days' in succession and proceed straight on towards the south, towards the north, the east, and the west during a whole morning, as far as the uncertain limits where houses grow scanty and the country begins." And Grant White, writing at a later date, declared that he "never got to the end of London unless I took a steam engine into service. Cabs and omnibuses were of no avail. I used them but generally walked. Within these boundless stretches of streets and of houses so same, and yet each with a physiognomy of its own. . . . I began to understand the long indifference, and the ignorance, born of indifference, of Englishmen to the country which lay beyond the horizon-edge of the ocean."

The profusion of gold lace on the clothing of hotel servants is embarrassing. One hesitates to offer three pence to a gorgeous being with illuminated store clothes and a belt. His wrist, waist, shoulders, trousers, cap, blaze with gold. And the one thing which distinguishes him from army and navy officers is the ten-times repeated "Sir," with which he interlards his replies.

If to be received by Royalty was unlooked for, it was equally unexpected by the delegates to have such a welcome from the clergy as they did on Hospital Sunday at Westminster Abbey. A large body of us were gathered in that venerable fane, and heard a sermon by the Bishop of Southampton, on the rich man and Lazarus. The service was full choral, and the worshippers were two hours in the church. Nothing in the way of a description can serve to indicate the beauty and appropriateness of the ritual, while the sweetness of the boys' voices went to the heart. The preacher made

appropriate reference to our presence in the church, and closed with the somewhat striking passage: "We wish them good luck in the name of the Lord," i.e., the clergy take part in the welcome to the Canadians, as well as the merchants and the municipal bodies.

J. H.

THE DOMINION EXHIBITION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Not very many years ago the proposition to hold a Dominion Exhibition in the far western province of British Columbia, and at a place such as New Westminster then was, would have been considered the idea of a crazy man. Now, it is an accomplished fact. The Exhibition at New Westminster, a city twelve miles from Vancouver, which, as its promoters have received the \$50,000 grant from the Federal Government, is warranted in styling itself the "Dominion Exhibition for 1905," opened on Wednesday last with every prospect for the most gratifying success. Early reports tell that products of the farm, the mine and the forest, as well as of the manufacturer's skill are to be seen in full abundance and in their full glory. And, as is meet with a Dominion Exhibition, they come from every part of Canada. The exhibits from British Columbia's rich agricultural sections around Chilliwack, the Delta, Kent, etc., are said to be notably fine, while Edmonton and far-away Yukon, as also as great prairies, are well represented. In Machinery Hall, the manufacturers of the eastern provinces are naturally the predominant feature, and they make a good and representative showing. A great drawing card is, of course, the mineral exhibit, mining being British Columbia's strong point, though it looks as if fruit-growing will in the near future prove a noteworthy rival. The live stock show is, according to all reports, remarkably fine. It is three times the size of that of last year, though that was a good one, and it is augmented this year by a number of pedigreed animals from the Portland, Oregon, Fair.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Standard Bank of Canada on September 26th, F. W. Cowan was appointed a director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late T. R. Wood.

We are informed that the Sovereign Bank of Canada has opened a branch at Thorndale, Ont. Mr. G. J. Lackner, formerly of the Toronto branch of that bank will have charge of the office, and will be assisted by Mr. W. A. Fisher of the Exeter branch.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has opened new branches at Brandon, Man., and Vegreville, Alta. Mr. A. Maybee has been appointed manager at Brandon, and M. H. I. Millar is temporarily in charge at Vegreville. It may be mentioned that the Bank of Commerce has now 127 branches, of which 121 are in Canada.

At a meeting of the directors of the Consumers' Gas Company, held in Toronto on Tuesday last, George R. R. Cockburn, M.A., was elected president, and J. L. Blaikie vice-president of the company. Hon. W. Mortimer Clark, K.C.; John Hoskin, K.C., LL.D., were elected directors in place of Dr. Larratt W. Smith, K.C., and Thomas R. Wood, recently deceased.

It is more than six years since La Banque Ville Marie, of Montreal, closed its doors, which should, indeed, have been closed long before for violations of the Banking Act. The last dividend out of its assets is only now being paid. The paid up capital of the bank had been misrepresented as being \$470,000 when it was only \$250,000, and the circulation as \$214,000, where, as a matter of fact, it was \$550,000. Deposits were somewhere near a million and a half. Some time before the stoppage the Government called upon the bank to reduce its circulation to the extent of \$300,000. These notes should have been burned, but through fraud on

the part of of the same going institution, and teller. The b in Montreal excitement and Canadians, which, however

Saving by insurance as the salary.

The autumn will be held of fall session of been changed the change is ings of the N will continue

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