Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 1888

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

The late appointments to the judicial bench show that the good of the country and the purity and efficiency of the courts are the Government's first objects. The vacant offices were amongst the highest prizes in the legal profession. No lawyer can look for a more honorable position than a seat on the Supreme Court Bench, and many a hard-working barrister, of good reputation in his profession, would feel it to be a high honor to be appointed judge of the Ontario court of appeals. There are, no doubt, among the members of the party which Sir John Mac Donald leads many lawyers who have done him in his political contests, both in and out of the legislature, yeoman's service, who would be more than pleased to be elevated to these high positions. But we see that when men are to be placed on the Dominion judiciary, political services are not considered. He evidently wants the judges in our highest courts to be free from the reproach of partisanship. In looking round for men to fill these offices he wanted to find good lawyers of high character, and not able and zealous politicians. He therefore selected men who not only had never been his supporters, but men who had been at times his active opponents. These men may not have been the very best men at the Bar and on the Bench, but it is fair to presume that they were the best men available. They were, we see, selected without any regard to their political creed or their political antecedents. They happened to be Liberals. No one will suppose for a moment they were chosen because they were Liberals. The lesson that these appointments should teach is that the Government in the appointment of judges pays no regard to the political principles of the men qualified to fill the positions. It is seen that this was the case in these last appointments, and it is but fair to conclude that appointments which will be made in future will be on the same ground. If some of these happen to be bestowed upon Conservatives, opponents as well as friends should have the candor to admit that, as in the present instances, politics had nothing to do with the appointment.

UNSCRUPULOUS PARTIZANSHIP.

We cannot but think that the extreme partizanship of the Toronto *Globe* must be exceedingly distasteful to all judicious and sensible Liberals. Its unscrupulous and indiscriminate partisanship is often unpleasantly conspicuous, but it is seldom so inexcusably prominent as in the present Manitoba muddle. The difficulty between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Manitoba Government or the Northern Pacific is one in which politics really do not enter. The question in dispute is one of law, and the Premier of the Dominion has nothing more to do with its settlement than has the editor of the *Globe*. The Canadian Pacific stands upon its legal rights and can very properly tell the Dominion Government that it has not the shadow of a right to interfere except to protect its property from the violence of men who have no respect for the rights of others or for the law of the land. Seeing then that the question is one for the courts of law, and not for the Dominion Government, to settle, it is most improper for the *Globe* to take the part of the men who declared their intention to enforce what they claimed to be their rights by violence in defiance of law. If the partisans of the Local Government and the employees of the Canadian Pacific had come to blows, and blood had been shed in the foolish and altogether unnecessary struggle the *Globe* would have been to a certain and very great extent responsible. Legitimate opposition is wholesome even if it is strong, but aiding and abetting those who place themselves in opposition to law and who attempt to gain by violence what can readily be accomplished by peaceful and constitutional means, is in the highest degree inexcusable. The only effect that a paper which is regarded by the public as the mouthpiece of a party, can produce by taking such a course is to bring that party into disrepute. It will naturally be said that the methods commended by the organ are approved by the party for which it speaks. This we hope in this unfortunate Manitoba business is not the case. The Liberals of Canada would bring upon themselves deserved disgrace if they, as a body, sanctioned the course which the *Toronto Globe* has in this matter seen fit to pursue.

HAMBURG'S CHANGE.

Hamburg has ceased to be a free port. For a thousand years trade was as free in Hamburg as the water which entered its harbor. It came and went without let or hindrance. Tariffs were created against the admission of foreign goods on all sides of it, but it and a few other towns were permitted to enjoy their ancient freedom. Hamburg under such a state of things flourished. Its trade increased. The goods of all nations were carried to it, and exported from it. It became the great entre port of continental Europe. When the great changes were made in Germany by Bismarck Hamburg retained many of its privileges, that of freedom of trade among others. Its inhabitants could buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest. Goods entering its bounds, whether by land or by water, paid no duties. But not long since it was considered that the time had arrived when Hamburg should give up the freedom it had so long exercised and be, as regards trade, under the same restrictions and regulations as the other cities of Germany. It was the other day included in the General Customs Union of Germany. It became a party to the Zollverein and was a free port no longer. Both the merchants of Hamburg and the people of Germany expect to reap considerable advantages from this change. The principal one is that they hope to make the trade of Hamburg more exclusively German than it was when it was a free port. They hope that the English will not monopolize so large a share of its trade as they have hitherto done. The British, however, do not consider that the surrender of its trading rights by Hamburg will affect them injuriously. Their trade with the rest of Germany is now on precisely the same footing as ever it was. Hamburg was only for them a big warehouse where goods could be kept without being bonded. It can now be used for the same purpose, but merchandise that is warehoused there must be kept in bond until sold or exported. Although while Hamburg was free no duty was laid on goods imported, whenever they were sent out of Hamburg they were subject to duty. The city was therefore surrounded by a cordon of custom houses. These are now removed. The goods pay duty when they enter the port or on being taken out of bond. To the Hamburgers themselves the difference in the prices of many classes of goods will no doubt be very considerable. But they voluntarily gave up this privilege of cheapness for prospective advantages.

DISHONESTY DENOUNCED.

It is pleasant to see that there are men in the United States who see the trick played upon Lord Sackville in its true light and who are not afraid to say what they think. These men do not wish the world to conclude that all American politicians are tricksters ready to impose upon honest and unsuspicious men with whom they have dealings. They are indignant, too, that party leaders in the republic are so unscrupulous as to take advantage of the dishonorable devices of the lowest and most dishonest class of electioneering agents. Every phase of the Sackville episode fills them with disgust and the conduct of both Cleveland and Harrison and their respective supporters makes them ashamed of their countrymen. The feelings and opinions of these high-minded men have found expression in many American newspapers. One of these is the *Argonaut*, a high class weekly published in San Francisco. Commenting upon the affair the *Argonaut* in a leading article says:—

"Nothing but partisan madness and political rivalry could influence our politicians and political journals to the altogether absurd position taken by them over the very simple fact that the English Minister, by an artful and fraudulent device, has been entrapped into an expression of choice between the two Presidential candidates. His offense is that, believing that he had been addressed by a fellow-countryman, with sympathies for the land of his birth, asking his opinion and preferences, he replied in a letter that contains no word of censure to any party or party leaders, no unkind criticisms of any party measure, and no shadow of reflection upon the government to which he has been accredited as Minister. The discreditable fact about the whole business is that Lord Sackville has been imposed upon by a dishonest letter for the use of a sensational country newspaper, and that what he wrote in confidence has been treacherously exposed for a political purpose. If the Democratic or Republican parties, the *Examiner*, *Chronicle* and *Bulletin*—for both parties and all these journals are in indecent competition over the affair—can make anything out of it except a vile political trick, we wish them joy of their undertaking. The British Minister has *not* violated the common law of diplomacy; he has *not* crossed the finest line that marks the boundary of the most friendly international intercourse; he has not done that which any private gentleman might not do in confidential intercourse with a supposed countryman making an honest appeal for advice to govern him in the exercise of his elective privilege. Lord Sackville has simply been imposed upon by some sharp and unscrupulous politician and the only discreditable thing about the whole affair is, that an American could be found vile enough to lay such a trap, and a country paper mean enough to spring it, and the partisan feeling of the country bitter enough and unmanly enough to make use of it."

It is refreshing to read so vigorous and, at the same time, so just a denunciation of what is mean and dishonest in politics. It is to be hoped that there are very many in the United States who are above the tricks and plots of trading politicians and that they will, by taking an active part in political contests, make their influence felt. It is bad for a country when men can without discredit pursue a course in politics which would drive them from the society of decent and honorable men were they to attempt to follow it in their ordinary business. "All's fair in politics" is a maxim for scoundrels. And the country in which a majority of its public men act upon it has advanced far on the road to national ruin.

AN APPRECIATIVE VISITOR.

British Columbia, and particularly Victoria, cannot but make a good impression on an intelligent stranger. It's mild, and at times delightful climate, and its beautiful scenery, must cause him to look upon it as one of the most desirable places to live in that can be found on the continent. The town has its drawbacks certainly, but these are all artificial. Nature has treated it generously. It's situation is simply delightful. It ought to be the cleanest and the most healthy, as it is the prettiest, town in the Dominion of Canada. With an intelligent and energetic civic government, Victoria could be made a model town. It has advantages that few cities possess. With taste on the part of its inhabitants (and much taste is displayed) and enterprise on the part of its corporation, it could be made a most charming place of residence. Mr. O'Connor Power, who visited Victoria a few months ago, appreciated its beauties and made an intelligent estimate of its capabilities. In a recent letter he says:—

"Victoria possesses many advantages as a residential city for those who like a quiet life, full of ease and comfort, and containing a certain amount of dignity. Its population though somewhat English in tone, is sufficiently cosmopolitan to be agreeable to Americans as well as Englishmen. Each year will add to its popularity with the travelling public, and many Californians will continue to spend a portion of the year in its balmy air, enjoying not merely its beautiful scenery and charming society, but that priceless repose and restfulness ever produced by an entire change such as can alone be obtained by occasionally mixing with people of different customs and habits and modes of life from those one is accustomed to at home."

Again he says: The charm of Victoria is its happy situation. It commands such glorious views of the mountain scenery on the mainland, and its tropical vegetation of flowers and plants affords a pleasing contrast to the snow-capped summits glittering on the opposite shores.

This visitor gives a good report of the Island of Vancouver. He says:

Any one who visits Vancouver Island should make a trip over the Island Railway, which connects Victoria with the coal fields of Wellington and Nanaimo, which is gradually opening up the rich defiles, the unexplored solitudes and the sloping water sheds of this most interesting country. The scenery for some distance along the line is like that of Cumberland, the lake country of England, and though the rugged grandeur of the Rocky Mountains is wanting, we find ourselves gliding over deep gorges and rushing waterfalls, now rounding the steep side of some overhanging precipice, now speeding past green foliage which is relieved at every turn by some winding river or the smooth, clear waters of a bright lake reposing in peaceful tranquility. The view never tires, and as you pass over some monster trestle or turn some dizzy height it is impossible not to be struck with admiration and surprise at the many triumphs of engineering skill and mechanical science by which you are enabled to continue your journey on the iron highway.

Mr. O'Connor Power formed a high opinion of the resources of the whole Province. His letter is well and pleasantly written, and the picture which he paints of the attractions of British Columbia, though bright, is not by any means too highly colored.

WILLIAM'S WANDERINGS.

The very clever people who imagine that they can understand the motives of every one's acts and see through the designs of the deepest and most artful of their fellow men, predict that the most serious consequences will follow the visits which the Emperor of Germany recently made to several of his European neighbors. When that subject comes up for discussion they look very wise, and mysteriously hint at some great scheme which the young Emperor and Bismarck have in hand, to which those visits are a preliminary. They would have their hearers believe that the Emperor is ambitious of fame as a war king, and that he is quietly laying plans to change the map of Europe. Holland and Belgium are to be seized and absorbed by Germany and France, Germany, of course, getting the lion's share, and Turkey is to be divided between Russia and Austria. Switzerland and Greece are to be allowed to exist as independent nations for a while, but they will have to be very complaisant and humble, or, they too, will be gobbled up by their big neighbors. Germany is to take the lead in effecting these changes, and the other nations are to be bribed or coerced into helping her to carry out her scheme. Great Britain is simply to be ignored. She will have enough to do, this new school of prophets declare, to defend herself against invasion, and will only be too glad to condone the projected robberies for the consideration of being left alone to vegetate as a third or fourth rate power. The clever people have the whole plan cut and dried, and have gone so far as to draw a map of Europe as it will be in two or three years from the present date. They see no obstacles in the way of carrying out the schemes which they are so kind as to attribute to the new Emperor of Germany. Every thing is to work together for the aggrandisement of Germany. Russia, France, and Great Britain are either to stand idly by and see her change the face of the continent of Europe, or if one, or all of them, try to prevent her, their opposition will be feeble and easily overcome. France is to offered as a bribe a share of Belgium, and Russia is to be quieted by being allowed to seize upon one or two of the Balkan provinces. If it were suggested to these exceedingly astute persons that they were taking a very elaborate way of accounting for what was exceedingly simple and easily understood, they would look upon the presumptuous intruder with the utmost scorn and contempt. No one but a simpleton, they would say, would think that the Emperor of Germany would feel and act like an ordinary young man who had been suddenly elevated to a very high position with plenty of means at his command. Such a young man would like to feel his consequence, would strut about with his new authority in his new clothes, would go where he could see and be seen, and where he would receive the attention and the deference generally shown to men in his position, but it would be absurd to imagine the Emperor of Germany actuated by such feelings. From what is known of that young man we should say, with all necessary deference to these wonderfully sagacious people, that there is nothing whatever absurd in the supposition. The Emperor has high ideas of the kingly dignity. He is fond of pomp and show. He is proud of his authority and likes to exercise it and he, no doubt, feels gratified when he is welcomed in the capitals of foreign countries as the head of the great German nation. We have a notion that it is for his own personal gratification as well, perhaps, as to convince neighbors that he is friendly and desires to live at peace with them, and not in order to carry out some deep laid scheme of conquest that the Emperor of Germany has spent the first months of his reign in travelling from one capital to another. The supposition is natural. The Emperor is a young man, active and energetic, and why should he not have his fling as well as another? Besides there are no indications that he has any designs on the possessions of his neighbors. It may be said that it is too soon yet to come to any conclusion on that point. That is quite true. But that consideration tells quite as strongly against those who attribute to him warlike designs as against those who believe that his intentions are peaceful. In fact rather more so for, so far, William II. is on good terms with all his neighbors and shows no disposition whatever to pick a quarrel with any of them.

Cured by B. B. B. when all else Failed.

Mr. Samuel Allan, of Lisle, Ont., states that he tried all the doctors in his locality while suffering for years with Liver and Kidney trouble; nothing benefitted him until he took Burdock Blood Bitters, four bottles of which cured him. 11a

BRITISH ENTERPRISE.

An enterprising Englishman rejoicing in the not very musical or aristocratic name of Wiggins, has opened up the northern and central parts of Siberia to commerce. Mr. Wiggins was a seafaring man. He became convinced that it was possible to penetrate Siberia by means of the Obi and the Yenisei. The general opinion was that the Kara Sea was not navigable but he thought otherwise. He believed that after the summer had set in and these rivers had poured their warmer waters into that sea it became navigable for at any rate a short season. Acting upon this conviction as soon as he had money enough, he fitted out a small steam yacht which he called the "Diana," and set sail for the Straits of Kara. He penetrated the Straits and entered first the mouth of the Obi, then that of the Yenisei. This was in 1874. His voyage being merely exploratory he was satisfied with the results. Two years afterwards Mr. Wiggins crossed the Kara Sea in a small steamer of a hundred tons called the "Thames" and steamed a thousand miles up the Yenisei. He laid his little ship up for the winter, but the haven was ill-chosen, for in the spring, when the ice began to move she came to grief. But Wiggins was not to be beaten by an ice "shove." He tried again, this time with a 500 ton steamer placed at his disposal. With this ship he carried a cargo to the mouth of the Obi, and when he disposed of it he returned. His success caused a company to fit out five steamers for this new trade. The voyage was unsuccessful. The vessels were unable to reach their destination and were wrecked among the ice fields. But Mr. Wiggins' faith in his scheme was not killed by this failure, and in 1880 he succeeded in getting together a company which was called the Phœnix Merchant Adventurers. They bought an iron steamer of four hundred tons burden, put a cargo on board, and sent Wiggins with her to find his way to the Yenisei. The enterprising voyager was successful. He navigated the ice-covered Kara Sea, entered the Yenisei and sailed up it some two thousand miles. When he ceased ascending the river he was within a few hundred versts of the Chinese frontier. The report of Sir R. B. D. Morier, British ambassador to the Court of St, Petersburg, on this enterprise says: "On the 9th of October, 1887, for the first time, a sea-going steamship, carrying her own cargo, from across the ocean cast anchor and landed her goods in the heart of Siberia." The ambassador represented the case of these Adventurers to the Russian Government showing how much they had done to develop the trade of the country and what expense they were at. These representations were duly considered by the Russian authorities, and the result has been that not only have the goods they brought into Russia by this new Northern route been admitted free of duty but the Ambassador has obtained for them a five years concession for the free entry of certain classes of goods up the Yenisei and a similar concession of one year for the Obi. So it is to be hoped that the pluck, the enterprise and the intelligence of Wiggins will be at last rewarded. Siberia which is thus opened up from the north, will before very long be penetrated by a railroad from the west. A great Russian Pacific railroad has been projected and will before long be commenced. The immense region known as Siberia and considered the most dreary and inhospitable part of the earth's surface, will before very long be proved to possess immense resources and to be to a very great extent an improvable country.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

A. T. Stewart's riches have taken to themselves wings and have flown it is hard to tell where. One would think that it would be impossible for a childless woman such as Mrs. Stewart was to dissipate in a few years the millions left her by her husband. But strange as it appears the trial now going on before the Surrogate in New York shows it to be true. Every year from the day of her husband's death Mrs. Stewart spent much more than her income. Some years the excess amounted to millions. She gave much away, it is true, but her gifts, liberal as they were, did not amount to a tithe of what in some mysterious way slipped through her hands. What is strange is that property which when her husband was alive yielded handsome returns, after his death became less and less valuable until at last the expense of maintaining it was more than the income derived from it. A store in Tenth street, for instance, in 1876 yielded $170,444 which ground-rent, taxes and other expenses cut down to $90,185. Each succeeding year the income of the store decreased while the expenditure increased, until in 1886 the expenses overbalanced the income. As with that property so with others, it all melted away and at last when Mrs. Stewart died she was actually in debt. Her property it appears was managed by ex-Judge Henry Hilton. While Mrs. Stewart became poorer and poorer Judge Hilton became richer and richer. She died in debt; he lives a millionaire. Such is life.

We see that the newspapers in the East are trying to make capital out of Mr. Blake's accepting a retainer from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The editors of many of the newspapers, both Conservative and Liberal, think it inconsistent for the late leader of the Opposition to exercise his talents as a lawyer in the service of the Company. Where does the inconsistency come in? The policy of the Government in building the road is not in question. In fact, the question to be decided is not one of politics at all. It is purely commercial and legal in its nature. The Government have made a bargain with the C. P. R. respecting the construction of the British Columbia section of the road. The Company contends that the Government have failed to fulfil the conditions of their bargain. The matter in dispute has been left to arbitration. What is there to hinder Mr. Blake giving the Company the benefit of his legal skill and knowledge in this matter of contract? The questions to be submitted to the arbitrators have not the most remote connection with the questions discussed by Mr. Blake in his place in the House of Commons. We are not much concerned about Mr. Blake's reputation, either as a politician or a lawyer. He is, indeed, well able to defend his acts in either capacity. But fair play is a jewel. And it is not fair to sneer at Mr. Blake for doing what any man in his profession, no matter what his politics are, would be glad to do if he had the chance.

Canada is no longer to the people of Great Britain an unknown land. They have of late years discovered that the people who inhabit this vast and distant country are white, that they have attained a tolerable degree of civilization, that the resources of their land are many and varied and that Canadians are in the habit of paying their debts. It is not so long ago that the Turks and Egyptians and South American Republicans could readily borrow money in the British market, while colonists from Canada were regarded with suspicion and distrust. It seemed as if we were looked upon as a kind of poor relations who would not feel under any very great obligation to return money lent to us, or even to pay the interest with tolerable regularity. But all that is changed now. Canadians are looked upon as good customers, who are both willing and able to meet their obligations. Cities of the Dominion as well as the provinces which compose it, can now readily borrow money in London. The city of Montreal, a little while ago, determined to consolidate its debt. It owed a considerable amount of money and was paying for it a much higher than the current rate of interest. Its mayor and treasurer went to London to effect a loan. They wanted to borrow money at three per cent. They represented to the capitalists the resources of their city are and put their loan on the market at a minimum price of 82½. They wanted £840,000, and when the tenders were opened they found that £1,953,000 had been applied for. The price ranged from 85½ to 82½. The average was somewhere about 83. This was very good for a municipality, and shows that the confidence in Canada is growing. Montreal will save quite a large sum annually by the conversion of its debt.

Singular things sometimes take place in our own country. Some time in the spring of the present year a building on a farm near Lake Megantic, in the eastern townships of Quebec, was burned down. A man named Morrison, the son of the former owner of the farm, was accused of setting it on fire. A warrant was taken out against him and put in the hands of an officer of the law. The officer and Morrison met and had some words, when Morrison drew his pistol and shot him dead. Morrison continued to remain at large and, it is said, attended the funeral of the man he had killed. Constables and detectives went to Megantic to apprehend Morrison, but he eluded their search. It does not appear that he took much trouble to conceal himself. He was seen in the villages and settlements of the township. He went about armed and set the law at defiance. The people of the country were almost to a man in sympathy with him, and very many sided him in keeping clear of the constables. Wherever the detectives went they were closely watched and when a man appeared in the neighborhood whom Morrison's friends regarded as suspicious he was shadowed. Relays of watchers were placed on his track, and he was not allowed to go out of sight of the murderer's friends until he was well clear of Lake Megantic. So well was Morrison guarded and so nervous did the officers of justice become when they were in the vicinity of Lake Megantic, though sometimes in communication with him, they have not yet been able to apprehend him. He is still free, still guarded by his friends, still victorious over the law. Who would believe that such a state of things would be suffered to continue in the oldest Province of the Dominion. It is said that the province of Quebec is behind the age, but few would venture to say that it as far back as the days of Rob Roy.

THE CHINESE NAVY.

It was thought at one time that the Chinese nation had come to a standstill and that the Chinese people had learned all that their intellects were capable of comprehending and utilizing. The civilization of China had remained so long stagnant that it was believed it had attained its utmost height and that the era of declension had begun. But it is seen that those who came to this conclusion were mistaken. The Chinese have shown that they are capable of improvement. They can learn from the outside barbarians and they can adapt themselves to new conditions. The Chinese government saw that they needed a navy composed of ships built according to the principles of modern science and armed with the weapons of modern warfare. They became convinced that their junks were obsolete and that stronger and better ships were required. They therefore employed foreigners to build for them the ships of war they needed. The Vulcan Shipbuilding Company at Stettin, Germany, has just built for the Chinese government two strongly armored cruisers, the Kuy-yuen and the Lai-yuen. They are both of the same size and the displacement is 2,965 tons. They are built of iron and steel, and are as strong as the naval architecture of the age can make them. The armament, too, is modern and of the most recent make. They are built to steam at a speed of 15.25 knots and on their official trip they made 15.75 knots, which could easily be increased to more than 16 knots an hour. The same company has, up to to-this date, built for the Chinese Government five ironclads, two of them of 7,500 tons displacement and one of 2,380, and the two we have first mentioned. It has built besides seven torpedo boats of the 1st class, 18 to 19 knots speed, and six torpedo boats of the 2nd class, 17 to 18 knots speed. From this it seen that China is determined to be up to the times as far as its navy is is concerned.

"ROBERT ELSMERE."

"Robert Elsmere" has attracted a greater share of public attention than any book which has been published in England for a long time. One reason of this was, perhaps, because it was reviewed by Mr. Gladstone. When so eminent a man as he considered it good enough and important enough to notice in so public a manner many concluded that they ought to read it. The book, too, has literary merit of a high class and would have been widely read if Mr. Gladstone had never written a word about it. The story is an exceedingly interesting one and it is powerfully told. But, in our opinion, the chief reason why "Robert Elsmere" is so widely read and so much talked about is that it is a book for the times. It deals with what very many are thinking about, and it expresses what thousands would like to say. We live in an enquiring age. People in all places and of every class are asking for the reason of this and that. What ordinary people a generation or two ago heard and believed without question as a matter of course, many of that class now hesitate to accept without some evidence of its truth. We find men—and women too—not of the scholarly class by any means, questioning the truth of almost everything they have been taught in Sunday school and in church. One finds one doctrine difficult of belief, and another cannot see the reasonableness of some tenet which his church asks him to accept. The ordinary proofs adduced and reasons given do not satisfy them. Their religious faith is shaken and they are in trouble about their spiritual condition. In "Robert Elsmere" they find a man who is in the same condition as themselves. He, like them, has conversed with sceptics and is at a loss for arguments and facts to meet their objections. His inability to dissolve the doubts that are suggested to him causes him much pain and suffering. They are in the same condition. Like him, they are most unwilling to lose the faith which they imagine they once possessed, and like him, they are most reluctant to plunge into the darkness that they feel is before them. The sorrow which their confession of doubt or unbelief will give the friends they esteem and the relations they love, is one of the most painful elements of the struggle in which they are engaged. They see all this most vividly depicted in "Robert Elsmere." Their sympathies are awakened. The grief of Elsmere's wife when she discovers that her husband has departed from the faith of his fathers—the faith which she believes to be unassailable and which has throughout her whole conscious existence been her hope and her consolation, is but a faithful picture of what they know would be felt by those whom they dearly love if they only knew that they had become unbelievers. This, we think, rather than the pleasure that is felt when reading a well-written story, is what causes "Robert Elsmere" to have such an attraction for numbers of nominal Christians in every community. They have, to a greater or less extent, been under the same influence as Robert Elsmere and his experience has been theirs. Very few have the moral courage to do what Elsmere did, to make their doubts known and to face the consequences which would follow an open acknowledgment of unbelief in the Christian creed. Whether it is wise to do so or not is a question which every man who is struggling with religious doubt must settle with his own conscience. And here is a lesson which many good people have yet to learn. They, like Elsmere's wife, have not only a horror of every form of skepticism but they detest the unbeliever. They look upon him as a bad man with whom it is wrong and dangerous to associate. They don't want to have anything to do with him. And, truth to say, Mrs. Ward's infidels are not by any means an attractive lot. But none of them are what the world calls "bad men." Elsmere himself after he became an unbeliever was as pure, as large-hearted, as kind and as loveable a man as he was when he was a believer in the whole Christian creed. Unbelief did not make him wicked. This is true to nature, and when, for the purpose of effect, the preacher represents the sceptic as everything that is bad, he makes the very grave mistake of telling his hearers what many of them know to be untrue, and he thus loses their confidence. They reason that if he, either through ignorance or design, states what they know is not true in this matter, is he to be relied upon in other and more important matters. Unbelievers may be bad men, but they are not necessarily so. The truth is that many who say that they do not believe in the truths of Christianity are, it may be unconsciously, in almost every act of their lives influenced by the principles of the religion they deny. It would be saying very little for the influence of centuries of Christian teaching if the member of a Christian community and the child of Christian parents who had, as he believed, argued himself out of his belief in the Christian dogma, could, in a day or a year, divest himself of the influence of the Christian religion. As a matter of fact, he cannot, and those who have associated with professed agnostics are interested to see to what a very great extent they regulate their lives in accordance with the teaching of Christianity. They must act as Christians in spite of their declared scepticism. Christianity has wound itself into every fibre of their moral nature and they cannot get rid of its influence if they would. This is shown very clearly in "Robert Elsmere." The work that he engaged in after he had renounced Christianity and left the Christian ministry was in its essence a Christian work, and the Brotherhood which he established was in everything but its name essentially Christian. We do not think that broad-minded Christians need look upon "Robert Elsmere" as a "dangerous" book. Its popularity, however, should teach many earnest religionists a lesson which they have been slow to learn. It should convince them that doubt is much more common in the Christian world than is represented by many superficial observers who are regarded as authorities in the congregations, and that the men who are slipping away from Christian influences are not by any means the worst or the least intelligent in the community. When they are convinced of this they will do well to look about them for some effective means to confirm waverers in the faith, and to prevent active-minded and intelligent members of the churches drifting into the dark and dreary sea of unbelief. This is a work which must be done wisely and discreetly. Weak invective and goody-goody exhortation are hindrances, not helps. If the Robert Elsmeres are not to be indefinitely and rapidly increased, the strong men must get to work and they must exert themselves intelligently and with a will.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

The Whitechapel murderer has been again at work. The fiend appears to take a delight in murder and it is evident he is proud of the notoriety he has gained. We cannot think that any person being in his right mind can be guilty of such horrible atrocities. The murderer must surely be a madman. It would appear as if he slashed and cut his miserable victims out of pure bravado. He seems to take a delight in baffling the police. It may be thought that a madman could not be successful in eluding the officers of justice. But it sometimes happens that lunatics are wonderfully cunning and they resort to extraordinary devices to throw those by whom they are surrounded off their guard. It may be that it is just because he is insane that he contrives to set at naught the plans which some men have devised for his capture. It is devoutly to be hoped that he has this time left some trace behind him by which the officers of justice may be able to track him to his lair.

It is calculated that the only wheat which the United States will have to export this year will be from the Pacific Slope. The crop on the Atlantic Slope is reckoned to be 344,133,334 bushels. The requirements for food and seed, not allowing anything for manufactures, are 322,953,000. There were exported between July 1st and October 20th 25,065,810, making in all 348,018,810, against a net supply of 344,133,334 bushels. So that so far from the Atlantic side of the United States being able to export wheat, it will not have as much as it needs for its own consumption. On the Pacific Slope were raised about 50,000,000 bushels, of this 12,477,000 will be needed for food and seed, leaving a balance of 37,523,000 for export. No account of reserves is taken in this calculation. Up to October 20th of this year 11,244,413 of the new crop had been exported, leaving in the country 26,278,887 bushels, besides a reserve of 5,000,000 bushels.

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Estate of Hamilton & Ogden, Bridge Creek.

TENDERS FOR THE ESTATE OF HAMILTON & Ogden, at Bridge Creek, comprising Lands, Buildings, Horses, Cattle, Trade Goods, Book Debts, &c., are invited by the undersigned up to the 15th November next.

Tenders for the entire Estate, or for any portion thereof, may be made, but the Assignees do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

MATTHEW T. JOHNSTON, WILLIAM DALBY, } Assignees.
Victoria, 24th October, 1888.

Persons having claims against the Estate of Hamilton & Ogden, Bridge Creek, are requested to send statements thereof, in detail, to the undersigned, on or before the 10th November next.

MATTHEW T. JOHNSTON, WILLIAM DALBY, } Assignees.
Victoria, 24th October, 1888. oct25-2w

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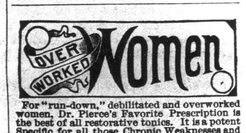

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