

LORD COLDRIDGE'S VISIT TO CANADA.

Lord Colridge's visit to Canada did not come off, but, perhaps like Punch's grandmother, "it's coming to come." Of course, as loyal citizens of "Her most gracious Majesty," the people of Canada feel very much out about it, although we hardly think they will go into mourning. As a matter of fact, Lord Colridge, like any other British citizen who visits America in a private capacity, has a perfect right to come to Canada or stay away just as he pleases, and it's nobody's business that we know of except his own. If he can deny himself the pleasure of seeing the British portion of North America and noting the prosperity of his fellow-subjects in this Greater Britain, the loss we think is not ours, and we can stand it if he can. But there is a phase of this affair that we wish to touch upon, and viewed from our stand point as British subjects, Lord Colridge is no more to blame than many another prominent Englishman who has visited America during the past few years.

As a rule, prominent Englishmen visiting America usually take one of the fast ocean steamers and land at New York. There they are wined and dined until they begin to be of the opinion that the citizens of the American Republic are the most liberal and whole-souled people on earth. From thence they are passed on to Washington, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and perhaps may get as far as San Francisco. During their trip they usually manage to visit that wonder of nature, the falls of Niagara, and this is the only time during their visit that they are reminded by a glimpse of the Union Jack floating in the breeze, that all of this vast country does not belong to the United States. These prominent Englishmen ignore the fact that just across the mighty Niagara there is a British colony, whose people are as truly loyal to the monarchy as their own, and who own the largest and probably the finest half of the North American continent. They forget that these people, although numbering scarcely five millions, have not only resisted the political encroachments of the fifty millions south of them, but have on more than one occasion freely poured out their life's blood to maintain its integrity. They forget that in Canada the civil and religious institutions that our British forefathers

bled and died for in the old land are here conserved by the descendants of these patriots, who are surely but unostentatiously building upon this side of the Atlantic a British Empire, which in the near future is bound to be greater in extent and influence than parent state from which it sprang. Most of them as soon as they reach England rush at once into print and astonish their less venturesome countrymen with their impressions of the wonderful American Republic, the vastness of its resources and the freedom and capabilities of its people. "Our Xin across the Sea" is a fruitful theme for such people, and they apparently never tire of giving the shrewd Americans the best possible return for their far-seeing hospitality by acting as the very best kind of free advertising mediums.

The question that has always arisen in our mind is, are these Englishmen acting a loyal part in ignoring their fellow-subjects in Canada and praising up the United States? Our impression is that they are neither loyal to the British Islands nor to the British Empire. True, these men do not directly influence British emigrants to go to the United States in preference to Canada, but indirectly they do. Canada they ignore and the United States is painted in such roseate colors, that the masses who seldom stop to think naturally conclude that the Republic is the best place for them. During the past fifty years Great Britain has parted with millions of her people in the shape of emigrants, and the greater portion of them have made their homes in a foreign country, the United States. It is computed that every emigrant is worth at least five hundred dollars a year to the country in which he settles, and at this rate figures would almost fail to show the wealth that England has poured into the lap of the United States. These emigrants have helped materially in the development of the country, they have filled her workshops, built her railways, dug her canals, brought her timber land under cultivation, and caused her waste places to blossom like the rose. In short, they have materially contributed to make the country what it is at present, one of the greatest in the world.

But is it not singular that British prudence has not been able to see that while all this might be well enough in sentiment as a matter of fact, they have with their own people been building up

one of the greatest rivals to their own commercial supremacy that they now have to contend against. Britain's greatest commercial rival is the United States, and that she is so is largely due to the fact that her resources have been developed by British citizens. But it is not all a question of commercial supremacy. Great Britain and the United States have gone to war in times past, and will probably do so again before the world ends, and in that event these ex-English subjects would not only have to give of their substance to carry on such a war, but might be conscripted and forced to fight against their native country. We trust that such a war may never happen in our day, but it may come, and if it does it would place many a British subject now residing in the United States in an awkward predicament.

Now did it ever strike the average English statesman that it would be a far more patriotic policy, to say anything of its wisdom, to encourage emigration to their own colonies by every means in their power in preference to emigration to a foreign country such as the United States certainly is. Of course, as loyal Canadians, we would like to see them all come to Canada, but we are not selfish enough to want or expect such a thing. We think, however, that the government and the press of England should do all that lies in their power to induce them to go to some British colony, no matter whether it be to Canada, Australia, New Zealand or the Cape, so long as it is a British colony. If this could be carried out emigration would mean to England simply a transfer of her subjects from one part of the Empire to another, instead of at present, loss and increased opposition.

It strikes us that it is just as important for England to strengthen her colonies as to strengthen herself. Every additional man they gain in population, and every dollar they gain in wealth makes the Empire stronger and better able to resist outside pressure.

From a commercial standpoint, we think that it would be a great advantage to England to have her emigrants settle in her colonies, which are better customers to her in proportion to their population than the United States or any other foreign nation can ever be.

Of course the government of England cannot force emigrants to go where they