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THANKSGIVING DAY.

The idea of an annual day of national thanksgiving for national blessings, is one of the excellent conceptions for which we are indebted to Puritan New England. In the old country special days of thanksgiving for special occasions are not uncommon and they often assume a national character. To our neighbours, however, must be given the credit for being the first to recognize that the blessings of every-day life, of peace and plenty of health and happiness, of liberty and progress are as truly divine gifts and as worthy of the sacrifice of thanksgiving, as a battle won, or a monarch's life spared. The tendency on this continent is to associate the annual thanksgiving largely with the harvest. Nor is this to be wondered at: because while man recognizes the hand of God in the gift of a bountiful harvest, he sometimes fails to see the equal manifestation of the divine power in the bestowal of other forms of wealth. The census and the blue books and official and unofficial reports tell us of our rapidly increasing railway mileage, of our fast growing centres of population, of wealth in a hundred forms rapidly accumulating, and the first impulse of the human heart is one not of thanksgiving, but of self-glorification. The dominant note of our national boast is too apt to be like that of King Nebuchadnezzar "Is not this great Babylon that I have built, for the house of the Kingdom, by the might of my power and for the honour of my majesty?"

With the harvest it is different, man's agency is truly seen in the production of the crop, but over and beyond the work of ploughing, seeding, harrowing and reaping, there is evident a work which is as mighty as it is mysterious, the manifestation of the Divine Power, which alone can give the increase. Then also the harvest represents all that is really essential in the material world to human life.

Canada's great harvest is something for which Canadians, indeed, may well be thankful. As the old Hebrew poet sang: "The valleys stand so thick with corn, they laugh and sing." But the harvest is not the only thing for which Canadians should be grateful, there is abounding prosperity in every direction, they have health and wealth, freedom and hope. To the rightly constituted human mind and heart, every day is a thanksgiving day, even if the thanks find expression less in words than in simple contentment. Nevertheless it is well for us as a nation, to stop once a year, if only to think upon these things, and the day we devote to such thoughts cannot fail to be a Thanksgiving Day.

Australian Confederation.

It seems to be generally admitted throughout Australia, that federation there, is either a failure or a very qualified success. The Legislative Assembly of Western Australia has gone so far as to pass a secession resolution. Confederation, however, is a good deal like marriage, it is a tie that it is much easier to bind than to loosen. The secession of a Province from a federated commonwealth would create more difficult problems than the union ever presented. Australia had better profit by Canada's experience and try patience. It was a long time before some of our Nova Scotian friends were willing to be called Canadians, but it would be hard to find many secessionists in Canada to-day from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Crime Epidemic in Manitoba.

An extraordinary calendar of indictments is to be submitted to the grand juries in the four judicial districts of Manitoba this month. The great majority of the crimes are of a serious character and many charges of murder are included there being nearly a dozen men on