

WAR'S AFTERMATH.

The calamities of the inhabitants of a country exposed to war are severe; friends and foes must alike be provided for, and all the means in their possession are relentlessly demanded and carried off; any hesitation or refusal only subjects them to rougher treatment and exactions. During the progress of the campaign in South Africa, now fast dwindling into a guerilla war, the sufferings of the Transvaal refugees were almost forgotten, hidden under the splendour of those mighty energies which break forth amidst the perils of conflict. But the victors have now to consider the pitiable condition of those who were driven from their homes by the Boers. These refugees are said to be destitute and miserable, and consequently they are pleading for permission to return to their ruined and desolate homes. As the plight of their brethren in the Transvaal is said to be even worse than that of the refugees at Capetown and Durban, the prospect of an early return to the condition of comparative comfort prevailing in the annexed country before the war is not very bright.

And yet we are warranted in hoping that the war in South Africa may be followed, not by the years of riot and disorder predicted by many writers, but by contentment, and the development of the common interests of the inhabitants of the country. It is true, that so shrewd an observer as Miss Mary Kingsley said: "South Africa will be an awful nuisance to the Empire for years." But there would seem to be no more reason for this apprehension than for the shadow of fear which settled down upon the timid when, in the early stages of the war, we met with unexpected defeat and disaster. Let those who are disposed to despair of inducing the stubborn Boers to submit to their conquerors recall how the bitterness of feeling engendered by years of civil war in the United States has been eradicated. Is it not possible that under the soothing influences of material prosperity, and a better knowledge of the liberty and self-government which they will enjoy when a military administration of the country is no longer necessary, the apparently irreconcilable Dutchmen may become loyal British subjects, contented in the possession of the same form of colonial self-government under which in Canada, despite everything said by the politicians, two separate and distinct races live in peace and harmony. It is true that, even in the Dominion of Canada, we have an occasional outcrop of jealousy and bickering between those who proudly point to their British ancestors, and those who take delight in their descent from the brave and chivalrous gentlemen of France. But, like many family quarrels, these little differences of opinion amount to nothing, and when danger threatened the Empire, the men of Quebec and Ontario fought shoulder to shoulder.

This feeling of common nationality which is being cultivated by all sensible Canadians, may yet be de-

veloped in all parts of a united South Africa. The present situation is admittedly one of grave difficulty; but the work of pacification of the Boers and restoring the Transvaal refugees to their homes will not be regarded as overtaxing British courage and patience.

PHASES OF THE PREFERENCE TARIFF QUESTION AND ITS DIFFICULTIES.

The present agitation in regard to the preference tariff question is a revival of one which was full of life before a railway existed from this city to Toronto; before our present currency was adopted; and before cable communication was established with England. Some ideas had been promulgated before then by prominent public men and newspapers which seem in this day to be very extraordinary. In the Toronto "Globe" of the 24th May, 1848, for instance, it was said that, "Canada would never prosper until Free Trade existed between her and the United States." The total foreign trade of Canada at that period was not more than 15 per cent. of what it has risen to without either Free Trade or Reciprocity being established with the States. In 1858, the exports of Canada were only \$23,472,000, against \$150,321,350 last year; and the imports in 1858 were \$29,078,000, as against \$162,764,308 last year. Such reversals of prophecies relating to fiscal affairs suggest caution in making predictions. Another distinguished authority of that period wrote and spoke most vigorously in favour of a tariff preference being given to the States as being essential to the prosperity of Canada. Prior to the report of the English Corn Laws, in 1849, Canada had enjoyed very important discrimination in England, by her grain being admitted at a lower duty than that of foreign growth. Up to 1860, Canadian timber paid an impost in Great Britain of ten (10) shillings a load, against fifty-five (55) shillings on foreign timber. For some preference then being given to Canada by Great Britain, there is the precedent which was destroyed by the Free Trade policy of the old country. From 1841 to 1858, the fiscal policy of Canada was based on that of Great Britain; there were mutual preferences, and, when the old land abolished these, by adopting Free Trade, Canada turned to the United States, with whom a certain measure of reciprocity was established. In 1859, English manufacturers appealed to the Government against Canada's tariff under which they alleged that British goods paid from 35 to 40 per cent. of a protective duty, while the protection established by Canada against the States was practically only from 22 1-2 to 25 per cent. Complaints were also made that England treated the United States equally as well as Canada, when, it was contended, the colony was entitled to preferential treatment. After some years of toing and fro on a disturbed sea of tariff changes, Canada, in 1879, settled down definitely to the policy of protection to na-