

Britishers and Americans

BY REV. GEO. H. LONG.

(See Missionary Topic for February 28th.)

EXAMINE these figures, for they give some idea of the volume of emigration that has poured into Canada during the twelve years ending June 30th, 1908:

From the British Isles	522,494
From the United States	391,436
From Foreign Countries	383,993

Making a total of1,307,923

A LONG PROCESSION.

String this army out in single file, with three feet for each person, and you have a line 743 miles long. March them past a given point and it will take twenty-five days, at three miles an hour, and ten hours a day, to pass it. If each person carried a flag of their home-land, three out of every four would be found marching under the folds of either the Union Jack or the Stars and Stripes, and the flags of four out of five would represent free institutions and representative forms of Government in the countries to which they belong. It is this preponderance of Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic elements among the incoming emigrants that saves the situation.

THE NEED OF RIGHT TREATMENT.

The history of ourselves ought to teach us that the children and grandchildren of even the lowest of these English-speaking folk, will in the next generation or two compare favorably with us, the descendants of the pioneers in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, and who pride ourselves on our loyalty, intelligence, and morality. That is, if we, the present generation of Canadians, treat these strangers as they ought to be treated, and look after them as they ought to be looked after.

Of course there are differences in the social and moral status of these people, for among them will be found many undesirable. It would be a marvel if it were not so. Yet will there be a greater proportion of useless, helpless, criminal ones than would be found in an equal number of Canadians? Of one thing we may be sure, the proportion of the good to the bad will be less than among those remaining in the Old Land. Yet, notwithstanding the submerged tenth, Britain is the recognized leader in the higher civilization of the race.

THE INHERENT PRIDE OF RACE.

Among all these Anglo-Saxon newcomers, whether from the Motherland across the sea, or from the Republic to the South, will be found a pride of race, the love of liberty, the instinct of government, and an inherent respect for sacred things that has ever characterized the breed. These will, under fostering circumstances, assert themselves and save the individual and the race from degeneration. We have in our village several English families who came out about three years ago. They belonged to what is known as the laboring class in England and were very poor. Yet they are rapidly improving their circumstances and gaining the respect of all. One family was from the slums of an English city, yet the father is making a living for his family, and the children are attending both the Public and the Sabbath Schools, and are as bright as any. This man cast his first vote at the late municipal elections, and was so highly elated over it that he lay off work for the day, and was intensely anxious until he knew whether his man was elected or not. To him, and no doubt to thousands of others, there comes with the casting of the first vote a consciousness of manhood that was unknown under the old conditions, and that augurs well for the future. For it is not in the very nature of the average Briton to "rise on his dead self to higher things," when environment and conditions are favorable?

A WARNING.

It must, however, be clearly understood that there is no place for the criminal in this new land, and not very much room for the ne'er-do-wells sent out to get rid of them at home and who exist on the remittances periodically received. The gaming tables, saloons and race tracks are the places they most generally frequent, and most of them are a detriment to the social and moral life of a community. Yet even with these when the remittances cease and it is a case of "root hog or die," to their credit, be it said, they generally root rather than die.

"HOME" CHILDREN.

The children brought out by the "Homes" constitute another class about whom much has been said for and against. An average of two thousand of these Home children come into Canada every year. They are soon absorbed by the Canadian Homes, and are in demand. For the 12,780 brought in during the six years ending 1907, there were 82,364 applications. It is estimated that 98 per cent. of these children make good.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.

The emigration from the United States that has assumed such large proportions in the last few years, has brought into our land a most desirable class of settlers. Intelligent, educated, alert, possessed of money and enterprise, they rapidly assume leadership in the communities of the West. Outside of the Mormons, who form a class by themselves, the men from the States are as a rule willing to submit to the laws and conform to the usages of their adopted land. They at once identify themselves with the business, social, and often the religious life of the community.

A GROWING RESPONSIBILITY.

The coming of these strangers, both British and American, has placed on the Church and the Government obligations that cannot be evaded without danger. The churches must reach them with the Gospel and place them under tutelage in religious things. An aggressive evangelical type of Christianity and up-to-date methods in Sunday School work are required to meet their need. Teach them respect and reverence for the things of God and loyalty to our Christian and

"The greatest thing, says someone, a man can do for his Heavenly Father is to be kind to some of His other children. I wonder why it is that we are not all kinder than we are? How much the world needs it. How easily it is done. How instantaneously it acts. How infallibly it is remembered. How superabundantly it pays itself back,—for there is no debtor in the world so honorable, so superbly honorable, as love."

—Henry Drummond.

Canadian institutions. Gather their children into our Sunday Schools, and train them in a knowledge of the Word and of holy things. Be patient with them in their peculiarities and prejudices. They cannot be forced or ridiculed into improvement. They are too much like ourselves for that. Treat them as a man should treat men, bearing in mind that their son may some day be your son-in-law.

The Government must be sure that the laws of the land are kept, that public schools are provided for all and that children are compelled to attend them, and that protection to life and property and equal rights are guaranteed to all.

THE FUTURE.

If this is done, then these people of the same race stocks as ourselves, will with us become backbone and steady factor among our new populations. Not only will they learn to love their adopted land and work for her highest interests, but will also aid in moulding into shape these other people of alien blood and strange speech who are coming through our gates in such large numbers every year.

Let it be said of us as the American poet sang of his own people,

"We cross the prairies as of old
Our fathers crossed the sea—
To make the West as they the East
The homesteads of the free."

And if we are loyal to God and to our people, and work in with the plans of the eternal in this big land, the laboratory of His Grace, then "He will give us the heathen for our inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for our possessions."