

will, doubtless, be many a Canadian settler in South Africa, which is naturally one of the richest countries in the world, and possesses an attractive climate.

SPEAKING of South Africa, if any reader nurses the slightest doubt as to the righteousness of Great Britain's cause, I recommend as a cure the perusal of a little pamphlet written and published by Mr. E. B. Biggar, of Biggar, Samuel & Co., Montreal and Toronto. Mr. Biggar lived for five years in South Africa and is thoroughly qualified to speak about Boer misgovernment and oppression. His brochure can be read at a sitting. It presents such a calm, unimpassioned and convincing arraignment of President Kruger's little oligarchy, that one rises from it, proud to belong to an Empire that has undertaken the task of sweeping such an iniquitous government out of existence. There are two sides to every shield, and it is our duty to look at both sides, but I confess that after studying the Boers' case from their standpoint, I found Mr. Biggar's pamphlet a complete answer to every argument that has been advanced on behalf of the Transvaal, and a thorough vindication of Great Britain's determined dealing with the stubborn and crafty old despot whom Mr. Biggar describes as the evil genius of the Dutch race in South Africa.

SOME weeks ago reference was made in these columns to the attitude of the United States press and people towards Great Britain in the Boer War, and it was contended that the Mother Land was scarcely receiving fair play after the way in which she stood by Uncle Sam in his little unpleasantness with Spain. In the light of later developments, I feel called on to say, in all fairness, that the best and most influential papers in the States are at least not hostile to Great Britain, as they undoubtedly would have been under similar circumstances three or four years ago. At the same time, the British public should not suffer itself to be deceived, and, if "the old folks at home" imagine there is enthusiasm for Great Britain's cause in the United States anything like the enthusiasm for the cause of Uncle Sam that existed in Britain, they are being sadly hamboozled. The most that can be said of the sentiment of the people of the United States just now is that "the general feeling that England ought to have avoided war with the Transvaal is not expressed in hostile spirit." This is the way The American Review of Reviews puts the matter, and it is undoubtedly right. Canadian and British papers should have a care lest they educate the people of the Empire to believe that our republican cousins are more friendly to us than they really are.

IN some cities on this continent, means have been provided for looking after the teeth of the poor, and there certainly could be no better outlet for philanthropic feeling than the education of the ignorant to a knowledge of the importance of clean and healthy teeth in our physical economy. One of our Montreal dentists, Mr. Walter G. Kennedy, has published an attractive and readable pamphlet on the care of the teeth, which should have a wide circulation. I am glad to be able to say a good word for this little work, because the subject is really important. It is true, as Oliver Wendell Holmes said, that "the dental profession has established and prolonged the reign of beauty; it has added to the charms of social intercourse, and lent perfection to the accents of eloquence; it has taken from old age its most unwelcome feature, and lengthened enjoyable human life beyond the limit of the years when the toothless and purblind patriarch might exclaim: 'I have no pleasure in them.'" And Dr. Holmes might have added that dental science has curtailed human suffering and disease in as great measure, perhaps, as the science of medicine, strictly so-called. Yet, much remains to be done, particularly amongst the poor and ignorant, and any effort to enlighten them as to the importance of proper sanitation of the mouth should receive encouragement.

LONDON TRUTH asserts that the metropolitan public are losing their enjoyment of Sunday concerts now they are no longer under the ban of the County Council, and the patronage is rapidly falling off. Ever since Adam and Eve ate of the fruit they were forbidden to touch, weak humanity seems to have had an insatiable appetite for anything and everything it is told it must not have. Edgar Allan Poe wrote a charming little essay on "The Imp of the Perverse," in which he contended that there is within every heart a spirit that loves to be contrary for contrariness' sake. Perhaps there is a good deal of sound philosophy in the fancy. It certainly would not do to throw down all bars and barriers and let everything be published or exhibited by selfish men for the sake of gain; nor, on the other hand, would it be wise to put good things under the ban in the hope that "The Imp of the Perverse" would drive people into deserting evil. But the history of legislation shows that prohibitory enactments have often the opposite effect from that intended, particularly where they are in advance of the public conscience.

FELIX VANK.

THE KING OF CANADA IN CHINA.

From The Peking Gazette. Translated for MONTREAL LIFE by Ylek Lee, Lagouchetiere street.

MANN DAN, King of Canada, has honored China with a visit, and been royally entertained by His Serene Mightiness, Li Hung Chang, and Her August Beatitude, the Empress. Dan is reputed to be the inventor of the railroad. He is one of the great monarchs of the day, and his visit is said to have aroused the jealousy of the Emperor Will Yum, who will shortly visit the Celestial Court of Peking to offset, if possible, the entente cordiale between China and Canada, resulting from Mann Dan's illustrious sojourn at the Palace of the Sun. King Dan, while here, distributed his bounties in a manner hitherto unparalleled even in China, the most civilized and wealthy of countries. Gold coins and precious bits of paper, which the people of Canada are said to worship and to serve all their lives, flowed like a never-failing fountain from his hands; and the Empress, since his departure, has been compelled to issue a royal proclamation forbidding the further adoption of the tipping system in the royal palace, on pain of death, as since King Dan's visit the royal servants have shown signs of discontent with their former scale of wages and a strike has been imminent.

The Court Circular of recent date announced that His Serene Mightiness, Li Hung Chang, had a long conference with King Dan about the best method of converting unused lands to the use of the Crown. His Serene Mightiness expressed approval of the means adopted by the King to prevent his too covetous subjects, the people of Canada, from obtaining more than their proper share of the lands of that country.

King Dan's visit will long be memorable in the annals of China. Her August Beatitude, the Empress, considers him quite the sweetest and most charming gentleman she has ever entertained.

THE SECRET FLAW.

LIFE'S sculptors we, and on our solemn dream
The image dawns of perfect things to be;
Whereat we labor long and lovingly,
Until no more their wonders merely seen,
But real grow, and on our vision gleam
All white and pure, and in their eyes the free
Glad look of souls that stand rejoicingly
Full in the light of God's eternal beam.
'Tis bravely said; but one I knew too well
Who so conceived and with unstinted toil
Worked on until at last, half blind with tears,
Some secret flaw his whole creation spoil
He saw too late. Alas, the wasted years,
And in those eyes the auguries of hell!

—JOHN WHITE CHADWICK.