

HOME JOURNAL

A Department for the Family

PEOPLE AND THINGS THE WORLD OVER.

The Six Nation Indians of Brantford contributed fifty dollars to the Plains of Abraham fund. Mrs. Joseph Parker, mother of Sir Gilbert Parker the Canadian author, died at her home in Belleville, Ont.

The prize for the best band given at the Winnipeg Exhibition was won by Portage la Prairie. There were a number of entries, competition was keen, and every band gave good music.

According to ancient custom large numbers of English people went to Stonehenge to spend the longest day of the year. A departure from custom that made them very indignant was to find the historic monuments fenced in with barbed wire, and a shilling charged for admission.

Governor Norris, of Montana, addressed a letter to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Ottawa relative to the deportation of a large band of Cree Indians, who, while Canadian charges, have for years been roaming throughout that State. The Indians participated in the Riel Rebellion, and, with its suppression, came to Montana. The State Department arranged with Canada for their return, but soon afterward, dissatisfied with conditions in the north, they returned to this State, and are now at the point of starvation. Hence the letter to learn if the original allotments are still available. A number of Indians have agreed to return.

Dr. William Osler, the Oxonian, who in his address at John Hopkins University, 1905, was widely quoted as saying that man's best usefulness was past at 40, and that most men ought to be chloroformed at 60, entered upon his sixtieth year yesterday. He called for coffee and rolls, remarked that it was a fine day, and read the politics in the morning paper. Then he dressed himself for church and walked to the house of worship on foot. It now appears that Dr. Osler is about to enter a contest with Winston Churchill and George Wyndham, former chief secretary for Ireland, for the Lord Rectorship of the University of Edinburgh. The race is scheduled for November next, and it is understood that Dr. Osler is to begin training at once. Since the contestants do not have to carry weight for age, Dr. Osler is believed to have a fine chance to defeat the others. In any event, he is said to have announced that, if he is a loser, he will permit his defeat to dampen his ardor for other work.

UNCLE REMUS TELLS NO MORE STORIES

Joel Chandler Harris, who died on July 3rd after a short illness, was one of the few exponents of that type of American humor which is sweet and sane and quaint. The fun of Joel Chandler Harris and of Mark Twain have the same flavor, though the settings are entirely different. Mr. Harris or "Uncle Remus," as he is best known—was a native of Georgia and he has pictured to us in a long series of dialect stories extending over more than a quarter of a century the southern negro with all his whims and superstitions, his simple joys and sorrows. Thousands of English speaking people all over the world have read the adventures of Br'er Fox and Br'er Rabbit. He was editor of the Atlanta Constitution for years, and in its columns the first dialect sketches appeared which were to make his name more famous than the grave editorials he penned in the sanctum.

The sweetness of his nature kept him kin to flowers and children of whom he was passionately fond. In answer once to a question as to his recreations, he said that they consisted of thinking of things and tending his roses. His suburban home in Atlanta was a verandah on a five acre lot full of birds and flowers and children, with a comfortable house attached as an afterthought. The world has suffered a loss, for the present generation of humorists have an aerial quality in their wit, and mix it with slang and malice.

AS ONE EMBARKING.

As one embarking turns deep-visioned eyes
Back to the fast receding native shore,
Whose crystal tides for him shall flow no more,
Or sound their silver trumpets as they rise—
And there beholds how all the landscape lies
Transfigured with a charm it never wore
In those indifferent early days before
He faced the loneliness of foreign skies;
So earth becomes, to eyes bedimmed with tears,
Of that impending change whose silent knell
Sounds at the heart of slowly-waning years
(Even to those who always loved it well),
Transfigured with a charm that more endears,
And touched with beauty indescribable.

—HELENA COLEMAN.

UNCLAIMED MONEY MADE PUBLIC.

Within the last few weeks considerable space was taken up in the issues of the Canadian dailies by the statement of the unclaimed deposits in the various banks of the Dominion. It is surprising how many hundred accounts there are of depositors who have not been heard from for at least five years; some of them have not given any account of themselves for a much longer period than that, one account covering fifty years.

This is one of the admirable features of our banking system which on the whole is one of the institutions of which we can be most proud: The Canadian Bank Act says that at the close of each year a return must be made to the government, for publication, of all dividends which have remained unpaid for more than five years, and also of all amounts or balances on which no transactions have taken place during the five years before the date of such return. These returns set forth the name of the creditor, his last known address, the amount due, the bank at which the last transaction took place, and the date on which it was done.

From the long list published this year it is evident that many depositors die or disappear without leaving any papers to show where their money is deposited, or they make wills and in them do not disclose all their effects, with the result that balances would remain in the bank indefinitely, and the rightful heirs have no knowledge of the money, if this clause of the banking act had been omitted. In this respect our system is preferable to the English banking law which makes no such provision, and English bankers are making serious objection to a bill brought before the House of Commons by Horatio Bottomley to provide for the giving over by the bankers to the department of public trustee of the amount of securities and untouched balances in their care. The bankers say that the House has no warrant to interfere between the banks and their customers, and they refuse to give any information to enquiries made by relatives or friends of the depositor who has died or disappeared. Many stories are told to account for the sum—variously estimated at from three to fifty millions of dollars—in the English banks which represents unclaimed property. An army officer had thirty thousand dollars in several banks unspecified in his will, and after his death all enquiries were met with the reply: We never give information on such subjects. A man killed in a railway accident who was known to be wealthy had his money in several banks. His family has since suffered want for lack of the information the banks refused to give. It is said that an eccentric old lady had a hundred and forty thousand dollars in a bank to which she went once a year. She would hand in a cheque, draw out the money, count the notes and reckon the interest, hand it all back again and disappear. One year she failed to put in an appearance and since then nothing whatever has been heard of her, but no one can get any satisfaction concerning her money from the place where she kept it.

THE WARMEST WELCOME OF THE YEAR.

Lord Roberts is the most popular visitor Canada is likely to see this year. Royalty is accorded an enthusiastic welcome partly on the strength of position and because of Canadian loyalty. But "Bobs" gets a welcome for himself from everybody. Even lovers of peace who agree with General Sherman that "war is hell" have respect and honor for the man who, without regard for his calling, has all the qualities of a man. They know he would have been great in any line, and in the evil of warfare he has kept intact the honor, courtesy and upright living to which he was bred. Not only has he kept his own integrity, but his influence has been for good among his men. There is a smile over his strict temperance principles, and his endeavor to share them with others, but there is less drinking among the men who are in contact with him than in other parts of the army. He is an example of clean, high living going hand in hand with success that must be an inspiration to his men. His achievements as a soldier and commander need not be mentioned here. They are many and great. No disgrace has ever touched through him the name he bears. And his old soldiers adore him. There are no happier men in Canada than the Canadian veterans who have been chosen as his body-guard to Toronto. They served under him in Africa and hold it an honor to guard the life of a man who takes no particular care to guard his own, going up and down in the world without fear as without ostentation.

OPIUM TRAFFIC INCREASING IN CANADA.

While the matter of the Asiatic claims for damages suffered during the Vancouver riots was being investigated, Mr. MacKenzie King chanced upon information which is now being used as a basis for another investigation of an important nature. During the former enquiry it transpired that British Columbia is sheltering a rapidly increasing trade in opium, and that Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster are the chief centres of this trade. There are no less than seven factories turning out the finished product and the estimated value of the manufactured article for last year is placed at over six hundred thousand dollars. The raw material is imported in cocoanut shells, and is powdered and then prepared for smoking. The larger part of this is consumed in Canada and its use is not restricted entirely to the Chinese. More white people are using it every day. Mr. King saw opium purchased freely in Chinese shops in spite of the regulations on the statute books of British Columbia against the traffic. The clauses requiring the person making the sale to be a qualified pharmacist, the drug to be labeled, and the purchaser to give his signature were all disregarded.

It seems a pity that the handling and use of this pernicious drug should be increasing in Canada while other countries are making stern and effective efforts to lessen its production and consumption. China and Japan have legislated severely against it, as has also Great Britain in India even at the cost of large revenues. Mr. King says "The only effective remedy is to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale alike, and this absolutely, save in so far as an exception may be necessary for medicinal purposes only. To be indifferent to the growth of such an evil in Canada would be inconsistent with those principles of morality which ought to govern the conduct of a Christian nation."

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Mrs. Timothy Eaton has contributed \$5000 to the fund for establishing a Ladies' College in connection with Wesley College, Winnipeg.