A COSMOPOLITAN CITY.

An American Romancer Makes Victoria the Scene of an Interesting Story.

Fact and Fiction Skilfully Woven inan Altogether Readable Letter.

From the New Haven Register.

The following letter has been received from W. W. Stow, a former New Havener, now in Victoria, in Vancouver Island:

To the Editor of the Register, Sir.

Victoria City, the subject of this letter, is situated on the extreme southern point of Vancouver Island, which constitutes a part of the province of British Columbia. Vancouver Island was named after Capt. Vancouver, the explorer, who claimed to have first discovered the island. A few years later he was made its first governor. From Vancouver, south across Fuca and San Juan straits into Puget sound, 44 miles, you reach Port Townsend, Wash. Northeast, across Georgia strait, 42 miles, you reach Vancouver City, the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Victoria can only be reached by water. One short line of railway penetrates the island northward from Victoria about 40 miles. Steamboat lines reaching Victoria are quite numerous, from the fact that Victoria is the only government quarantine station on the Pacific for Canadian ports. Esquimalt naval station is also located here, which is the home of the English Pacific squadron in America. It possesses ample dry docks and repair shops. Lines of steamers run to Victoria from Vancouver, Westminster. Port Townsend, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland and San Francisco on the south; Sydney and Honolulu on the west; Japan, China and Mediterranean ports, from the Orient, and from many points of Alaska on the north. Aside from these, Victoria maintains quite a creditable commercial fleet.

Her sealing interests are also important, inasmuch as the United States government last fall paid an indemnity of nearly half a million dollars to Canadian sealers, and that means Victoria sealers. On November 15 last the sealers of Victoria put out about 40 crafts to take seals the present winter, in defiance of American law, and will again demand indemnity in the spring, in accordance with British constitution of the treaty. Thus it will continue until Uncle Sam takes the bull by his horns, or the lion by his tail, and demands the rights secured by the Russia-Alaska treaty. However, it is not likely that trifles of this magnitude will estrange the friendly relations existing between the English and American cousins, because it is not policy "don't cher know"

The population of Victoria is now estimated at 25,000—12,000 whites or English speaking, 6,000 Chinese, 1,000 Japanese and 6,000 Indians, half-breeds, Portugese, Finlanders, Esquimaux, Kanakas and Zulus, little men from Borneo, large men from Russia, pure white men from Siberia, and pure black men from the Nile, and apparently all other nationalities, tribes, tongues and dialects Victoria is more essentially English than any other part of Canada The English speaking population is mostly English, and they govern the city and province, although in a minority The majority have but little voice or vote in public matters, Very few foreigners swear allegiance to the Crown. This rule applies largely throughout Canada, hence the limited number of voters as compared to population, being 1 to 11 eligible and only 1 to 15 who exercise the right. For some years no issue of importance has agitated the popular mind of Canada. I enquired of an Englishman in Victoria: "What is the difference between a Conservative and a Liberal? I cannot discover by the press where the lines are drawn." "No," said he, "there is only one issue now—the hins and the houts. The hins are afraid that they will have to get hout, and the houts are afraid they won't get hin." Victoria had a boom from 1891 to 1894. She went up like a sky-rocket and came down like a stick She has not fully recovered from the shock, and as misfortune seldom comes singly, so it was with Victoria. A cruel storm, either by chance or design, dashed upon her shores a shipwreck of smallpox patients, whose deadly germs soon spread among the people, and the most singular thing about it was it took special pains to visit the better class, the refined, cultured and elite. The exodus was alarming, and as yet Victoria has not recovered her equilibrium. The surroundings of Victoria are really beautiful. The climate eight months of the year is charming. The remaining four months is almost constant rain, which makes it dismal. But the winters are very mild in temperature.

Flowers in the gardens and fields continue to bloom until Christmas. The grass is green all winter, which furnishes sufficient food for stock. Aside from milch cows, cattle and sheep are neither housed or fed during the winter months and they do well. The scenery is grand and picturesque, although it is very deceptive. Directly east of Victoria, in Georgia strait, are located hundreds of islands, mostly small, but quite elevated, say from 50 to 200 feet high. A sail among them is enchanting, some wooded, others barren, many prolific with flowers, makes it, as the ladies say, "perfectly delightful." The only thing we regretted was that the camera fiend was not with us, on all sides of Vancouver Island are such beautiful views. Now for the more grand and deceptive, which must be borrowed from the state of Washington, yet viewed from Victoria. It is a most beautiful illustration of "distance lends enchantment to the view."

The Olympian range, which is from 50 to 100 miles from Victoria, as it extends southward is the most deceptive scenery imaginable. Many tourists devote hours gazing at the many snow-capped peaks with amazement, when informed that the nearest point is fully 50 miles distant, and some of the more prominent elevations, seeming much nearer, are actually 70 miles away. They seem to rise out of the water, and on a clear day, looking across the straits, seemingly no more than 10 miles across, but the water measurement being from 30 to 40 miles, and the mountains being from 20 to 40 miles from the coast, you can well imagine the description.

I have only written of the range. Now comes Mount Baker, beyond the range, in a more easterly direction. A noted landmark for mariners, fully 90 miles distant, always covered with snow. Turning toward the south, you behold Mount Olympus, 90 miles away, towering over the range, over and beyond, standing clear and distinct, with outlines so well defined, as if chiselled by human hand, and it is a fact that your imagination will lead you to believe one can actually perceive the chisel marks of the master sculptor, and again we look up over and beyond, and we see still higher and higher, that grand and majestic column of iron and stone, Mount Rainier, 120 miles away. Taking the island groups in Georgia strait as the foreground, the water of the straits at the base line, then the Olympian range as the perspective, and Mounts Baker, Olympus and Rainier as the climax, the whole produces the most fascinating and picturesque landscape and scenery I have ever witnessed. The mountains of Mexico, the scenes in the upper Cascades, the northern Rockies, the Yosemite valley and the St. Lawrence basin do not compare with the beauty, grandeur and enchantment of this American scenery viewed from Victoria. It is surprising to me that artists, scenic or descriptive writers have omitted to picture with brush or pen the most beautiful scenery in North America.

Again to Victoria. Most of the buildings are built of "fir" wood. One peculiar characteristic of the wood is its extreme susceptibility to wet and dry, as previously stated, four months of the year is constant rain. During the summer and fall the buildings get very dry, and, with the crude manner of construction, one may look through the sides and out the roofs of most of the buildings, under and over the doors and windows, in fact, the pores are all open. When the rain begins to fall most of the buildings leak. It takes about a week of good hard rain to swell the cracks, then they are good for another year. It reminded me of grandma's washtub. It had to be swelled up with water before using. Wood is used almost exclusively for fuel, although they mine a poor quality of coal on the island. If you wish a cord of wood you order it cut, split and carried in. First a cord of 4-foot wood is dumped in front of your premises, dwelling house, store, hotel or bank. Second, a huge two-horse portable saw-mill with two men come and the wood is sawed in stove lengths. The noise is something terrific, equal to a fire propeller. Third, four Chinamen arrive, who split and carry in the wood— up two, three or four flights. "All samee four dollar." In New Haven the labor would cost from $5 to $7 unless performed by the Charities.

The demand for ice here is quite limited, owing to the exhorbitant price, from $1 to $2 per hundred, according to the season. Then, owing to the dry, clarified air, it is not absolutely necessary to use ice. Hotels and cafes use a little in cocktails and for ice cream. Markets do not require it, as a side of beef or veal will hang exposed for a week without taint. They deliver ice in a Concord buggy. A man, horse and buggy, cake of ice and a saw completes the outfit. The usual purchase is a 6-inch cube. One ice firm supplies the city. Last summer ice sold for $1 per hundred. The newsboys here are phenomenal. They are civil, courteous and secluded. During my visit of several weeks I did not hear one shout or even run. If you desire a paper you look for the boy. The thing is reversed from what it is at home. Newsboys never disturb the slumber of the citizens. One experience will illustrate. Wanting a newspaper, after searching for 10 minutes on the principal streets, I found a newsboy in a secluded alcove. I beckoned. He did not move. I approached him, saying, "Have you a paper?" With his hat off, he replied: "Yes, sir; but it's the morning paper." "Where can I get an evening edition?" "Sir, I will go down to the print and get you one." "All right, my boy, I will wait in the hotel," and away he went. After carrying 20 minutes, getting impatient, I went out and spied the boy leaning against the post. The lad come forward, saying, "I'm not allowed in the hotel, so I waited for you." Paying for the paper and thanking the bright little fellow for his kindness, I wondered if that lad will become a Dan Manning of a Tom Waller.

The letter carrier's life in Victoria is a most fatiguing one; not from the amount of labor he performs, but from the amount of skill, ingenuity and tact he is obliged to employ in killing time on his route, so as to reach the office at the designated time and make his report and otherwise keep the inspector convinced of the enormous amount of labor on his special route, so as not to have the force reduced. One letter carrier confided to me, with a good deal of gusto, that he delivered daily about eighty letters, and forty papers.

The Mayor designates stands for the hacks and expressmen, and where do you suppose it is? Right in the middle of the street. It reminds me of the middle-of-the-street men at home. Imagine a street thirty-five feet wide, a car track on one side, a row of hacks and expressmen in the middle, private teams at the curb fronting their stores, and all sorts of vehicles trying to edge their way through. To make things still more complicated, all teams meeting must turn to the left. In passing a team you must turn to the right; and the law is very strict. A Yankee gets all mixed up. They are bound to do things just opposite to what the Americans do.

When they kill a fowl they wring its neck; we cut off the head. When they curry a horse (and they do it at rare intervals) they begin at the tail and work up; we begin at the head and work down. When they go fishing they use a bare hook; we condescend to attach bait. They sneak upon the game and shoot them upon the ground; we scare them up and shoot them on the wing, giving them a chance for life by flight. Hundreds of things they do and do not do just contrary to American ideas and yet they are our cousins.

The streets are not paved, but owing to the nature of the soil water soon disappears and the roads are fairly good. But the sidewalks are horrible, being all board walks (when they have any) with the huge spikes protruding upward just high enough to catch your heel, or toe, and the broken or loosened boards causing a dangerous hole, teaches one to look before he leaps, or you are in a pit more than knee deep. It has been demonstrated that the city financially is not able to pay damages to those who cannot see a hole by daylight, and advise a lantern by night, which injunction is largely followed.

Much capital has been invested here from abroad that does not pay any interest at present, hence a general depreciation of values since the collapse of the boom. The city is noted for haunted houses. Many, many, good residences are unoccupied on account of the ghosts that perambulate nightly.

Such rent being free to any who have the courage to occupy them, occasionally a new comer moves in, but only for a short period. I have been told of families who moved in at evening and moved out at daybreak. Several persons have been moving from time to time without reasonable excuse. These removals are charged to the ghosts. But there is a cause they claim which produces these results. For many years seafaring men visited these shores to bury their dead in preference to sea burial. Also the Indians consecrated the ground where the city now stands to the departed spirits, and many chiefs, medicine men and counselors of the various tribes have warned the people of their spiritual visitors that come and will continue to come. I did not have the pleasure of seeing one single ghost. I invited all the conditions, circumstances and environments which in my mind would be congenial for their presence, yet they failed to pay me the honor of a call. I presume it is because the English in my blood is so nearly exhausted.

The naval station at Esquimalt, in the suburbs of the city, aids very materially in supporting Victoria. About 3,000 men are stationed here, including marines, infantry, artillery and engineers, with a squadron of six warships, torpedo boats, ample docks and construction plant. Those men spend most of their earnings in Victoria. They are fed, clothed and otherwise done for by the good people of Victoria. The government purchases all supplies here, which aids the large dealers very much. The red and blue jackets receive passes from sunset to sunrise, and of course they come to Victoria. The citizens are very patriotic and exceedingly proud of their defenders. They are not denied any comforts of life that they can pay for. Often two or three hundred of these uniformed men visit the city at night, which keeps the hotels, cafes, saloons and other places of amusements quite lively. It necessitates the establishment of what they call "open doors;" hence Victoria is an excellent illustration of what might be termed "free and easy, happy go lucky," welcome all the year round.

A public meeting was held a short time ago to boom the city, amend the charter and establish permanent improvements. The pros and cons were prolific, and there was apparently no end of discussion until the clock struck twelve. Then the crowd called for an old pioneer nicknamed "Midnight." He came to the platform, tall, lank, lean, as grey as an owl, an eye like an eagle. He condemned the Mayor, aldermen, police, fire and road departments. He denounced all officials, all law, municipal and provincial authority, stating that "fifty years ago he aided in establishing a vigilance committee in Victoria and for ten years a man could leave his wife alone in the cabin, go to work, hitch his horse to a tree, hang his coat on the fence and put his pocketbook on a stump and all were safe. And we had bad men then among us, but everybody knew that the penalty for taking any of those things meant death in twenty minutes after date.

"I have lived to see the Crown rule the city. I have seen the province rule Victoria. I have seen a municipal government established (I am sorry to say). I have seen courts established, councils organized, sheriffs and mayors elected and appointed. I have seen what you call civilized government. We have it now, but is your home, your horse and your pocketbook safe? No." And up went a thousand voices: "No!" "No!" "Hear!" Hear!" "Hurrah for Midnight!"

"If you catch a horse thief, or a murderer, which you seldom do, nine times out of ten, he lives to good old age and grows fat at public expense. No man's wife or home is safe now. The robbers and murderers overrun the country. It requires six learned judges to try the criminals of 90,000 population, and they all go free, except now and then some poor fellow, without money or friends, in poor health, goes to gaol; but when you think of it, he had to steal to live. And this is civilized government. Now, there is no use of me talking; you won't agree with my notions. ("Hear, hear; go on, go on.") "I am against you to-night on general principles, for financial reasons, on moral grounds, and in the interest of justice. I am in favor of establishing the best system of government the world has ever known—a vigilance committee of twenty-five God-fearing men." ("Hear, hear!")

W. W. STOW.

MORTGAGE LEGISLATION.

Washington State Makes the Profit of This Form of Investment Less Variable.

Olympia, March 14.—Probably the most important act passed by the legislature was the mortgage law. None certainly will have more beneficial results in establishing confidence upon the part of capital and making the burden of the borrower lighter.

The law is already in force, the governor having signed it and the emergency clause having been adopted. It closely follows the code of 1881, although some features have been adopted from the California law; but in every respect its provisions have been construed and upheld by the courts so that there is nothing experimental about it.

The chief provisions of interest to the public are those relating to deficiency judgment, right of possession and equity of redemption. Great care has been taken to guard with equal jealousy the rights of the borrower and of the lender.

No deficiency judgment can be taken except by agreement in the mortgage and if the mortgagee begins an action for the recovery of a debt secured by mortgage, but without asking for foreclosure, and before a foreclosure and sale, then the mortgage security is deemed to be waived, and this provision cannot be waived or avoided even by an agreement in the mortgage. In other words, both parties are bound by the terms they agree upon, except that the mortgagee must elect which security he will rely upon and cannot have both. The borrower is put clearly upon his guard before the mortgage is given.

The right of possession is also clearly defined and a wise distinction made. That and the equity of redemption are so closely allied that they may be considered together. Upon a sale of real property under execution, decree or order of sale, when the estate is less than a leasehold of two years' unexpired term, then the sale is absolute; but in any event a year's equity of redemption is reserved to the judgment of the debtor or his successor in interest, upon payment of the amount of the bid, with interest at 8 per cent.

If the property be real estate of more than a leasehold of two years' unexpired term, then it is again divided into two classes, homestead and farming lands in use forming one class and property rented out forming the other. The owner of a homestead is entitled, without accounting, to possession during the period, one year, of redemption. The owner in possession and use of farming or agricultural lands is also given the continued possession and use during the period of redemption, except that the mortgagee has a lien upon the crops to the amount of interest at 6 per cent. on the purchase price and of taxes upon the growing or harvested crops. If the debtor prefers to give up possession to the mortgagee, and subsequently redeems after April 1 and before December 1, then the debtor must reimburse the mortgagee for money expended in preparing the land for a crop; if it is not redeemed by December 1 and the mortgagee has raised a crop, then the debtor, if he redeems, will be entitled to a reasonable rent for the use of the land during the farming year between those dates.

The other class is property rented out. In that case the mortgagee after sale is entitled to collect the rents and profits during the redemption year, but must account to the debtor for all money collected, and it must be credited upon the judgment if the debtor redeems the property within the year.

Thus the conflicting interests are impartially conserved, and the new law deals with exact justice to both parties. The act preserves all existing rights, so that it will not apply to mortgages, made under the law of 1897. The appraisement feature of that law is entirely eliminated from the present one.

NO HOPE FOR CASTILIAN.

Salvage Party Abandon All Thought of Operating on Her.

Halifax, March 25.—(Special)—News from Yarmouth says waves are breaking over the after part of the Castilian which is almost submerged. The steamer has listed badly to starboard, and the railing is now under water. The captain of the vessel sent out by the dry dock people with a wrecking gear has abandoned all attempts to save the steamer.

Ottawa, March 15.—Commander Spain of the marine department left to-day to make an investigation into the cause of the wreck of the Castilian off Yarmouth.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills

CURE BY MAKING RICH, RED BLOOD AND STRENGTHENING THE NERVES

Pale and Sickly

Mr. F. H. Hibbard, of Sawyerville, Que., says:—"My daughter Lena kept gradually failing in health for nearly two years. She was studying hard at school and this may have been the origin of the trouble. She lost flesh, was very pale, subject to headaches, and had a poor appetite. We became very much alarmed and doctored for some time, but with little or no benefit. Finally we read the testimonial of a young girl whose symptoms were similar, who was cured by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. This decided us to give them a trial in my daughter's case, and the result was beyond our most sanguine expectations. Before more than a few boxes were used Lena was rapidly getting better and gained sixteen pounds in weight. She is now as healthy as any girl in Sawyerville, and I am quite willing this statement should be published, that our experience may prove an equal blessing to some other similar sufferer."

Consumption Threatened

Mr. James Grigg, West Devon, P.E.I., writes: "I am glad to say that the last supply of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills which I procured from you was very effective in restoring the health of my son Robert, who is now thirteen years of age. He was taken sick in the fall of 1897 with a severe pain in the right side and a bad cough. He lost has appetite and was running down very fast. The doctor told me his trouble was turning to consumption. We had some of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills on hand and began to give them to him. They helped him almost at once. His cough became less frequent, the pain left him and his appetite returned. A second lot of pills completely restored his health, and he is now as well as ever and has been for the last three months. I think your valuable pills should be kept in every home, and I am sending you the price for a dozen boxes."

Female Troubles

Mrs. L. L. Legree, wife of the Roman Catholic choir master at Cocagne, N. B., says: "For about five or six years I have been a constant sufferer from female complaints. The misery I underwent can scarcely be imagined. Often I suffered so much that I could not leave my bed, and even when I was able to go about it seemed only to add to the torture I was constantly undergoing. I was treated by four different doctors, but to no avail. My husband finally persuaded me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and after I had used six boxes I experienced a wonderful benefit. I continued using the pills until I had taken thirteen boxes, when my cure was complete. I attribute my restoration solely to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I gratefully recommend them to the thousands of women throughout the land who are suffering as I did."

The Way to be Well.

If you want to be well take care of your blood. When the blood is poor and watery, the whole system is weakened and falls an easy prey to disease. Pure blood and strong nerves is the secret of health and vigor.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People surpass all other medicines in building up blood and strengthening the nerves. Through their action on the blood and nerves it is proved that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will CURE the following troubles:

Anaemia,
Chlorosis or Green Sickness.
Dizziness,
Palpitation of the Heart,
Nervous Headache,
Loss of Appetite,
Indigestion and Dyspepsia.
After-Effects of LaGrippe,
Eruptions and Pimples.
Pale or Sallow Complexion,
Swelling of Hands or Feet,
General Debility.
Spiral Troubles,
Partial Paralysis,
Locomotor Ataxia,
Chronic or Acute Rheumatism,
Sciatica
Neuralgia,
Chronic Erysipelas,
Kidney Troubles,
St. Vitus' Dance.
Consumption of Bowels and Lungs,
Scrofula,
All Female Weakness,
Loss of Vital Forces,

But remember that you must get the genuine—substitutes are worse than useless, they are dangerous. The genuine are sold only in packages like the engraving on the right, bearing the full name Dr Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

Sold by all dealers or direct from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., at 50c. a box or six boxes for $2.50.

Biliousness and Headache

Mr. William Morrow, St. Patrick, Ont., says: "I suffered very much from biliousness and sick headache. For months my stomach seemed to be in an unsettled condition and often I would vomit my food almost as soon as I had taken it. On one occasion a doctor remained with me all night before he could stop the vomiting, but beyond stopping it temporarily I received no other benefit. Through a little book which came into my possession telling of the cures affected through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, I was induced to give them a trial, and to my joy they have removed all the disagreeable symptoms and made me a well man again."

Dyspepsia Cured

Mrs. Caleb Dorey, of Hemford, N.S., says: "For a number of years I was the victim of a complication of diseases, which left me in a weak and miserable condition, and ultimately culminated in dyspepsia, from which I suffered much agony. I was extremely nervous, food distressed me, and at night I could obtain little sleep, and that was broken by disturbing dreams. After trying several remedies without any beneficial results I was at last persuaded to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which, I am thankful to say, have fully restored my health. I used nine boxes in all, and not only did they relieve me of the horrors of dyspepsia, but in other respects I feel stronger and better than I had been for years before."

Heart Weakness

Mrs. Parker, wife of Rev. J. M. Parker, Baptist minister at River Herbert, N.S., says that she had been a sufferer for years with heart trouble, and had tried many advertised remedies. She was also under the care of a physician, but finding herself no better she decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills without mentioning it to her friends. She was not taking them very long, however, when there was a decided improvement in her condition, and her friends began to enquire what she was taking. She was so encouraged that she persevered in the use of the pills, and has regained her health, and is able once more to assume the duties incumbent upon her. Having so benefited by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, she feels it her duty to recommend them to others.

Kidney Trouble

Mrs. Jas. Gage, Brookdale, Que., writes: "I have suffered very much from kidney trouble, and did not find any relief until I used Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They have been of the greatest benefit to me, and I am sure others will find equally good results from their use."

AMBASSADOR CHOATE.

New Representative of United States Guest of Honor at London Banquet.

He Tells How Brother Jonathan Has Set Out to See the World.

By Associated Press.

London, March 15.—Mr. Joseph H. Choate, the United States ambassador to the court of St. James, made his first public appearance in England at the banquet of the associated chambers of commerce of the United Kingdom, which was held at the Metropole hotel this evening. There was a brilliant and distinguished gathering, about 250 persons having been invited to meet the ambassador, including the Lord Chief Justice of England, Baron Russell of Killowen; Sir Henry Stafford Northcote, the president of the association; the Marquis of Salisbury; the Earl of Jersey; the Earl of Dartmouth; Lord Reay; Rear-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford; Mr. C. T. Ritchie, president of the board of trade; Mr. James R. Carter, second secretary of the United States embassy, and many members of parliament. Mr. Choate, who on arriving was heartily welcomed by the chairman and officials of the association, sat in the place of honor on the right of the chairman.

Rear Admiral Lord Beresford, who replied to the toast to the navy, declined to be drawn into a discussion of the Chinese situation. He concluded his speech by saying: "The company is willing to hear a distinguished guest, the new ambassador of the United States, which every man of the fore and aft in this country is delighted to see; but I cannot be seated without saying that I took every opportunity to see the fleet of America in both Pacific and Atlantic, and I saw a very excellent fleet, not only as to the ships but in respect of general organization and preparedness. I need not extol its officers and men. They are of the same blood as ourselves and have proved what they could do when called upon. I hope the time will very shortly come when there will be such an understanding between the two countries that, if anything occurs disagreeable to us or affecting our honor and safety, these two fleets will be together. That will make for peace."

Vice-President Harper then submitted the toast of "Our Guests" coupled with the names of Mr. Choate and Baron Russell of Killowen. He expressed his keen pleasure at the advent of Mr. Choate at "a time when there is every disposition to lighten the bonds of the Anglo-Saxon race, whose only objects are peace, prosperity, freedom of trade and progress." The toast was received with loud cheers, the company standing and shouting the name of Mr. Choate, who was thrice cheered.

Mr. Choate, on rising to respond, received an ovation. The United States ambassador began jokingly by protesting that he was overwhelmed with embarrassment at being called upon to respond in priority to the Lord Chief Justice. He felt that when the British lion was about to road even the American eagle would hold his peace. He was delighted, he said, to receive and accept the invitation to the banquet, although he was not at liberty to discuss British commerce. His general instruction from his government were not to discuss politics or only on extraordinary occasions. (Laughter.) After a few words on the subject of commerce, which he characterized as truly the "mainstay of the British Empire," he continued as follows: "I have felt, however, that I might properly avail myself of this first public occasion to express the appreciation of my countrymen for the forbearance, good will and friendship manifested to them so freely by the British people." In expressing his gratitude for the cordial greeting he had received from all sorts and conditions of men since his arrival in England, Mr. Choate said: "Everywhere I have been treated as a friend and as the representative of your friends and brothers. In fact I have actually discovered the open door, open to such an extent as would satisfy even the yearnings of the Rear Admiral who has made the circle of the globe in search of it. I think I may say as a testimony to the good feelings sought to be encouraged on our side of the water that the President gave the best illustration of it when he said in my letter of credence that he relied with confidence upon my constant endeavor during my stay in Great Britain to promote the interests and prosperity of both nations." (Chers.) After another refernce to the open door and the enlarged sphere of influence which a cordial brotherhood has opened up, the Ambassador continued: "I beg that you will not mistake my meaning. I do not believe that although friends we shall ever cease to be rivals. In the future as in the past we on our and you on your side will press every advantage that can fairly be taken but it shall be a generous and loyal rivalry and all questions, disputes and controversies arising shall be settled by peaceful means, by negotiations, by arbitration, by any and every possible means except war."

After pointing out this was no sentiment, Mr. Choate remarked: "While the last great conflict between Great Britain and America failed to settle any of the great questions upon which either side took up arms, showing that between brethren war is the worst possible means of settling any controversy, yet, in the eighty-four years that have since elapsed, while tremendous questions, heated words and threatening demonstrations, which would invariably have brought any other two nations into open and frequent conflict, have occurred on either side, all have been arranged and adjusted without resort to arms. Referring to the Venezuela imbroglio, he observed: "You know that on our side of the water we love occasionally to twist the lion's tail for the mere sport of hearing him roar. ((Laughter.) Well, that time he disappointed us. He would not roar at all. He sat silent as the sphinx and by dint of mutual forbearance our sober second thoughts aiding your sober first thoughts, we averted everything but a mere war of words."

Alluding to the satisfatcory dispelling of the cloud between Russia and England over the Newchwang railway extention loan by means of peaceful diplomacy," Mr. Choate said: "That is the kind of diplomacy which I, just entering upon a diplomatic career, desire very much to understand, for I am fresh enough to believe that if these two countries laboring together for peace unite their voices in demanding it, it is almost sure in every case. (Cheers.)

"I would like to quote my President again, for the last words I heard him say were that the United States to-day was on better terms with every nation on the face of the earth than it had ever been before. (Cheers.) Now I have little more to say of my own country. (Cries of 'Go on.') Our young republic had hard work during the past century to subdue the continent and to turn a wilderness into a smiling and wealthy garden. But that business is now pretty well finished and so last year your brother Jonathan started out to see the world. He donned seven league, nay seven hundred league boots and planted his footsteps on the isles of the sea, and what gigantic strides he made—Hawaii, then Manila and another step, my Lord Charles, would have brought him to Hongkong. Well, our interest and commerce differ only in degree, and it is—I won't say as Lord Charles Beresford did by putting fleets side by side—but by a common purpose and a united voice for us to command peace for the mutual support of the commerce of the two countries."

After paying eloquent tributes to the late Baron Herschell and to Mr. Rudyard Kipling, Mr. Choate concluded as follows:

"Gentlemen, we are almost one people. What I say is, let our voices always be lifted together for the cause of common progress and advance of civilization, and my word for it, law, order, peace and freedom, which are the nurses of commerce the world over, will prevail, and the cause of humanity will be advancer." (Cheers.)

Baron Russell of Killowen, the Lord Chief Justice, who followed Mr. Choate, complimented him upon his eloquence, the width and depth of his observation, and the statesmanlike tone that pervaded his speech.

The other speakers dealt with matters of local interest. The chairman, who said he joined most cordially in welcoming the Aremican ambassador, expressed the hope that during his tenure of office no cloud would ever arise between England and the United States. The proceedings then terminated. Mr. Choate spoke deliberately and in a rather low tone. His humorous remarks met with peals of laughter. He had a wonderful reception, made quite the speech of the evening, which was listened to with the deepest attention and resumed his seat amid perfect thunders of applause, Lord Russell personally congratulating him.

SELLING TORPEDO INVENTION.

American Sails for Southampton to Sell Rights to British Government.

New York, March 15.—John R. Holland, the inventor of the submarine torpedo boat; Captain L. K. Bell, of the royal navy yard, and L. V. Benet, of the Hotchkiss Gun and American Ordnance Co., were fellow passengers to-day on the American line steamship St. Paul, which sailed for Southampton. It was said that Holland's mission abroad is to sell his boat or secrets to some European power. The fact that he was accompanied to England by a captain of the royal navy who has been here for the last four months on an alleged mysterious errand, is said to confirm the suspicion that the British naval authorities are desirous of securing a submarine boat which will prove as effective as the French boat Zedo.

INDIAN SUPERSTITION.

Triplets Born to Native Woman Causes Alarm to a West Coast Tribe.

Charley, a West Coast Indian, has evoked the wrath of the gods of vengeance, according to Indian tradition, and is doomed to a strange fate. He is a tribesman of Uchuckleset and an expert sealer, and his death, which he fears is near at hand, would be greatly deplored. The "misfortune" which has overcome Charley was heard of by Capt. Macauley, of the schooner Penelope, a few weeks ago, when that vessel called at Uchuckleset to secure an Indian crew prior to leaving for the sealing grounds off the coast of California. Charley was a favorite Indian of the captain's, inasmuch as he was an expert with either the speer or gun, his aim almost invariably being true. The story of Charley's woes and tribulations is one of the strangest of Indian superstitions. A few months ago he became the father of triplets, and ever since he has been in great trouble. No money will induce him to go to sea, and no suasion can be brought to bear on him that will lure him away from his reservation. He is awaiting his end, and meanwhile the three children have, it is said, disappeared—how the Colonist informant was not in a position to state. The whole tribe at Uchuckleset were excited over the event.

SIX FROZEN ON VALDEZ.

Party of Eastern American Prospectors Perish Miserably in Alaska.

Seattle, March 16.—The steamer Excelsior, which arrived to-night from the mouth of Copper river, Alaska, brings news of the freezing to death of six men on Valdez glacier about March 1.

They were Adolph Erhard, New York; Max Miller, New York; Dr. E. Logan, Denver; Rudolph Ellerkamp, Louisville, Ky.; and August Schultze, New York.

All the bodies except that of Dr. Logan were recovered and buried at Valdez.