

8. O. E. THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

EASTERN DISTRICT LODGES OF TORONTO.

The first annual Thanksgiving Service of the Eastern District Lodges of Toronto, promoted by Hammersmith Lodge, was held on Sunday, Nov. 22nd, and was in every way a success.

Hammersmith, London, Manchester, Stafford, Litchfield and St. George's entered heartily into the project, and almost every lodge in the city was represented. Old Albion did well and Middlesex was well to the fore.

The brethren met at St. George's Hall, Queen st., E. and, marshalled by Bro. Hine, of London lodge, and led by the Naval Brigade, marched via Parliament st. to the Methodist Church, Gerrard st. E. Here the service was conducted by the Rev. G. K. Adams, an Englishman every inch of him, full of enthusiasm and love for

"ENGLAND! DEAR OLD ENGLAND!" as a man should be whose grandsire fought in her battles in the Peninsula war, and suffered fourteen years imprisonment in French dungeons; and full of hope that she will retain the proud preeminence she has attained, and will yet become the leader of the nations in the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, thus making wars to cease. He was assisted by the Rev. Mr. Emery, a good choir, and an orchestra of twelve instruments.

Mr. Adams took for his text the 1st verse of the 23rd Dent. "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth."

He commenced by saying that when Lord Nelson signalled those words which have become a maxim among Englishmen, "England expects that every man this day will do his duty," an Irishman on board one of the ships remarked there was not a word of old Ireland in it. He saw several Irish and Scotch friends present, and he asked them to overlook the omission, if, on this special occasion, an Englishman speaking to a society of brother Englishmen, his sermon shall contain nothing of these nationalities, whom Englishmen hold in high esteem. Englishmen were often accused of blowing their own horn. He thanked God that we had a great national horn to blow and know how to blow it. The text applying principally to the people of Israel, selected them as a nation with special privileges and blessings, and he was not surprised that in their exalted position they looked upon the Samaritans as dogs, and other nations as inferior. The text was interwoven with England's history as much as in Israel's. She has been "set on high above all nations of the earth."

"Britain's the pride of the ocean. The home of the brave and the free. The shrine of each patriot's devotion, The world offers homage to thee."

This result must have been produced by certain causes; there were two, first, England had never borne the yoke of a foreign oppressor, and her grand old flag, "which for a thousand years had braved the battle and the breeze," floated only over the free in any and every part of the world, and never since the last slave market was held in Bristol centuries ago had any slave breathed her air or trod her soil. From this freedom her sons had obtained that manly independence and heroic bearing characteristic of them, and the nation that solidity which is the pride of every Englishman, and the wonder and envy of those who visit her shores.

An American, travelling in England, admired the solid appearance of the beautiful green lawns in front of palatial residences, so he remarked to a gardener one day that he would like to get a lawn to look like that at his place in the States, and asked him how it was done. "Well," said the gardener, "you first level your ground, then you make a good solid foundation, then you sow your grass seed, and then you roll it for about six hundred years, and by that time you have a good lawn."

But for the national and individual freedom, and good building on solid foundations pursued through the whole of her history, resulting in the bravery and heroism of sons, no man would have dared to write that grand description of the charge at Balaclava, which the preacher recited with admirable skill. If asked for evidence of England having been "set on high above all nations," reference may be made to those attainments reached by her people in arts and science, statesmanship and literature, in military and

naval life, in philanthropy and heroism which has made their names and their country known in all civilized parts of the world. In poetry has any excelled, or even equalled, Milton? In the drama does anyone shine with a greater lustre than the immortal Shakespeare? In the making of books there is no name probably that has attained such widespread celebrity as that of John Bunyan, whose wonderful dream has been translated into almost every known language, and has given comfort to christian readers in every land. In military life there are few men who have shown more bravery than Wolfe, whose daring and skill gave to England this fair Canada of ours. In naval warfare, has any gained so much as the "little admiral" Nelson, who accomplished such wonders at Trafalgar? In science it was Newton that discovered the law of gravitation, and placed astronomical science on a sure foundation. In philanthropy—and he was glad that England's sons to-day had made this a part of the service in which they were engaged, and he hoped their contributions to the Hospital Fund would be sufficiently liberal to enable the Board to do much good during the coming winter—is there any halo surrounding a human head brighter than the one that encircles that of Florence Nightingale? In heroism what greater could be shown than that of Grace Darling, in her effort to save the lives of the shipwrecked men on the rock bound coast of our island home? In statesmanship it is doubtful if any men in any country have surpassed Disraeli, or the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone. In the sacred work of the Christian ministry did any man accomplish more than John Wesley? Surely England can produce the brightest galaxy in any nation on earth.

The second—and not the least—cause of this result is that England has taken the Bible as the inspired guide of her national life. Our beloved Queen—God bless her—was perfectly right, when she told the Indian prince that the Bible was the source of England's power. For, notwithstanding all that may be said to the contrary, all that may be said of her, she is most emphatically a Christian people. This is evidenced in her enormous charity bill, and the number of hospitals and institutions for the relief and succor of her suffering poor, and the missionary enterprise of her churches. She has her faults; as seen in the revelations of the Pall Mall Gazette; and her drink bill is enormous; yet, England, dear old England! with all her faults I love her still. We love her for what she has done for herself and the world, we love her for what she is, we love her for the possibilities within her for the future. He believes that England will lead in settlement of disputes by arbitration. Bravery and heroism is not to be looked for only in the battle field, but in the walks of peace, and her sons will show those qualities in the new fields produced. Sometime ago a Christian girl entered a factory in one of the manufacturing cities, and was mocked and derided for maintaining her religious life. One day one of the girls was caught in the belt of a machine and would have been killed, but with wonderful fortitude and presence of mind this Christian girl ran to the wheels and placed her bare arm between them and stopped the machinery until her shopmate was rescued, and thus saved the life of her greatest tormentor.

Mr. Adams concluded almost eloquent sermon in an earnest appeal to those present to be not only true to the mother land and her Queen, but to be true to their country's God, the King of Kings, and emulate the deeds of those good men and true, who had made their country's name to be revered and feared, and thus prove themselves worthy sons of worthy sires. He expressed his pleasure in knowing that the society represented was engaged in beneficial works, and gave statistics showing the amount paid out during the last nine months, and since the foundation, in sick and funeral benefits. He would have been applauded throughout, but in compliance with his request, kindly made, the brethren abstained from demonstration of this sort. The service concluded with singing God Save the Queen, and a benediction by Mr. Emery.

The proceeds of the collection for the Hospital Fund amounted to the handsome sum of \$18.96.

G. VENNELL.

"Shares in plenty, the record in England for the year 1896, has proved a rare harvest for the company promoter. It is estimated that \$141,750,000 (\$708,750,000) of shares have been offered to the public during the last eleven months."

AIMS OF THE SONS OF ENGLAND!

TO ADVOCATE THE Confederation of the Colonies with the British Empire.

Editor ANGLO-SAXON:

For the first time in its history the Sons of England Society has received recognition at the hands of the Associated Press in its report of the commemoration of the Battle of Trafalgar held in London at a recent date. The honour is due to Victory Lodge of being the first to bring our Society before the English speaking public of both continents by an act calculated to show that the traditions of our forefathers are as sacred to us in Canada as they are to dwellers in London, or any part of the British Empire.

In connexion with this subject it is necessary to refer to another celebration of the same event in our own commercial capital, in which the taste of those responsible for the details is questioned by some, from the fact of the tri-color forming a part of the decorations, but without going into the niceties of such a trivial matter, rather let us think for a moment about what we are driving at in celebrating these old time events, so that in future we may know when to make a public demonstration, how to do so, and when to leave it alone. For the order of the Sons of England I am writing and, I think it may be safely said that outside of those members who join for no other reason, in particular than for the benefits they may receive, nine tenths of us believe in and advocate the idea of the confederation of the colonies with the British Empire.

Britons from the three kingdoms, together with their descendants from all parts of the world, go to make up the chief factor in every British colony, the native element though, perhaps, infinitely more numerous, in most of cases, being politically speaking of very little weight. But here in Canada we have a simpler problem to solve. Our aboriginal "native" has practically become extinct as the buffalo, and in his place we Anglo-Saxons have to deal with the descendants of a race as proud, and with good reason, as our own, a people with equally as marked historical traditions; and for the most part a religion whose tenets are based on authority to them as indisputable as to ourselves those we have accepted under the general head of Protestantism.

Now here, surely, we have about the most unique combination of conflicting elements with which to deal that can be found the world over; one which cannot be dealt with successfully by mere statesmanship, to say nothing about political wire-pulling. A happy solution of the difficulty can only be obtained by the more thoughtful of the representatives amongst the people of the two conflicting elements studying out the situation for themselves and endeavoring to lead public sentiment accordingly.

To our French fellow subjects it may be as well to point out that considerably more than a century of actual possession of our country on the part of Great Britain places any idea of a reversion of Canada to French control entirely out of the bounds of probability, and well acquainted as many of them are with the history of their mother country up to the time when Canada passed into the hands of the British, they must know they have no more affinity with the political sentiments of which the tri-color is the outward and visible sign, than have we with the sentiment conveyed by the use of the red and white roses of the Tudors.

The sooner we make up our minds we are both here in Canada for the purpose of furthering the mutual interests of all concerned, the sooner shall we be likely to come to an harmonious understanding.

To those of British origin, Englishmen, and Sons of England in particular, I would say, let us in this case be guided by our Book of Faith, and endeavour to do nothing to offend our weaker brother. It is not the spirit of true hearted Britons to taunt others because we think they are weaker than ourselves. It is a wise maxim, "Let sleeping dogs lie," and for the present, at least, it would be good policy for all public authorities to discountenance the display of demonstrations calculated to arouse the religious, political or racial prejudices of any community.

What is wanted is to cultivate a spirit of forbearance on both sides, and in the end we may be sure that if under the benign influence of the Union Jack, we can extend the commerce of Canada, increase her trade, develop her

natural resources, and keep peace amongst ourselves, the result will be well worth the restraining those exuberant expressions of loyalty to Great Britain which may please us on some occasion, but while they really do no good, are but two likely to cause a feeling of irritation in the minds of our fellow subjects of different origin, and consequently rather delay than expedite the day when our descendants shall proudly point to Canada as Britain's fulfilled pledge of her oft expressed wishes of Peace and Goodwill towards men, and when she shall be even more entitled to claim the distinguished honour of being the "brightest jewel," even in the imperial diadem of the Confederate States of Great Britain.

WINNIPEG FREE LANCE. Nov. 16th, 1896.

That Unsatisfactory Visit.

Editor ANGLO-SAXON:

I noticed in your September issue you received a fraternal visit from Bro. John Hills, of Chebucto Lodge, Halifax, and in an interview he gives you some facts, and complains about the visit of Past Supreme Grand President, Bro. Geo. Clatworthy to Halifax and says his visit was a jumbled affair, for which I can bear him out in his statement.

I was much disappointed with his visit altogether. When in Halifax, last autumn, I found grave complaints existing, and they want all the help and assistance they can get. They are suffering from a keen competition with old established orders, and some of them contain the best elements of English stock within their ranks, and who refrain from joining our noble order simply because they know nothing of the Order or its aims, and the brethren are struggling nobly to promote the Order under the most adverse conditions. They hoped that a visit from an experienced supreme officer would have helped them, but under the circumstances it seems to have had the reverse effect.

I have always held the opinion that when Supreme officers are travelling in the name and at the expense of the Order, that they should, when possible, place themselves in the hands of the District Deputies, who are looked upon as provincial heads in the provinces, and not roam about at their own sweet will and pleasure.

It is quite time some settled plan was laid down either in the constitution or by the Executive, when proper notice can be given, and the brethren made aware of such important events. Nova Scotia is now credited with two visits from Bro. Clatworthy, but really if we had been favored with half a day we would have been pleased indeed.

The first visit we got was at 8.15 in the evening. We had no meeting, our D.D. only getting a telegram to say that he had arrived, but no instructions to arrange meetings. Of course nothing was done under the circumstances. At the same time we were puzzled to know why he should go to Sydney, Cape Breton, instead of Halifax, which would have been much more to the advantage of the Order. If the idea was to open the way for new lodges there, it was a mistake, for he did not stay long enough to do any permanent good. Does he or the Executive think the interest of Englishmen in Nova Scotia could be roused in that short space of time?

General surprise was expressed by the brethren at Bro. Clatworthy not having a fixed programme to visit all the lodges in the Province. However, he agreed with our D. D. to go to Spring Hill and make a second visit to us, which he did on the 3rd of August, arriving in New Glasgow at 10.10 at night, and at the lodge room at 10.30, where he had a very good reception and he made a very good address.

What time was their left to talk over affairs in S. O. E. circles or opportunities for extending the work so well under way in this province?

One thing is certain that our beloved Order is not in the position it ought to be, and more thorough and energetic means will have to be adopted to further extend its influence, if we are to command the same respect as other societies do in this province.

The intention of the Halifax brethren were to have had a public meeting and bring the principles and objects of the Order before those who are unacquainted with them, and by that means draw attention to the aims and objects of our Order. There should be more publicity given to the Order by our Supreme officers. It is not so much among the members, but non-members, we want to reach. The ANGLO-SAXON has done and is doing its share.

A CHARTER MEMBER OF KEWLE WORTH New Glasgow, N.S., Nov. 14th, 1896.

Depository Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society.

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FLOTS

By OWEN HALL, in

BOOK I.—A

chapter

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