

What parched ground, refresh as with a shower!
We kneel, and all around us seems to pour:
We rise, and all the distant and the near
Stand forth in sunny outline, brave and clear.
We kneel, how weak! we rise, how full
of power!

Why therefore should we do ourselves this wrong,
Or others—that we are not always strong;
That we are ever overborne with care;
That we should ever weak or heartless be,
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer.
And joy, and strength, and courage, are
with Thee?

—Dean Alford.

Current Events.

The British Parliament was opened by King Edward on February 12.

Constitutional Government in Persia has been recognized by the Shah.

Earthquake shocks were felt on Feb. 11th in Jamaica, Virginia and Spain.

The Hague Peace Conference will meet on June 15th for a two months' session.

The Japanese trouble in San Francisco is practically over. A conference will be held to arrange terms of settlement.

The C. P. R. is building in Britain three new steamers, two of which are intended for trade on the great Canadian lakes.

Over twenty "suffragettes" were arrested for trying to force their way into the British House of Commons on February 18th.

A terrific explosion recently wrecked the chemical department of the famous arsenal at Woolwich. All the windows in the town were broken, but no lives were lost.

Owing to continued discontent over the *modus vivendi*, several members of the Newfoundland Legislature are advocating the secession of the colony from the Empire.

Mackenzie and Mann have asked for Government assistance to build a railway line between Port Arthur and Sudbury. Should the plan be carried, railway communication per C. N. R. would be established all the way from Toronto to Edmonton.

HOUSE OF LORDS REFORM.

Judging by a guarded reference in the King's speech at the opening of the British Parliament last week, the old struggle between the House of Lords and the House of Commons is liable to assume an acute form at an early date, the crisis having been precipitated by the Education-bill controversy. The House of Commons, with an enormous majority, fresh from the people, passed the Bill, but it was practically wrecked with amendments in the Upper Chamber. Many concessions had been made, but the point to which the Government finally refuses to accede was that requiring regular teachers to give denominational instruction in village schools on the days when such instruction is permitted, in order that what is regarded as a public control of the schools, as against clerical control, might be preserved. Several speeches made of late indicate that the Government may reenact further legislation, which, almost of certainty, will be rejected by the Lords. Following that, the next step would probably be to go to the people on such a measure for the reform of the House of Lords as would bring it more into harmony with the spirit of democracy now visibly gaining ground in Great Britain.

Children's Corner.

The Letter Box.

Dear Cousins,—There are one or two things I want to tell you this week. First, I have received the recitation called "Caleb's Courtship," from Olive McConnell, and if Apple Blossom will send me her address, with a promise to return it when copied, I will send it to her. Next, I am sorry the letters about China are so late in getting printed. This week closes the discussion of this subject. The following are subjects for discussion, and the best letters on each will be printed, as far as possible, on the date fixed:

Feb. 28th.—Canada's feeling for the United States.

March 14th.—Are large families better than small?

March 28th.—The advantages of education for farmers.

These letters must not be very long, as we must keep space for the little tots' letters, stories, etc.

COUSIN DOROTHY.

52 Victor Ave., Toronto.
P. S.—After this, only the very best letters will be printed. C. D.

The Yellow Peril.

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—Upon seeing Fred's letter, I thought I would like to dispute his idea that China would take the place of Great Britain. In the first place, China is fast developing, but the question is, when will she catch up? For we all know Britain is also developing. But see how Britain has helped China by sending her missionaries to Christianize them. Then look at the number of years since Britain has been civilized and her people have been Christians. She has been said to be fast advancing in the last hundred years, and China may do the same; but it is a long time since Britain was in the place of China. I think Britain has nothing to fear in the "yellow peril," as she is as friendly to our cousins across the line as China is to Japan. GRAHAM REID.
Palmerston, Ont.

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—I think much the same about the older Cornerites as Fred Black does. I think they should write something more interesting than they have been writing.

I am going to express my views about the "yellow peril," which Fred Black mentioned in his letter. I think it will be in the distant future, if ever, that China will reach the height Great Britain has. In the first place, China is a country that will not readily take up new ideas. They wish to go on in the same old way. They will not, or do not, train their soldiers as carefully as Great Britain, United States or Japan. It would take a great many years to get their men aroused and trained. Then they have not enough able men to train them. Imagine how many men it would take to train fifty million men. Again, they believe in many heathen customs, and what could an army gain who would not fight if they saw something

which they believed to be a token of their defeat. China has a small navy, and it would take much time, as well as money, to fit out a fleet to match Great Britain. If Japan and China join, they might conquer one great kingdom, but if they are getting ready to declare war against all other countries, Great Britain, with United States, could defeat them, let alone all other countries. Wishing the members of the Corner every success.

VERA WILLIS (age 14).

Aylmer, Ont.

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—In the last issue of this magazine, I read a letter written by Mr. Fred Black, and I thought it was the best I have ever seen. I think he has the right idea about the letters some boys and girls write about "their pets and father's animals." In my eye, they seem more like catalogues than letters. I do not mean to say they are all alike; some are very good. I think it is all very well for little boys and girls, seven or eight years old, to write about their pets, as they interest them; but when they get older, there are other things that will interest us a great deal more, I'm sure.

In regard to the subject proposed, I do not think that China will take Great Britain's position very soon, for you will see that the sturdier races are bound the farthest away from the equator, and that power started in Greece, then went to Rome, and then kept going northward all the time. But I do think, if the opium habit was abolished, that China would progress a good deal more; but, on the other hand, that the power that Great Britain now holds will stay where it is rather than go back to where it is started, in the warmer climate. A READER.

Canada First!

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—This is my second letter to "The Farmer's Advocate." I read all the letters, and would like to open up a discussion with brother Fred. But why go away off to China or Japan, or any foreign country? Why not take up something about our own "Canada"—the best and richest country under the sun. Just think of the silver mines of Cobalt, and then drop down to our mineral wealth of Hastings and Peterboro Counties—iron, copper, silver, arsenic, lead, mica, marble of all colors. All we want is capital and a government support to make Canada the richest country under the sun. Now, brother Fred, pull on your end of the cord. And when it comes to the stock, why Canada has taken the lead in all the fairs open to the world. And we don't have to go out of Hastings or Northumberland Counties to get the stock either. Why do I know? Because I attend the fairs with my dad, and see for myself.

LORNE BROOKS.

Glen Ross, Hastings Co., Ont.

An Old Indian Village.

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—After reading your paragraph in a late issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," I felt that I could no longer withhold from writing you a letter. I think just as you do about some older ones writing interesting letters. Why do not some older ones write

also, and not let the younger ones do all the writing? I think Cousin Dorothy deserves great credit for the success she has made of our Corner in the past year, with so little help from us older ones. This little village of Onondaga is a very old one. It has an Indian name. It has no very interesting features, nor any picturesque spots. The Grand River flows beside it, and it is always cool and inviting in summer, and in winter it affords excellent skating places.

Our Sunday school is small, and is, I am sorry to say, not so very inviting. Of course, as there are four churches in this small place, that makes a vast difference to the attendance to each. Formerly, I lived in Cainsville, but a year ago we moved here to live. This year, at the beginning of the new quarter, I was elected as secretary. We have a very good library in the Sunday school, which I enjoy very much. It contains many books which are interesting as well as helpful and instructive.

Now, dear Cousin, I do not wish to tire you with too long a letter, so I will now close after asking some more boys and girls of my age, fifteen, to write us about some interesting thing in their own town or village. Wishing you much success. GYPSY.

Onondaga, Brant Co., Ont.

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—I think Eulalie Jeffs expressed a fine idea. It would be much more profitable to those who write to discuss something of the times. I do hope you will have a debate, for I think they are fine. It becomes very monotonous reading about cows and horses in every letter. Are any of the Cornerites fond of poetry? I think it is very nice reading. My favorite poet is Tennyson. I am very fond of reading books too. I like Rosa N. Carey's books. Has anyone ever read "Mary St. John"? I have, and I think it is very good. A subject for a debate might be: "Which has the more advantages, a town school or a country school?"

Hoping that my letter may meet with your approval. KATY B. PLANK.
Acton West., Ont.

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—I live in Ailsa Craig. My father is a farmer and cattle dealer. We built a bank barn last year; it is very handy; the water runs in front of cattle into large basins, and is always there. I have five sisters and two brothers. I have a dog for a pet, and call him Jack. We own 300 acres of land, and my father stocks about 1,200 acres more. We have 108 cattle, and in the summer-time we have about 300 on grass. We have 16 horses, and milk 4 cows. We use a National separator. My mother says it is the best made. I turn it, and am not ten years old yet. We have two pigs. My father has taken "The Farmer's Advocate" for over ten years, and would not be without it.

Riddle: Why does a man wear yellow braces? Ans.—To keep up his breeches. CARL ROBINSON.
Middlesex County.

Dear Cousin Dorothy,—I thought I would write you a little letter, as I have



I'll Share with You.



I Didn't Mean You to Have It All.