

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## FREE-TRADE ECONOMY.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

SIR:—Most persons have read or heard of Whang the Miller. The story of his adventure and misfortune will never cease to be interesting. Were he living now there is no doubt he would be a free-trader. Present qualification, immediate and large profit, his ruling passion, is the ruling passion of free-traders everywhere. Economists of this school are ever dreaming of treasures in free-trade pans, and, like Whang, if allowed would keep on digging till Home manufactures would tumble down in ruins.

The Southern planters were Whang the Miller economists and politicians. They, too, dreamed of treasures in free-trade pans. They aimed at securing immediate and large profits; they sold in the dearest markets and bought in the cheapest; they despised the profits and occupations of home manufacturers; thus undermining their mills and workshops, till war made their once opulent country one vast scene of suffering and desolation. In wars and sieges famine shoots harder than cannon. But if people see no immediate danger, in a measure, they care little about its effects in the future. This is an age of present gratification; patriotism, economy and the public safety make important concessions to the ruling passion. Present danger and present gratification are the main motives which move the multitude. The opportunities afforded by such measures as free-trade, for present gratification, are seldom resisted, by people who have once formed luxurious tastes.

It was by protection that England overtook nations that once excelled her in manufactures. She not only levied high duties on imported goods, but prohibited the export of raw material by severe penalties. She gave the home manufacturers control of the home market in the most complete manner, till from this solid basis they have successfully invaded every country in the world. Not only this, the competition of the home manufacturers, in the home market, reduced the price of goods to the British people, lower than they could ever have been procured by free-trade. So far was the protective system carried that she would neither sell English wool to foreign manufacturers nor buy their cloth. In the early stages of English manufactures the exportation of wool was made a felony by the common law. The owner of a ship, knowingly exporting wool forfeited "all his interest in the ship and furniture." See Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, vol. 2 and pages 494, 495 and 496.

According to free-trade theories, this kind of restriction, on the export of an article, would cause its production to cease, or at least, decline very much. But the contrary is the case. England is, and has been, for a long time, one of the greatest wool producing and wool manufacturing countries in the world. Free-trade did not make British manufactures what they are; but found them fully developed, excelling everything else in the world, therefore it cannot be said that their success is due to it. If we copy British commercial policy, at all, expecting to attain the same results, we must copy it in all its stages, in which case, we will find, the stage of English history corresponding with our present stage, affording great protection to home manufacturers.

If we examine the history of the United States, which, as a new country, somewhat resembles our own, we will find it divided into periods of free-trade and protection. During a period of protection, the government paid off the debt of the Revolutionary war and built up considerable home manufactures. Then came a period of free-trade which drained the country of specie, ruined the manufacturers and ended in a great commercial crisis. Each period of free-trade and protection, since that time, has produced a similar result. What is protection doing for the States now? Last year American manufacturers were sending machinery to Ireland, and English merchants complained that Americans were underselling them two dollars per ton on iron. The time is coming when the British Government may have to throw around their manufacturers the shield of protection once more. The present contention between workmen and masters may bring about a crisis in the manufacturing interests of England which will put their free-trade principles to the test. Men talk bravely when danger is far off. So it is with British free-traders while they know their own manufacturers are an overmatch for foreigners. But let the British markets be flooded with foreign goods, let British manufacturers be ruined, let the country be drained of specie and see how long they will hold to their free trade principles. This state of things would bring about as vigorous protection as ever. Free-trade is an advantage to England now, but it was not so, or considered so, till it was seen that British manufacturers were an overmatch for foreigners.

Unnecessary dependence is a bad thing. The individual or nation that is depending, more than ordinarily, on others for any essential condition of prosperity, is ever in great danger. Such a condition is not favourable either to the increase of wealth or to the preservation of liberty.

The increase in the tariff, asked of the Government by Canadian manufacturers, would not be a tax, but an investment in home manufactures by the people, which would return to them with a large profit, in a very short time. Government bonuses to railways correspond exactly with the principle of protection to home manufactures. Free-traders say, "Let us do without home manufactures till they become sufficiently profitable to exist without protection." How would it suit to say "let us do without railways till they become sufficiently profitable to pay without Government or municipal aid." Trade can be left free in England for the same reason that railways can be built there without such aid as is usually required in this country. Comparison between England and Canada holds good in very few cases, and least of all, in their trade relations. We aid railways by bonuses in order to bring producers and consumers into closer relations with each other; and protection to home industry has precisely the same effect.

Yours truly, W. DEWART.

## LOVERS' QUARRELS.

My trenchant remarks on the subject of matrimonial differences in former numbers of the News have had the effect of calling forth some correspondence from those occupying the more delicate position of lovers. Only a few days ago I was

the recipient of a note from a young man, to the following effect:

"MR. JOEL PHIPPS:

"DEAR SIR,—Having read with very great interest your lucid expositions of the way to manage a wife with skill and success, I crave your profound wisdom on a kindred matter. I am engaged to one of the finest girls in the Dominion of Canada, and we love each other deeply; but, in spite of this, ruptures are continually breaking out and disturbing our relations. It is not my fault, I assure you, but Bertie has a queer sort of way of misinterpreting all I do and say, and this leads to altercations. She seems to have an idea that she may say or do what she pleases; but if I adopt her tactics, then I am a 'terrible fellow.' What is the best course for a young man to pursue under such circumstances to ensure perfect harmony and good-will?"

"Yours very truly,

"SAMUEL STUBBS.

Really, Mr. Stubbs, you have started a very interesting enquiry, and if I can succeed in giving you a clear and satisfactory answer that will enable you to successfully and happily manage your "affianced," not less than ten or fifteen thousand young men within the borders of this Dominion will share your joy.

First, my dear fellow, you make a great mistake in attempting to "adopt her tactics." You should never for a moment put yourself in the position of counter-player, after you are engaged to a woman. In the first place, a hundred to one she will beat you at your own game; and, secondly, she doesn't like it, and your paramount aim should be to please. Your proper course is to yield everything. Whenever she "quizzes" you, take it as a matter of course, and allow her to have all the fun. Don't attempt to retaliate or retort, but grant her all the amusement. But, depend upon it, it will grow awfully monotonous in a short time. It is your notice of it that gives her little play its real zest. As soon as it becomes one-sided its charm has departed. Preserve your coolness and matter-of-fact manner, and see how long it will be before she not only quits her little games, but, bewildered and perplexed at your seeming indifference, she comes back to you in the most sweet and subdued manner possible.

Clara and I were engaged for some time, and she busily plied her little schemes with the intent to induce me to make a fool of myself, for her amusement. But the game wouldn't work. When she attempted her delightful nonsense, I quietly smiled in the sleeve of my every-day jacket, and murmured to myself: "No, madam, you don't—yours truly has one of his eyes wide open." The consequence is that she became a most devoted lover, and a few subsequent lessons have made her a very dutiful wife.

Go, Mr. Stubbs, and do likewise, and success attend your endeavours!

Sincerely,

JOEL PHIPPS.

## NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS.

At a recent dinner party, some one quoted the witty paradox, that "an Englishman is never happy except when he is miserable, a Scotsman never at home except when abroad, and an Irishman never at peace except when at war." The late Sir Henry Holland, who was present, followed with a story of an Englishman, an Irishman, and a Scotsman, who were represented as looking through a confectioner's window at a beautiful young girl sewing in the shop. "Oh!" exclaims Patrick, "do let us be spending a half-crown with the dear creature, that we may look at her more conveniently, and have a bit of a chat with her." "You extravagant dog!" said John, "I am sure one-half the money will do as well; but let us go in by all means, she is a charming girl." "Ah, wait a wee," interposed the canny Scot; "dinna ye ken it'll serve our purpose equally well just to ask the bonnie lassie to give us twa sixpences for a shilling, an' to inquire where's Mr. Sampson's hoose, an' sic like? We're no hungry, an' may as well save the siller." This anecdote was told by the distinguished physician to illustrate the difference among the populace of the three kingdoms with respect to temperament—the Irish ardent and impetuous, the Scotch comparatively cool and cautious, while the English are perhaps a fair average between the two. Another titled gentleman told a story of two friends who made an experiment in London by speaking to every laborer they met between St. Giles' and Holbornhill, until they had found one belonging to each of the three nationalities, and to each, but separately, they put the question, "What would you take to stand on the top of the monument all night in your *robe de nuit*?" The Englishman, in a straightforward way, replied at once, "Five pounds." The Scot cautiously asked, "What'll ye gie?" And the Irishman exclaimed off-hand, "Shure I'll be afther taking a bad cowl." An Englishman thinks and speaks, a Scotsman thinks twice before he speaks, and an Irishman often speaks before he thinks; or, as some writer has remarked, a Scotsman thinks with his head, and an Irishman with his heart. We may recall another illustration, given by a celebrated poet. When George IV. went to Ireland, one of the "pishintry," delighted with his affability to the crowd on landing, said to the toll-keeper, as the king passed through, "Och, now, and his Majesty—God bless him!—never paid." "We let's 'em go free," was the answer. "Then there's the dirty money for ye," said Pat. "It shall never be said that the king came and found nobody to pay the turnpike for him." Thomas Moore, on his visit to Abbotsford, told the story to Sir Walter, when they were comparing notes as to the royal visits. "Now, Mr. Moore," said Scott, "there you have the advantage of us. There was no lack of enthusiasm here; the Scotch folk would have done anything in the world for the king but—pay the turnpike!"

## SOME NEW BOOKS.

"A Handbook of Statistics of the United States" \* is the title of the latest addition to Putnam's well-known and deservedly esteemed Handy Book Series.—A series comprising a number of carefully compiled volumes on subjects of interest to every class and walk of life. The scope of the book before us is sufficiently indicated by its title, but too much praise cannot be given to the compiler for the compact and systematic manner in which he has arranged the vast amount of information he gives in the two hundred and odd pages contained between the covers of his little work. The first

half of the volume is devoted to a tabular statement of the officers, financial statistics, and principal events of the different administrations since 1789, with brief biographical data of the Presidents, Cabinet officers, Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and members of the continental Congress. The rest of the book contains a mass of information on a variety of subjects, a mere index to which would fill a column of this journal. The value of this work cannot be too highly estimated. No public library, and no student's library should be without it.

Messrs. Putnam have issued a very handsome volume of "Sketches of Illustrious Soldiers,"† by James Grant Wilson which, while it cannot fail to be of use as a work for occasional consultation, will prove the delight of many a boy's library. The greater part of these sketches—they are twenty-five in number—were originally contributed to various magazines, and have been placed in book form and supplemented with four fine steel engravings and a number of autograph fac-similes from the collection of Mr. F. J. Dreer, of Philadelphia. The following is a list of the heroes whose biographies are to be found in these pages: Gonsalvo of Cordova, Chevalier Bayard, the Constable Bourbon, the Prince of Orange, the Duke of Parma, Prince Wallenstein, Gustavus Adolphus, Oliver Cromwell, Marshal Turenne, the Great Condé, the Duke of Marlborough, Prince Eugene, Charles XII., Marshal Saxe, Frederick the Great, Marshal Suwarrow, Washington, Duke of Wellington, Napoleon Bonaparte, Gen. Scott, Lord Clyde, Marshal von Moltke, Gen. Lee, Gen. Sherman, and General Grant. It will be seen that while the author has swerved but little from the beaten track followed by the general run of biographers of illustrious soldiers, he has added very much to the stock-in-trade of such writers, and introduces his readers to many heroes with whom, though well known by name and repute, the mass of the reading public are by no means as intimately acquainted as they should be. If works such as this were more frequently introduced in our schools, not so much as text books of history, but as manuals for both school-room and private reading, the rising generation would certainly feel, in after-life, the benefit of the change; there would be less cramming with speedily-to-be-forgotten facts and figures, and a greater result in the way of thorough grounding in history.

In these novel-producing days, when every Tom, Dick and Harry seems to have received a special "call"—from a quarter it would not perhaps be difficult to designate—to launch out into an orthodox three-volume novel and foist the same upon an unsuspecting and long-suffering public, it is pleasantly refreshing, in raking over the lumber of current productions, to stumble upon a really clever and well-written work of fiction. Such the novel-reader will find "Thorpe Regis," recently issued by Roberts Bros. The story—the scene of which is mainly laid in an English, and if we may judge by the name, a Norfolk, village—is of the kind in which George Eliot depicts her sketches of English country life. It possesses nothing of the sensational character which has so long held sway, yet it is full of the deepest interest, is marked by great originality of conception and expression, and is laid out with consummate art and a thorough comprehension of what is needed to sustain the reader's interest. Higher praise cannot be bestowed upon it than what is implied in saying that it is one of the few books of the kind that will bear a second perusal. Indeed there is something so fresh, so *naïve* about the author's way of saying good things, that the second reading, in which previously unnoticed choice bits turn up unexpectedly at every other step, will undoubtedly be found more delightful than the first. The plot of the story turns on the non-fulfilment of certain "expectations" entertained by Marmaduke Lee as likely to be fulfilled at the death of a rich uncle, whose orphan grandchild is disinherited in consequence of her mother's ill-advised marriage. Towards the close of his life the wealthy old gentleman takes into his confidence his nephew's friend, and brother-in-law that is to be, Anthony Miles, to whom he finally leaves the bulk of his property. Young Lee at once becomes violently jealous of his friend; and a letter from his uncle to Anthony falling into his hands, he opens it, and discovers that his relative is consulting Miles as to the propriety of reinstalling his grand child in his favour and in the fortune which by course of nature should be hers. He destroys the letter—not unseen, however,—and Anthony Miles, the lucky legatee, suffers terribly from the suspicion that he had advised Mr. Tregennas against the latter's better inclination, in order to further his own interests. The stain, however, does not too long lie on his reputation, though his reestablishment in the esteem of the neighbourhood is due to a tragic and fatal incident. The characters in the book are drawn with wonderful realism and an unusual share of individuality. Anthony Miles, medallist of his year, a hearty, wilful, often wayward, youth, with a chronic tendency to reforming everything, good and bad alike, which makes him the *bête noire* of the two old bachelor brothers, the Mannings, who, nevertheless, love him as a son; Marmaduke Lee, the very opposite in character to his *quondam* friend, weak, vacillating, pettish, and perpetually discontented; Squire Chester, a bluff old gentleman of the antique school, nursing an intense hatred for railways and telegraphs, with a great admiration for Anthony, and a deep love for his own pretty daughters; David Stephens, dissenter, narrow-minded, cramped in his opinions, but intensely earnest and strangely self-sacrificing; Mrs. Featherly, rector's wife and busy body, with a firm conviction that her sphere in life is to pick her neighbours to pieces, a typical sour-visaged Mrs. Grundy; these are a few of the personages that play prominent parts in the little drama at Thorpe Regis. We have enjoyed their company for a period only too brief; and have parted with them with regret. We can heartily recommend the book to those who are capable of appreciating a really good work of fiction as the novel of the season.

\* Handbook of Statistics of the United States. Compiled by M. C. Spaulding. Cloth. 12mo. Pp. 207. \$1.00. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

† Sketches of Illustrious Soldiers. By James Grant Wilson. 12mo. Cloth extra. With portraits. Pp. 431. \$2.50. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

‡ Thorpe Regis: A Novel. By the author of "The Rose Garden," and "Unawares." Cloth. 12mo. Pp. 432. Boston: Roberts Brothers. Montreal: Dawson Bros.