

OTTAWA LETTER.

We are going to have a tea party here on the 22nd of June. The guests are all invited and have accepted. The lands of the Kangaroo and the Maori and the Kafir, and the wild Indian of the Canadian forests have, in the process of evolution, developed a species whose representatives are now about to meet in a family group for the first time to compare notes, and look at one another, with a representative of the old mother, from whose loins has sprung this new civilization, in attendance, to witness her handiwork and to give her offspring the benefit of her aged experience in managing the affairs of one-fifth of this world of ours.

This itinerant tea party emanated from the brain of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, a direct descendant of the wild Indian. Look at him. Evolution has brought him out as white as an average Britisher and as respectable looking as the proverbial Mrs. Grundy. He is going to serve the tea. The question is, is it to be gossip or work. Probably a little of both. The delegates are to be received in the Senate Chamber, which is to be dismantled to admit of the colonial plenipotentiaries taking their seats at the table in the centre, and the members of the Senate and House of Commons, with the other State authorities and invited guests, surrounding them.

The Governor-General is to open the Conference in state, and lay the foundation in Ottawa for one of the most important departures in constitutional government in the history of the world: national co-operation on a great scale for mutual support, for mutual advancement, to assist in maintaining the progress of the world's civilization, and the prosperity of the world's citizens, a looking beyond the horizon of our daily vision—that is the underlying spirit of the Conference; and the Earl of Aberdeen, in thus giving birth to this great movement on Canadian soil, will inaugurate one of the epochal events of future history—a remoulding, a recasting of Anglo Saxon polity on more extended lines than has yet been thought possible.

After the inauguration of the Conference the members of it will retire to the Hon. Mr. Bowell's boudoir where the tea and talk is to take place in all the sanctity that appertains to that place of retirement. Some inquisitive people are wanting to know what they are going to talk about. Probably one of the subjects will be to find out whether they are called upon to help Old England to keep her ships afloat, and how that contribution should be made. Old England has begun to kick already, and plainly intimated she expects it, by hypotheating the succession duties both in the United States and in the colonies of their residents in the United Kingdom. This Sir Charles Tupper and other colonial agents in London think is unmitigated cheek, and the Boston episode of a century ago is held up as a warning. Sir Charles Tupper has a beautiful arrangement of this question which, he thinks, will give unbounded satisfaction. He proposes that the Imperial Government should put a tax upon foreign wheat, admitting colonial wheat free. This will kill two birds with one stone; it will bind the colonies more closely to the Empire by raising the price of wheat for them, and the tax the British consumer pays on the foreign wheat will be the contribution of the colonies to Imperial defence.

There is genius! It is to be hoped that he has primed the members of the Conference well as to the details of the scheme, because it will suit us down to the ground. That settles one point.

The next point is the means of continuing our gossip through the telephone. A Pacific cable under British control may fairly be accepted as a necessity if the union of Britain's Colonial Empire is going to be a political force, and when that is accomplished, we shall have girdled the world with a British cable, the forerunner of commercial enterprise of an inter-imperial character.

The members of the Conference will be able to find out from each other what each has to sell, and the best means of developing trade, which means employment, industry, and wealth. That they cannot improve upon the patent that England has utilized for so many years in bringing up her family, is doubtful; and the Earl of Jersey, the Conservative Governor of a free trade colony will, in all probability, be able to give them some pointers that will direct their minds into channels of thought which are fed from the pure doctrines of free trade. The Liberal Government of the United Kingdom did not look for a Liberal to represent their views when they could find a man who understood colonial life, and at the same time was imbued with the commercial principles of the Mother Country. Any attempt to form a colonial Zollverein with the Mother Country which would discriminate against the sixty-five million of the Anglo-Saxon race on this continent would be likely to meet with the opposition of thirty-eight million in the United Kingdom, and the Earl of Jersey would in all probability intimate that contingency.

The coming Conference is fraught with great possibilities for good; it is only laying a foundation upon which a structure may be built that will stand the test of time. That our guests will meet with a warm welcome and a hearty reception goes without saying, and that they will see much in Canada that will stimulate them to greater exertions to make the national and commercial ties of the British family closer and more enduring may also be anticipated, and the rest may be left to nature's working.

It was at one time thought the principal work in the Commons would be got through before the Conference met so as to permit of an adjournment before the 1st of July, but it does not look like it at the present moment of writing.

Ottawa had a visit from the delegates to the meeting of the Mechanical Engineers which has for some time been sitting in Montreal. They visited the Parliament buildings and Sir John Thompson gave them a pleasant welcome in the Senate Chamber in a few well chosen words. Mr. Keefer entertained them at luncheon and they afterwards visited Rideau Hall, where they were entertained by the Earl of Aberdeen and they then returned to Montreal.

General Herbert has organized a rifle match between the Senate and Commons for the purpose of testing the new Martini-Metford rifle, which is to be the future weapon of our militia force. There is an impression that the conversion of our Martinis was effected by filling the old barrels and rebarreling. This is a mistake. The Metford barrel is an entirely new one, the Martini stock only being utilized in the conversion.

Ottawa, June 11th, 1894.

VIVANDIER.

CANADIAN LITERATURE.

PROVINCIAL PERIOD.

CHAPTER I.

The literature of this period centres chiefly about the names of Judge Haliburton (Sam Slick) and Major John Richardson. There are one or two novels that appeared before the works of these authors that are or should be of interest, even though, perhaps, unheard of by the most of us.* The first is *The History of Emily Montague*, by the author of *Lady Julia Mandeville* (Mrs. Frances Brooke). The work appeared in London, Eng., 1769. The copy in the Toronto Library was published by Dodsley in 1777. Samuel Richardson's influence is very patent in the form and treatment which is in letters from different correspondents. The scenes are for the most part in and around Quebec, and are described by Lemoine in "Picturesque Quebec," pp. 271 ff., 375 ff. The influence of the novel is said to have been such as to cause the settlement in Canada of several good English families. At another time I hope to come back to this work and deal with it more fully.

Another book which I have not been able to get hold of, however, is *St. Ursula's Convent, or the Nun of Canada*, published at Kingston, 1824, and which at that time seems to have been severely criticized. It is mentioned by Kingsford in his "Early Bibliography," and a Quebec publisher will soon give us very much fuller details of the book.

We are not left so much in the dark, however, in regard to Judge Haliburton, our first and only great humorist. He is the only Canadian author considered worthy of a place in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, although several statements are made in the notice of him there, which show that the writer was not quite at home with his life and works. Mr. F. Blake Crofton, B.A., Provincial Librarian of Nova Scotia, wrote an excellent monograph on Haliburton which appeared as No. I of the proceedings of "The Haliburton," of King's College, Windsor, N.S., and to it I am greatly indebted for my present sketch. Thomas Chandler Haliburton, son of Justice Haliburton, was born at Windsor, N.S., Dec. 1796. He was educated at the Grammar School of that town, and at King's College, graduating in 1815. He then entered law and received his call in 1820. For three years, 1826-29, he was M.P.P. for Annapolis, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for the Middle Division of Nova Scotia, 1829-41; Judge of the Supreme Court, 1841; resigned and went to England, 1856; made D.C.L. by Oxford, 1858; M.P. for Launceston, 1859-65; died, 1865. His work, excepting pamphlets, with their dates are as follows:

1829. *Historical and Statistical account of Nova Scotia*. His sympathy with the Acadians was strong, and it is quite possible that his account is the ultimate source of Longfellow's *Evangeline*.

1834. *Kentucky*.—A tale—London. (This I know only from Morgan's *Bibliotheca Canadensis*.)

1837. *The Clockmaker*—or, the say-

* I wish to make mention in this connection of the unfailing kindness of Mr. Jas. Bain, Jr., of the Toronto Public Library. His intimate knowledge of Canadian Literature and of works relating to Canada has been drawn upon very liberally and his free lending of books has alone made these articles possible.—L. E. H.