

his lecture that anything which tended to draw closer together the colonies and the mother country was of the utmost importance, *especially to the industrial populace of Great Britain*. Were Sir Frederick Young to come over to Canada he would find that the welfare of the industrial populace here is of very much more importance to us than that of Great Britain, and would at the same time find that his favourite axiom counted for little in face of the favour with which, at least, a large minority of us have looked upon Reciprocity, Commercial Union, and the opening up of trade with France, Brazil, and the South American States, even if he overlooked the number of British subjects who pass over from Canada to the United States, and Americans from the United States to Canada every year. In a word the commerce of the world has become a mere market-place in which nations sell their commodities to the highest bidder, and purchase in return at the cheapest rate, and this irrespective of tariffs and national sentiment. Perhaps it ought to be otherwise, or as Mr. Polson, who imports largely to the colonies, said at the Johnstone meeting, "the colonists should make the tariff as hostile as they liked against other countries, but they ought not to make it quite so hostile against us."

The Federationists' project of an Imperial Parliament may well be discussed by the constituencies of the mother country when the question of Local Parliaments for Scotland and Ireland has been disposed of. In the meantime the colonists are quite satisfied with the representation they have through their Agents-General, and the final Court of Appeal in cases affecting the rights of the subject. Further representation they cannot look for without taxation; and further taxation for what would readily enough be considered by the colonists as outside enterprises, would eventually end in serious discontent. Yet, after all, there can be no harm in carrying out the suggestion which Sir Frederick Young has thrown out in regard to the appointing of a Commission of Inquiry. There is in such a suggestion something practical, something through which progress can be reported, and, if acted upon, it will certainly bring out certain facts of which the easy converts to Federation at home are evidently ignorant. Sir Frederick Young seems to think that Federation is neither a Liberal scheme nor a Tory dogma, and that it may lay claim to some virtue on this account. Perhaps when his proposed commission makes its report after going round the colonies, "not to advocate any particular policy, but to ascertain the views of the colonists themselves on the subject," he may be forced to remark how difficult it is to get an expression of public opinion in the colonies on a question which lies outside of practical or party politics.

J. M. HARPER.

SONNET.

SWEET thoughts do scatter from my happy mind
As bees, dispersing, fly from out the door
Of that hive-home, their house and honey-store,
In quest of golden treasure, which to find
Each willing worker, wandering in the wind,
Doth thoroughly search each blossom o'er and o'er,
Returning laden with love-loot galore
Unheeding of the ravage left behind—
On Fancy's wings my soul, all unconfined,
Over the flowers of sense shall ever soar,
The sweets of life that fill the poet's lore
To find for thee, my queen of womanhood!
Nor will I for thy sake this labour fond forego
While life's bright summer lasts, and love's rich blossoms blow.

SAREPTA.

HAMBURG.

BEFORE all things, Hamburg is a city of good living. You cannot take a walk through any frequented part of the town without instantly becoming aware that the nurture and care of the inner man play an important part in the lives of its inhabitants. To an untravelling Englishman the fact of being invited to come and lunch in a cellar by a wealthy friend, instead of at his own luxurious home, appears somewhat incongruous; but whatever may be your misgivings, do not on any account refuse such an invitation, should it come in your way, especially if it chance to be given in the oyster season. Why these excellent Hamburgers should utilize their underground quarters as restaurants, in such a city of palaces, is a great mystery, for one would have thought that most people preferred to take their meals in daylight rather than descend the area steps for that purpose, and dine in the dim religious light that prevails below. Be the reason what it may, it is certain you may count on finding all the delicacies of the season, as well as wine of the first quality at your command, and this privilege is also extended to the weaker sex, who are often to be met, either alone or accompanied by male friends, in these subterranean regions in considerable numbers. As you enter you will find well-spread refreshment bars covered with every relish and condiment dear to the North German heart—the *cuisine* being quite different and infinitely superior to that of other parts of the empire—all presided over by a gentleman of so refined and aristocratic an appearance that you hesitate to address him on such a vulgar and common place subject as lunch or dinner, but he will speedily put you at your ease, an summon and attendant gnome in the shape of a waiter from some even darker and more mysterious region than that which you temporarily occupy. This being will usher you into the dining-room where you will find the "carte," which you can study at your leisure. In the smaller "Keller" you can have a meal of three courses, from 1s. upwards, or half a portion of beefsteak, unlimited and delicious bread and

a glass of wine from 1s. 3d.; in the more important ones, which are chiefly to be found in and about the locality known as the Alster, the prices are a good deal higher, but the food is of the very first quality. They pride themselves with justice on the number and variety of their soups and ways of cooking fish, but a foreigner, if he be of English extraction and has not the stomach of an ostrich, may be warned to avoid what are known as specialties—such as beer soup, eel or crab soup and certain fish salads, which however palatable, will probably be fatal to his peace.

After partaking of their particular "vanities" at one of these restaurants, it is much the fashion for a party to betake themselves an hour later to a well-known and gorgeous confectioner's shop, where cakes in appalling quantities will be consumed in conjunction with coffee. In the fine season this afternoon refreshment will be taken in the Alster Pavilion, the Zoological Garden, or one of the numerous and pleasant out-door resorts which surround the city. Another convenient arrangement for bachelors is the "Frühstücks-lokal," or "breakfast-place;" if you live in lodgings you need not take any of your meals there—indeed a German would never think of doing so. He would begin the day by a visit to a "breakfast-place," where he would find hot coffee and "fixings" quite ready as soon as day breaks, in fact, as in all German towns, provision is made for small purses as well as large, though here the fact of great wealth is everywhere evident.

Of amusements there are plenty; concert halls and theatres—eight or nine of these last—abound; the "Stadt Theatre" is a fine building, belonging to a company. The opera or play begins about seven p.m., and the very best seat in the house costs 6s. The Thalia Theatre ranks next, and the highest price there is 4s. There are certain out-door festivities, which are peculiar to the place, which the stranger should see if he happen to be in Hamburg at the time they take place; the first is at Whitsuntide, and is particularly a people's fête; the last is the Alster Regatta, which is held in the beginning of September. Neither the climate or the water are particularly to be recommended in this German Liverpool; the former is cold and damp, and the quality of the latter not quite what it should be.

The facilities for locomotion are very great; there is a railway circle connecting Hamburg with Altona, which is only broken by the river; lines diverge from it to Denmark, Kiel, Lübeck, Berlin, Paris, and our experience of them would lead us to the conclusion that they are very well managed, indeed some people think the care just a little too paternal. The tramways are fast driving the omnibuses out of the field. The privileges still enjoyed by this, the most important of the Hanse towns, are to cease very shortly, and travellers will no longer enjoy an immunity from custom house troubles when they arrive within its gates, though this is a trifle compared to the difference the change will probably make in the regulation of the commerce of the town. It boasts considerable antiquity, and was, it is supposed, founded in the year eight hundred; some three hundred years later, it became a member of the Hanse League, and in 1510 was declared a free and imperial city by Maximilian I. The Thirty Years' War affected it but little, but the troubles of the early part of this century were felt severely, and it has weathered more than one great financial crisis. The bank was despoiled by Davoust, and the outskirts of the town burnt down—its losses at that period through the occupation of the French are estimated at 240,000,000 marks.

The general post office deserves a word of notice. It is not only large and commodious, but exceedingly handsome, indeed one might say elegant, in its interior arrangements. There are most convenient sloping desks in the middle of the large room, provided with excellent pens, ink and paper, where you can write a letter most comfortably; they appear to be much patronised, and no wonder. There are innumerable pigeon-holes for the transaction of business; you can buy your foreign stamps at one, your post-cards at another, and so on. But there is certainly too much water about; the inhabitants, however, do not think so, and take the greatest pride in the "Alster Bassin," which indeed looks pretty enough in fine weather; the broad street or promenade which surrounds it on three sides is much frequented, and here are the best hotels and some good shops. At one corner is the Alster Pavilion, a large glass erection over-looking the water, where refreshments are to be had at any hour.

Altona is now nearly as large as Hamburg, but not, of course, of the same importance. The latter ranks itself as the foremost commercial town in Germany, and the third in Europe, allowing London and Liverpool to take the precedence. It is about eighteen miles from the mouth of the North Sea and has three rivers in its immediate neighbourhood—the Elbe, the Alster and the Bille—the harbour is very large, its length is some 5,500 meters, and over 5,000 ships are said to make their appearance there during the year, the largest vessels being only able to enter and leave with the ebb and flow of the tide—the former is of some eight hours' duration, the latter four hours. There are some 500,000 inhabitants, of whom 16,000 are Jews.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "You will be pleased, I am sure, to hear of a new society which is just being formed by a small but cultured body of thinkers in Highbury. It is called the Society for Preventing any Farther Allusions to Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The name, I admit, is lengthy; but we cannot help that. The S.P.A.J.H. will try to induce people by moral suasion only to refrain from comparing everybody they don't like to these two remarkable single gentlemen rolled into one. We shall work by means of lectures and gratis pamphlets, and a special mission is being organized for journalists. In their case total abstinence is not required. We shall be satisfied if they will refrain from saying 'Mr. A. or Lord B. reminds us of the hero of Mr. Stevenson's powerful tale,' more than once a fortnight. Will you allow one of our travelling missionaries to wait on you?"—*St. James Gazette*.