

A TRIUMPH FOR JACK.—Our British tars seem to have been much admired at the recent naval exhibition at New York. The mere fact that the blue jackets were free and easy in their movement when on shore, and that they rolled along with a startling air of proprietorship of the American turf, made a deep impression, as did also the fact that they looked to be sailors every inch of them, and not stage-brigands or bull-fighters. Their general air of utility and common sense has endeared them to the Yankee heart.

NOVEL INSURANCE.—Some ingenious Frenchman thinks he has a method by which the ever-lessening population of his country may be increased. His scheme is an insurance company in which the final payment is to be made, not to the relatives at the time of the decease, but to the fair holder, on her marriage day, or at a later period when she becomes a mother. He claims that girls who are thus insured will be most popular *parties*, and that the prospective provision for offspring will relieve the young couple of one of the most pressing matrimonial obstacles. As the new scheme, if adopted, will not be in working order before the growth of a now non-existent generation, it is difficult to predict its future.

LADIES AT MCGILL.—The record of the lady graduates of this year at McGill College must be most gratifying to the friends of the movement for securing higher education for women. Of the class of thirty-nine which recently obtained the B. A. degrees, eleven were women. Of the eleven who graduated in honors, the names of six women appear, and three of the five class medals were won by students of the fairer sex. A better testimonial of the appreciation which our Canadian women have for the opportunities for thorough education which have been afforded them by the generosity of the rich men of Montreal could not be found, and our young men must see to it that their laurels are not entirely wrested away from them.

NOT A TENDER FOOT.—A pedestrian tour across the continent is a novel idea for the summer, though there are perhaps few who feel equal to the tramp. Mr. Holmes, a prominent Canadian journalist, has, however, started for the Pacific, and is jogging along at the comfortable rate of twenty miles a day. His special object is to obtain data in regard to fishing and shooting obtainable along the C. P. R., and his weekly letters along the route will be enjoyed by many less enterprising travellers. Mr. Holmes is rather a notorious walker, for he has explored Central America, using native's propellers only for the expedition, and he has spent three months in tramping through Japan. As his powers of observation are well developed some capital sporting literature will probably be the result of the excursion.

A CANADIAN IDEA.—Strangely enough the Columbian celebrations and the World's Fair are not American in their origin—that is, the ideas did not emanate from the United States, but from Canada. The first proposition as to the celebrations came from Montreal, where some of the wealthier class held that the 250th birthday of the city and the anniversary of the discovery of the continent might be fittingly celebrated together. The scheme was not seriously entertained, as it was feared that the city was neither rich enough nor big enough for the undertaking, but the Columbian idea was copied widely in the American press, and New York and Chicago contended for the privilege of honoring Columbus. This is by no means the first Canadian scheme which has been seized upon by our over-the-border friends.

THE CHINESE WILL STAY.—Three Chinamen have recently been arrested in New York for violating the conditions of the Geary Registration Act; and, as they have not complied with the demand for registration and naturalization, they are sentenced to be deported to China. The cases will, however, be carried before the supreme court, and it is rather more than probable that the decision will be reversed. A solution to the puzzle of maintaining the dignity of the law, and of disregarding the provisions of the Geary Act, has been thought out. The laws relating to the arrest and deportation of the aliens are to be interpreted as permissive and not arbitrary in their character, and the customs officers will quietly ignore the violations. The mission interests in China are too important to be trifled with, and the threat that the deportation of the Chinese laborers and the American missionary should begin simultaneously, has had a quieting effect on the anti-Chinese party.

THE SHORT HOUR MOVEMENT.—The proprietors of the Salford Iron Works at Manchester, England, have shown their entire willingness to consider the comfort of their employees by adopting for one year the short day system, without altering wages. The number of work-hours per week, which was formerly fifty-three, has been reduced to forty-eight, that is, there are five days of eight and three-quarters hours length, and one day, Saturday, four and one-quarter hours. The day is not shortened in the usual way at the latter end, but the reduction is made by commencing work at a later hour than formerly. This plan adds to the comfort of the men, who have thus an opportunity to begin work after a leisurely breakfast. The proprietors hold that because of this concession to the employers a better spirit and better bodily powers will soon be observed among the men, and they are confident that the actual diminution of working hours will not be disadvantageous to their receipts. The experiment is an interesting one, and we trust it may prove wholly successful.

A DISPUTED FOX-BRUSH.—A funny example of the way in which the making of laws necessitates the immediate making of other laws was given during the last week in the Legislature of Ontario, where a bill was introduced "to prevent prevarication and the transportation of dead foxes." A fox-bounty has recently been in vogue in several townships, and the call for bounties has been so great that investigations were held. It was then learned that foxes were shipped from all portions of the country, or even from outside districts, to the centre of bounty distribution, and that only a small number of the foxes presented had been killed within the specified township. The present bill, if it becomes law, will transfer the right to grant bounties from the township to the county, and it will also enforce some measure to prevent the imported fox from usurping the place and perquisite of the native animal.

AFTER SUFFRAGE.—People of many nations have watched with increasing interest the struggle which the good people of Belgium have made for the right of suffrage. Since that request has been granted the example has fired the masses of other nations. In Sweden the Popular Assembly, or *Folke Rigsdag*, an unofficial gathering of men whose opinions have a great effect on the legal *Rigsdag*, have presented the Government with an embarrassing request, asking that the intentions of the Government with regard to the extension of the franchise shall be made known. The Government refused to consider the question, and in consequence of the refusal a national movement is in train to compel the authorities to grant—not the original request—but universal suffrage. In Africa the Freestaters of the Transvaal demand voting privileges, and if the demand is disregarded it is thought that trouble will ensue.

THEY WOULD PREFER DEATH.—President Cleveland has disappointed many of his supporters by his recent action in connection with the Russian treaty. This document, which has been widely discussed, has now passed through the Senate and has received the assent of the President. It has been variously characterized as a "treaty of fraternity" and as a "cowardly blow at the freedom of Russian refugees." There is no doubt to our mind that during the present administration a liberal interpretation will be put upon those clauses of the act referring to the extradition of offenders against the Czar, and that special protection will be accorded those who seek an asylum in the United States; but the great danger lies ahead still further, for a new administration will not be bound in any way to interpret the law according to democratic principles, and the refugees may suffer accordingly. Stepanak, the famous Russian agitator, says that he would prefer that the American Government should hang every refugee pointed out by the Czar, than that the extradition clauses should be enforced.

RELIC HUNTERS ON THE RAMPAGE.—The ashes of Columbus were nearly precipitated on the world the other day, when a lively mob of relic-seekers indulged in a free fight for their possession. Fortunately, the old maxim, "When thieves fall out, etc.," was vindicated, and the precious remains were again secured by the proper authorities. The scheme of importing the ashes in question for the World's Fair was a wild one, and the fact that the request was granted reflects on the good sense and proper feeling of the Spanish authorities, who should have guarded the relics (if indeed they are genuine) with their last breath. The vandal class of relic-hunters will be let loose in Chicago. They have not hesitated to mutilate the most beautiful tombs of Westminster Abbey. They would long ago have dug up Shakespeare's bones had the tomb not been carefully watched, and they have made many attempts to violate the tomb of the founder of their own nation, George Washington. It is not probable that they will in any manner hold the Columbus relic as a sacred trust, and, though the authorities may make every effort to secure its safe keeping, the only sure course will be for a Man-of-War to steam at once back to sunny Spain and restore the ashes to their original niche.

A DUCHESS IN GAOL.—The fact that the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland is now residing in Holloway Gaol seems to have had an exciting effect on the American press. The desire to battle for the imprisoned Mrs. Maybrick is checked by the announcement that the Dowager Duchess is enjoying no better accommodation, and that her countrywomen are not disposed to interfere on her behalf. The latter lady has occupied for many years a somewhat dubious position among the members of the British aristocracy, as her transformation from chamber maid to the head of the ducal establishment was not appreciated by the relatives of the Duke's first wife. Her present offence, however, is not due to her unfitness for her elevated position, but to the disregard which she manifested for the order of the courts that certain papers should be placed in safe custody until an examination should be held. The Duchess, when waited upon by the officers who were sent for the documents in question, actually seized a letter and burned it under their noses, stating that it had no bearing on the case, but related to the dismissal of a servant. In the courts she made a statement as to the nature of the letter conflicting with the statement made to the officers, and as no record of the document exists its actual contents can never be known. As a consequence of her rash action the Duchess will spend six weeks in gaol, and will pay a fine of some \$1200; and in addition to these tangible annoyances she will have the consciousness that her unlucky business affairs, including her private marriage with the late Duke, will be discussed in all circles.

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