

Correspondence.

RECIPROCITY IN HARDWARE.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

DEAR SIR:—It is heavy goods in which home manufacturers first begin to compete with foreigners. These require little skilled labor and a large quantity of raw material. The raw material and the manufactured work being alike heavy, freight on this class of goods affords home manufacturers some protection. They can make ploughs before axes and axes before penknives. In the manufacture of boots and shoes, for example, this country ceased to import stogies long before woman's calf boots, and woman's calf boots long before children's boots.

It is not long since these latter were imported in large quantities from Massachusetts; and notwithstanding the duty always paid they would be still imported but for the increased taxes caused by the war in the States. The ostensible argument of Free traders is that Canadian manufactures can compete with American. I admit they can in some kinds of heavy goods; but the quantity of American manufactures on the shelves of hardware stores in the Dominion show that they cannot do so in light goods. It shows also, that even English manufactures cannot stop the importation of American goods into Canada.

Notwithstanding this Free Traders tell us that American manufactures are ruined by protection. Take Fish Hooks, for example. I have been selling Fish Hooks for thirteen years and never saw a Fish Hook made in Canada; though, during that time, I have seen, and sold, thousands manufactured in New Haven, Conn. Now, I have no doubt there is a larger percentage of profit on Fish Hooks than on any article of hardware manufactured in this country. The Americans, and the English, have the best share of our hardware business yet. Most if not all the brass rivets used in Canada are made in the States.

Fire bolts and carriage bolts are imported in large quantities from Philadelphia. Factories for the manufacture of these have been lately started in different parts of Canada, but as yet, notwithstanding freight, duty and war taxes the American manufacturers do a large share of the business. The plough bolts used in this country are extensively made in New York City. Manufacturers of Ploughs tell me they never saw a plough bolt made in Canada. Neither did I. Whenever I order plough bolts from a wholesale house those made in New York are sent.

Bolts, hinges, especially the small sizes, 2 inches and under, are imported in large quantities, from Providence Rhode Island. All the gimlets, so far as I can see, and a great many of the auger bits used in this country are made in New York City. From the lightness of these goods, in proportion to their value, freight is hardly any protection to our manufacturers. Among light goods, of this kind, cut tacks is one of the first things in which Canadians have begun to compete with the Americans. Messrs. Pillow, Hersey & Co. of Montreal have been manufacturing in large quantities for some times. A good deal, however, are still imported from the States, particularly, Abington Mass.

Spirit Levelers are imported from Philadelphia. I have never seen one made in Canada and am not aware of a factory of the kind being in the country. Whenever I order Spirit Levelers from a wholesale house I get those of American manufacture. Here then are articles in which neither Canadians nor English can drive the American manufacturers from the market and it is protection which gave them the start necessary to attain this position. Most, if not all, of the scratch awls used in this country are made in the States.

There is no cartridge factory in Canada of which I know: all the cartridges used in this country come from Connecticut and New York. Venetian chalk, very much used by engineers and in lumber yards is imported from Boston. Scales, every one knows, are largely imported from St. Johnsbury, Vermont, where the famous Fairbank's factory is.

The protection afforded by the American government has built up splendid factories, of this kind, all over the Union, and made American manufacturers formidable all over the globe. Still, Free Traders tell us that protection is ruining the States. I am inclined to think it is ruining somebody else.

Steel pens manufactured in New Jersey are used extensively in this country. Razors of American manufacture are imported to this country, but I am not aware of any being manufactured here. Shoemakers awls come from Massachusetts and the handles from Connecticut. Though the manufacture of hammers is carried on to a large extent here, very many are still imported from the States. When I order steel hammers to retail at over a dollar I am usually sent those of American manufacture. Distance or freight, on hammers, afford our manufacturers very little protection. These advantages are much more than counterbalanced by the accumulation of labor, skill and capital where the business has been long established. But let the tariff remain as it is, let the danger of sudden changes cease, and labor, skill and capital will come to Canadian manufacturers in such quantities as will soon enable them to make all this description of goods required both in respect to price, quality and quantity. Nothing paralyzes industry more than uncertainty. While the Free Trade agitation continues, Canadian manufacturers cannot calculate, either, who will be their customers or what will be their profits.

With "a market of forty millions" they may be like Moses, permitted to see, but not allowed to enter the promised land. More American cradle scythes were sold here, at Fenelon Falls, during the last three years than similar scythes of Canadian make. They were no cheaper or better than Canadian goods, but they were imported and purchased by store keepers here, and had to be sold and were sold. The farmers who bought them gained nothing, but I judge rather lost, the dealers gained nothing, but the American manufacturer made a profit and the Canadian manufacturers were deprived of part of their legitimate trade.

There is neither patriotism, statesmanship nor policy in theories calculated to produce such results as this. Such a policy must necessarily tend to impoverish a country. Reciprocity would annihilate, in one instant, millions of Canadian capital. As in the case of the scythes, above referred to, it is not necessary for American manufacturers to undersell ours: they need only to take enough of the business to make the balance unprofitable. Here is another thing which would operate against Canadian manufacturers: Canadian goods, not being yet known or introduced in the States, agents would have great difficulty in getting orders.

There would be a prejudice against the idea that we could make goods either as cheap or well as old American manufacturers. On the other hand, American goods being long known in this country, agents would get orders without much difficulty. To establish a business in the States, our manufacturers, would have to offer a better and cheaper article than the American manufacturers, which they cannot do. It is easy to foresee the result. Between the loss of the home market, and the delays and difficulties of establishing any business in the States, Canadian manufacturers would be ruined in nine cases out of ten.

Notwithstanding heavy freight on safes, considerable numbers are imported from the States. An agent from Cincinnati took quite a number of orders in Canada not long ago. It is probably with the safes as with the scythes. The purchasers are in no way benefited. But it results in profit to the American manufacturer and loss of legitimate business to the Canadian.

It is natural for Canadians to buy American safes, but not for Yankees to buy Canadian safes if they were, even, twice as good as any made in their own country. The "market of forty millions" has a great many draw backs like this.

Steam engines are also imported from the States. Not long ago, I saw an agent selling steam engines made in New York City to persons living at Georgian Bay. Axes, once largely imported from the States, are still imported to some extent. A storekeeper, at Horse Shoe Bridge, some where in the back country, south of Lake Nipissing, has American axes advertised for sale. These axes are no cheaper and perhaps not so good as Canadian axes. Their sole result consists in transferring a certain profit from home manufacturers to foreigners.

In the face of these facts can any person argue that Reciprocity would benefit Canadian manufacturers. Free Traders know this, as well as any one, but their real spring of action is utter indifference about the success or existence of Canadian manufactures at all. With access to the States, Canadian manufactures are needed no longer. Perish Home manufactures, in order that Free Traders whims may succeed!

The great mass of mankind exercise too little foresight.

Mr. Bagehot, in his able work on Politics, says a desire for instant action constitutes the chief difference between savages and civilized man. It is this desire for instant action in politicians which lead people, step by step, unconsciously, to results of which they never dream, till their prevention becomes impossible. I see a man opening a dyke and tell him the sea will come in. He says "I will oppose the sea." His opposition will be too late. If he opens the dyke, the sea will enter in spite of him. I hear men demanding Reciprocity and tell them it will lead to annexation. They say "we will oppose annexation." Their opposition will be too late. Annexation will follow Reciprocity in spite of them. "They're sowing the seed" but "what shall the harvest be?"

Yours truly,

W. DEWART.

Fenelon Falls.

GLADSTONE AND GRANVILLE.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

SIR,—The resignation by Mr. Gladstone of the leadership of the Liberal party, in Great Britain, is a political event of the greatest significance. He did proffer his resignation of this post in March last, but his party declined to accept it. Now, however, it appears, from a letter of Lord Granville's which has been telegraphed, that the late leader's decision to retire is in fact accepted with, of course, expressions of many regrets. Mr. Gladstone puts his resignation on the ground that forty-two years of laborious public service gives him the right to retire; and further, he says his action is governed by personal views regarding the method of spending the closing years of his life. His conduct in Parliament, he adds, will be governed by the same principles as hitherto; and he will support, so far as he can, the measures of the Liberal party. Such is the precise substance of the reasons he has given, so far as telegraphed,

for a step which will excite very great interest throughout Europe, and in every part of the globe where the English language is spoken.

The Liberal party in Great Britain was in fact broken up by the late general election. It met with as signal a defeat as did the Conservative party in this country, at about the same time. It had held power for many years, and passed many important measures. But when Mr. Gladstone went to the country, it was not one with itself. More than one of its sections made impossible demands upon its leaders, and an uneasy feeling arose throughout the country, men asking, "what next?" This led to a Conservative reaction, and Mr. Gladstone had the pain of seeing his appeal answered by protest, and his power swept away.

He says now that he seizes the "present opportunity" to retire. Does he by this mean that his pamphlet has broken up his party still further? And that it has rendered him an impossibility? We believe such to be the fact, and that this is his plain and honest meaning.

Lord Granville would appear to be his successor in the leadership of the party from the summary of the correspondence which has been telegraphed. At least he acted as the medium of communication between the late chief and his followers. Lord Granville is a man of known and marked ability, but it is always a disadvantage for a party to have its chief in the House of Lords; and furthermore, the leadership of a great party cannot be transferred like a negotiable instrument of commerce. The power that he has is something personal to himself, and he must grow to his position.

Mr. Gladstone is a learned, able, and conscientious man, and he has made for himself, whatever faults may be attributed to him, in the language of Archbishop Manning, "a great name."

JULES VERNE.

There is perhaps no French author so popular at present on this side of the water, as Jules Verne, nearly all of whose works have been rendered into English. A Paris contemporary has written a bright sketch of this prolific and successful writer which we were about to translate for our readers, when we received the following version of the same paper from *Appleton's Journal*.

Among those who most assiduously frequented the residence of Alexandre Dumas fils, twenty years ago, was an old retired captain of the army named D'Arpentigny. D'Arpentigny, with his yellow hair, his black mustache, and his piercing eye, was one of the strangest types of that period. He had invented a science—*la chiromonie*, he called it—and assumed to read people's characters from their hands. He was a charming talker, much courted, and, but for his mania to inspect the palm of your hand, very agreeable.

One day he called on Dumas. "One of my friends at Nantes," he said, "has recommended to my courtesy a young man who desires to be a writer."

"The unfortunate!" replied the author of "La Dame aux Camelias," with his broad, crafty laugh. "Why doesn't he make a grocer of himself?"

"It seems that he lacks aptitude for that business. He has a number of manuscripts—"

"Then he is a lost man! What is to be done with him?"

"He asks to be introduced to you."

"Bring him here to-morrow to dinner." The young man, who was no other than Jules Verne, one of the authors of the "Tour du Monde," came, in fact, the next day, and presented to the master a little dramatic piece which he had just finished, entitled "The Broken Straws."

Dumas read it, liked it, and said to the author, "Come back some of these days, and we will have the sketch brought out at the Théâtre Historique."

The piece was promptly accepted by the manager, was performed, and met with great success. Jules Verne entered the domain of literature as one of his imaginary characters; later, penetrated into the moon, to wit, mounted on a bullet.

After this brilliant debut there was nevertheless a pause in the career of the author of the "Tour du Monde." He was secretary of the Théâtre Lyrique, managed at that time by Séveste, and later, after Séveste's death, he frequented the Bourse and became a broker. When he had passed the whole day in dotting down figures, in buying, selling, and reselling shares in stock, obligations, shares paid up and not paid up, in muddling his mind over reports, over 3 per cent., 62, 07½ or 72, 08½, he would return to his house with aching head and dry throat, and would begin to write for the sake of distraction. He threw himself among his chimeras and his dreams, but he knew how to give to all his rambles an aspect of truth which kept up the illusion.

To date from this period, he published in the *Musee des Familles* first, and afterward in various periodicals, those scientific novels which have met with so much success, namely: "The Adventures of Captain Hatteras"; "The Children of Captain Grant"; "Adventures of Three Russians and Three Englishmen"; "From the Earth to the Moon"; "Twenty thousand Leagues under the Earth"; "Journey to the Centre of the Earth"; "The Land of Furs"; "Around the World in Eighty Days" (from which was drawn the piece which is now being performed at the Porte-Saint-Martin Théâtre), etc., etc.

These works obtained an enormous popularity, and all of them ran through numerous editions.

Perceiving finally that he could earn his livelihood with his pen, Jules Verne gave up brokering.

Jules Verne is forty-six years old. Of medium size, he wears a full beard, and presents a vague resemblance to Alfred de Musset. Nevertheless, he has not the melancholy and somewhat sickly look of the great poet. His complexion, tanned by the sea-air, breathes strength and health. His other physical attributes are a keen gaze, a brief manner of address, nervous movements, white hairs, and gray bread.

The author of the "Tour du Monde" owns a pleasure-boat, and passes half his life on the water. This is doubtless the reason why he describes with so much fidelity the hollow sounds of the ocean breaking on its shores, the whistling of the tempest which dashes the spray in your face, the piercing cries of large birds, the groaning of the cables, and the flapping of sails in the wind. At other times, he lays before you the majestic spectacle of the calm sea, the waves of which murmur gently, seeming to bear away on their crests patches of white clouds or of blue sky which are reflected in them.

During the entire summer Jules Verne sails his boat around France, going from Havre to Marseilles, making sometimes one hundred and fifty or two hundred leagues without touching land. He has two sailors under his orders, and he desists only when the sea becomes too rough and his little bark can no longer breast the waves.

He is not the only one of his family who has contracted the taste for journeys. His brother, M. Paul Verne, made the fortuitous ascension of Mont Blanc, under very unusual atmospheric conditions, and nearly lost his life while doing so.

Let us conclude with a sufficiently curious incident which does M. Jules Verne credit:

A few days before the "Tour du Monde" was placed on the stage at the Porte-Saint-Martin, a delegation representing a very well known financial company presented itself at the house of the author, and said to him: "If you will cause your hero, in the piece that is about to be performed, to pass through the country whose loans we are engaged in negotiating, at the same time praising the prosperity of the country, and pointing out that the railroad that crosses it is the most direct medium of travel for a journey around the world, we are charged to offer you a considerable sum of money."

The author of the "Voyages Extraordinaires," who knew by heart all the subtleties and devices of the Bourse, listened coldly to this overture and at its conclusion said laughingly: "No, it is useless to continue. I show the tour of the world, but I don't want to exhibit the trick (tour) to the world."

The delegation retired disappointed.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

GOUNOD is rewriting his five-act opera "Polyeucte."

ADELAIDE Philips will probably have a series of farewell testimonials in Boston.

BARRY Sullivan is giving farewell performances prior to his departure for America.

MRS. ROUSBY will act *Mary Stuart* during her stay at the Lyceum Theatre, New York.

MELLE VICTORIA, the queen of the lofty wire at the Hippodrome, has returned to Europe.

SARDOU is said to contemplate setting up as a banker.

PYGMALION and Galatea was given for the first time, last week at the Royal Opera House, Toronto.

At the Theatre Royal, Montreal, the principal attraction last week was Sappho in Lalla Rookh.

It has been announced that from the 1st of January inst., no French piece will be allowed to be acted in Alsace and Lorraine.

OFFENBACH'S "Madame l'Archiduc," one of his brightest and best operas, is to be brought out in London about Easter.

MISS DOLORES Drummond, an Australian tragedienne, has appeared in London, and is pronounced pleasing and clever.

HANDEL'S "Messiah" was performed at the Grand Opera House, Toronto, last week, with fair success.

MINNIE Hauck is said to have improved immeasurably, but the manner in which she takes breath between the words of her part is much criticised.

JARRET and Palmer, who have bought the steamer Plymouth Rock, are to be presented with a set of colors by the ladies and gentlemen of their company.

MISS LOUISE Moodie, who is talked of in connection with the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York, was the *Bertha* of "The Sphinx" at the Haymarket, London.

BIJOU Heron takes a benefit at the Union League Theatre shortly, acting *Gertrude* in "The Little Treasure," *Nan* in "The Good-for-Nothing," and reciting the chamber scene from "Romeo and Juliet."

AT THE Grand Opera House, Toronto, Fred. Robinson, the English tragedian, has just closed an engagement of two weeks, during which he appeared in Shakspearian drama. He is accompanied by Miss Lee, a pupil of his own.

"GIROFLE-GIROFLA" is to be given at the Park Theatre, New York, by the opera bouffe company sent by Messrs. Grau and Chizola to Havana some time ago. There is a new tenor in M. De Quercy, a new prima donna in Mme. Grotfroy, and M. De Beer and Mlle Gandon are in the troupe.

THOMAS Gaylord, the artist, has returned to New York from Paris for a brief visit. Mr. Gaylord is a brother of Miss Julia Gaylord, the soprano, who is making rapid progress under Wartel Nilsson's maestro and who recently gave a concert, at which all of the prominent Americans in the French capital assisted.