

man's offence is limited, in the woman the offence is conserved, transmitted. Hence his penalty cannot be equal to hers, nor can society treat it as such. Society exists alone by and only in virtue of the common interests of its members. Its maintenance or progress to a higher plane or ideal can only be by the conservation of the physical strength and purity of blood of those who are to be its mothers. Thus the law of absolute chastity is unalterable for either the mother or the prospective mothers of the race.

Can society demand less of the fathers and prospective fathers of the people? Of the first class certainly not less, since, if the physical and ethical progress of mankind, whatever its *resting stages*, whatever its *retrograde metamorphoses* be looked upon as inevitable as any other phenomenon which we behold in the evolution of the world, the very laws of social selection, which have in the ethical realm, in some measure already, and will still more, replace "natural selection," must demand that marriage shall be, and remain, pure, that posterity shall not be defiled or degraded. And so far, indeed, as the unmarried man can be made to realize either by law or ethical development his share in the future of the race, so far will he be enabled through the very instincts, so powerful for evil, and which are the most powerful in individual and social existence to develop those altruistic feelings necessary to the existence of society, viz.: the exertion of strength for the acquisition of property and the foundation of a home, its preparation for the object of his affections, for the offspring of their love, and in a wide sense for all humanity. "On this height man overcomes his natural instinct, and from an inexhaustible spring draws material and inspiration for higher enjoyment, for more earnest work, and the attainment of the ideal." B.

The Gold Miners of British Columbia.

They come not from the sunny, sunny south,
Nor from the Arctic region,
Nor from the east, the busy, busy east,
The where man's name is legion;
But they come from the west, the rugged, rugged west,
From the world's remotest edges;
And their pockets they are filled with the yellow, yellow gold
That they mined in the mountain ledges.

Chorus:

Then, hey, lads, hey, for the mining man so bold,
Who comes from the world's far edges!
And, hey, for the gold, the yellow, yellow gold,
That is stored in the mountain ledges!

They basked not they in balmy tropic shade,
'Neath orange tree and banyan;
But they braved the bush, the torrent and the steep,
By gorge and gulch and canyon.
They would not be held back in cities over desks,
Or among the homestead hedges;
So their pockets now are filled with the yellow, yellow gold
That they mined in the mountain ledges.

They left their homes, their loved ones all behind,
Forsook kind friend and neighbour,
And went to seek the thing of greatest worth,
For gold, rare gold, to labour.
Oh! they bled the old earth—they opened up his veins
With their picks and drills and sledges;
And their pockets now are filled with the yellow, yellow gold,
That they mined in the mountain ledges.

Kaslo, B.C.

W. M. MACKEACHER.

Letters to the Editor.

THE CANADIAN FLAG.

SIR,—Allow me to second cordially Mr. Wickstead's suggestion to remove from the fly of our Dominion flag "the shapeless and undistinguishable menagerie called the arms of Canada," and to "replace it by an emblem of Old France"—the fleur-de-lis. The idea is gracious, the design graceful, and the change would be grateful to our fellow countrymen of French origin. And, moreover, it would, perhaps, tend towards the unification of the Empire.

F. BLAKE CROFTON.

MENTAL ECONOMY.

SIR,—Nine or ten years ago, I was permitted, in the columns of THE WEEK, to call attention to the great science of Mental Economy. I do not claim that my letter was one particularly forcible in argument or diction; but I am inclined to think that, in any case, it would, a decade back, have fallen on an inattentive public ear. To-day there are many who tell us that neither society nor the masses are so enamoured of existing educational systems as they once were; and we have suspicious evidence constantly before our eyes that education, in certain of its aspects, is "pretty uppermost" in the public mind just now. Could a straight gaze at it, its excellencies, and its "very peculiar peculiarities," to use no harsher phrase, by possibility be out of place, or, prejudice aside, be possibly a waste of time? Our examiners, you say, are men of lofty patriotism and untiring energy. Well, grant it. But that is no proof whatever of the soundness of the system under which they work; or of the correctness of results. Besides, if the system is so good, it will bear the fullest scrutiny itself; it will bear looking at all round, and under varied lights.

We have a word—"examination"—what does it mean? What should it mean? After examination we label our men "first-class," "second-class," and so on. Are the first-class men in honours always in reality first-class men? Or are they sometimes below par. Is the man low upon the class list really a man of low intellectual power or industry? History will answer these questions for us; or a glance around at leading men to-day; or at our leading neighbours. Permit a homely illustration. I am employed by government, suppose, to sift a lot of stones, gravel, sand, and sort them into separate heaps according to their size. On inspection of my work, it is discovered that a lot of big stones have been allowed to run through along with sand; what then? Then they would dock me of my pay. I should be pronounced a bungler; and—the important point—I should be told the sieve I used for sifting this time was a valueless machine. And quite right, too. Yet this is just what happens every day in sorting men and classifying them by what we choose to call examinations. Nor has the difficulty of developing a sound or real science of examining—if difficulty exist, which I do not believe—anything to do with the duty of an avowal of weakness in our present plans, if it be obvious, fundamental, or extreme. Of "the matchless Cambridge triumvirate," as it was once called, Cromwell, Newton, Bulwer, the talent of two was wholly undiscovered by the examiners; and they were passed as men of mean ability. I am not praising nor appraising Cromwell's action. I am neither denouncing him as sinner, nor praising him as saint, but he was a man of vast mental powers; and the examiners of that day had not the wit to know it, or to pronounce him liable to be very helpful in his day and generation, or very dangerous. Would present-day examiners, with present plans, be more likely to discover it? Imagine for a moment the first Duke of Marlborough to walk into any examination room in the three kingdoms or the colonies, what could our examiners do with him? There as he stands, with no further preparation, and no cramming up, he is a big man—not morally perhaps, but intellectually—what will you do with him? He could plan a campaign sooner than he could write a letter. English composition was no forte of his in one sense; and in classics he would be nowhere. Are you going to pluck one of your best men? Because, independently of the art of war, or any technical pursuit, or calling, but just as simple citizen, he was, excluding moral considerations, a great man.

If permitted, I shall be happy to show how, in my opinion, an unrecognized science may be made to solve some of the most important problems of practical education for us; problems important to bar and senate, church and state, in medicine, engineering, commerce. I have named but four men, scores will occur doubtless to the reader's mind which would be just as apt for illustration. My remarks, however, are not intended to apply so far, except to the education, examination, classification of the citizen as such, not to training for any technical pursuit or examining.

J. S. COLE.

It is said that an orange sixteen inches in circumference, was taken from a tree at Pomona, Cal. It is to be sent to Europe as a specimen of California fruit.