

THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE WORLD.

Blessings on the hand of woman !
Angels guard its strength and grace,
In the palace, cottage, hovel—
O no matter where the place !
Would that never storms assail it,
Rainbows ever gently curled;
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rocks the world.

Infancy's the tender fountain;
Power thence with beauty flows;
Woman's first the streamlet's guidance,
From its soul with body grows—
Grows on for the good or evil,
Sunlight streamed or tempest hurled
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rocks the world.

Woman how divine your mission
Here upon the natal sod:
Yours to keep the young heart open
To the holy breath of God!
All true triumphs of the ages
Are without mothers' care imperilled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rocks the world.

Blessings on the hand of women !
Father, sons and daughters cry,
And the sacred song is mingled
With the worship in the sky—
Mingles where no tempest darkles,
Rainbows evermore are curled—
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rocks the world.

THE "TIMES" ON THE VOLUNTEERS' VISIT TO BELGIUM.

The following article appeared in the *Times* of Tuesday. We have commented upon in another column:—

"The reception of the English Volunteers in Belgium is very gratifying, but it is also a little embarrassing. They are welcomed with public and private hospitality which can only spring from the most lively goodwill on the part of the Belgians towards England and everything English. Our reports day after day tell the same tale of unceasing festivities and demonstrations. "Everything passes off with the greatest enthusiasm." This year the British "citizen soldiers," about a thousand in number, have paid a week's visit to Ghent before proceeding to attend the National Festival at Brussels, and if the capital is as demonstrative as the provincial town, the heads of a certain portion of the British Reserve Forces are likely to be turned. The old town celebrated their arrival by bursting into a flutter of colors, and a "brilliant combination" of the Belgian flag and the Union Jack was the favorite effect. They march to receive a formal reception in the Hôtel de Ville; handsome bouquets are flung on them in hundreds, until their path is literally strewn with flowers; and the honour of a speech by the Burgomaster is eclipsed by a more charming mode of welcome. Ladies were in waiting with little silver medals, which they attached to the breasts of the Volunteers. The *vin de honneur* is offered "in the way of libations of champagne." A Flemish ode in honour of the occasion celebrates the Britons as "the vigorous offspring of the Queen of the Seas," and "welcome thunders from 10,000 throats." After this it is unnecessary to enumerate banquets, gala concerts, and invitations to the sights of the neighbourhood. But, above all, the King visits Ghent to review the foreign Riflemen and to entertain them. It is not merely that the citizens of the Belgian towns are eager to welcome fellow citizens and fellow volunteers, but from the King to the Burgomaster, the official and administrative authorities of the country offer public honor to their guests.

Our best acknowledgements are due to the Belgians, and in particular to the King,

for their generosity, and for the friendly feeling towards England of which it is the expression. Their eagerness to take any opportunity to display their kindly regard for this country will be highly appreciated. But it is partly for this reason that we cannot avoid the feeling of embarrassment of which we have spoken. The public would be most reluctant to appear in any degree to presume upon the ready sympathies of such enthusiastic allies, and an annual reception of Volunteers in this style seems, we confess, rather more than we ought to accept. We do not know whether the neutralized organization of the Belgian kingdom favors any misunderstanding of the exact position held by the Volunteers in this country. There may be some who imagine that the "citizen soldiers" of Great Britain are sent over by special order of the Lord Mayor to promote the "brilliant combination" of the Union Jack and the Belgian colours, and sooner or later some disappointment may be felt at the discovery that the customs of our civil and municipal authorities do not facilitate any proportional return for the reception afforded our supposed representatives. But the Belgians do their best to render any official attraction superfluous. It is satisfactory that those who manage the visit on this side of the water have limited the number of Volunteers who can be allowed to attend. A visit to Brussels is at most times an agreeable holiday, and when it can be combined with a little sport, a great deal of festivity, and a very economical expenditure, it must offer irresistible attractions to a large class of those who comprise our Volunteer Corps. Who would not go to Brussels to be decorated by the Belgian ladies, to dine with the King, and to be compelled by the liberality of the Belgians to spend as little money as possible? It is satisfactory to learn that the Volunteers who have gone over this year will, as a body, well sustain the reputation of English Riflemen. Many of them are said to have won the Queen's Badge at Wimbledon, and most are marksmen. It is also gratifying that there has been scarcely any exception to their uniform good behaviour. But the Volunteers have no specific claim to represent England and Englishmen in the midst of a foreign population. No responsible authority superintends the selection of the men or of the corps who are to go. A thousand Volunteers, either because they like a holiday on the Continent or because they care for rifle shooting, or for any other private reason choose to nominate themselves to be the recipients of Belgian hospitality. We have no doubt the majority of them do credit to the country they represent, but it is not the less inconvenient to run the risk of their being less competent to discharge this duty than may have hitherto appeared. There is hardly another nation in the world capable of understanding the peculiarly free position held by our Volunteers, and in countries organized on the French model it is almost sure to be misapprehended. The relations between this country and Belgium might at any moment involve delicate considerations, and unauthorized fraternizations between soldiers of the two countries might lead to some unfortunate misunderstandings. The exuberant enthusiasm of the Belgian reception seems, in short, to indicate a somewhat undue appreciation of the importance of the stray thousand guests in uniform who have been attracted to the capital. These gentlemen, it should at least be understood, are neither the British Nation, nor the British Army, nor even the British Reserve Forces. They are simply individual Volunteers who have chosen to contend in the

Belgian rifle matches. Many of them are probably as sensible as the public of the embarrassment of their position, and would be extremely sorry if their real character were misunderstood. They will not think it any disparagement to them if we point out that their visit is a purely personal matter.

"We are bound to prevent, so far as we can, any misunderstanding on this point, but we must repeat that we are none the less sensible of the honour done us by the Belgians in their readiness even to exaggerate the claims of our countrymen on their attention. There is, no doubt, as the Burgomaster of Brussels observed, a natural sympathy between the two countries in some points of their genius in their institutions. But the public sympathy of the Belgians is probably prompted still more strongly by a sense that there are close political ties between England and Belgium. A recent incident has served to revive this sentiment, and it is substantially a just one. Belgium owes a great deal, from the commencement of her independent existence, to English statesmanship. Even before that time the interests of the two nations had been closely united, and there is a strong feeling in England in favor of a little State which is at once constitutional, commercial, and gallant. The self-defence, and the spirit of the population would be equal to any emergency. They have, beyond question, encountered during the last year or two some ominous warnings, and it is not surprising if they look to England with increased attention. But this is, perhaps, an additional reason for not making too much of a visit which must, after all, be one of mere pleasure and private amusement. For once and always a brilliant reception of English Volunteers in Belgium and of Belgians in England furnished a graceful recognition of the fellow-feeling of the two nations. But we are not equal to annual festivities ourselves on the scale now being exhibited in Brussels, and we fear Wimbledon would afford but inadequate return for Ghent. We wish the Volunteers, in short, another pleasant week at Brussels, but we trust they will do nothing to encourage their hosts to put any but this obvious construction on the meaning of their visit.

The following says the *London Army and Navy Gazette*, is now the rule of the Board at sea: For steamships—A steamship, having another end on, shall port (her helm); a steamship having another on her port side, shall starboard, and stop (if not sure). For sailing ships—A sailing ship on the port tack shall give way to a sailing ship on the starboard tack; a sailing ship with the wind free, shall give way to a sailing ship close hauled, when two sailing ships, each with the wind free, meet on opposite courses, the ship with the wind on port side shall pass to leeward of the ship with the wind on the starboard side. The French government has just issued the subjoined, which we give in its original graphic version:—"Eva éviter les abordages en mer.—Pour les bateaux à vapeur—Si on a une autre en avant en direction de laquelle, il faut mettre la barre à babord. Si on a une autre à l'arrière, il faut mettre la barre à tribord. Si on a une autre à main droite, il faut mettre la barre à tribord. Si on n'est pas sûr, il faut s'arrêter. Et si on ne peut pas changer. Pour les bateaux à voiles.—Le même qu'il y a été auparavant avant 1862."