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Mrs. Trollope Out-done.

A MR. EDGAR L. WAKEMAN has been contributing a series of articles, under the title of "Wakeman's Wanderings," to an American newspaper syndicate; as several Canadian journals republish these articles each week they will be familiar to many of our readers. While they are well written and full of interest, the statements are exaggerated and the facts much distorted. A recent article on "The Lowly of Liverpool" is one of the latest instances of continued misstatement, and we would warn our readers against placing much faith in it. Any one reading the article would infer that Liverpool was a city whose population consisted almost wholly of a vast mass of down-trodden, miserable wretches, devoted to vice and drink, and not only without means of self-improvement, but totally lacking any effort on the part of the wealthy to better the condition of the lower class. Such a conclusion is entirely inaccurate. Most cities of the Old World are, from their age and limited area, naturally less capable of modern improvement than are those of America; but to suppose that the people of the great cities of England have fewer advantages and means of self-improvement or recreation is absurd, and only entertained by those ignorant of that country. Free libraries, free picture galleries and free classes of instruction exist there to a far greater degree than in the United States, and are used to a proportionately greater extent; while in recreation,—cricket, football and athletic sports generally are engaged in by the average mechanic in every English country to an extent that would astonish the ordinary wage-worker in America. It is unnecessary to here deal with MR. WAKEMAN'S statements *re* Liverpool in detail; denials and corrections would be too numerous for our limited space. It is sufficient to say that the average clerk there, the average working-man or working-woman, is as well off in most things, and better off in many, than he would be in Yankeedom; works shorter hours and has more chance for amusement or study. As for drinking customs, they are much the same the world over, excepting that while the Englishman drinks gin and bitter beer, the American drinks whiskey

and lager. A humid climate such as prevails in the British Isles permits a much greater indulgence in the drinking habit with comparative impunity.

A Distracted Republic.

The fall of BALMACEDA will be hailed with delight from every quarter. Considering the size and influence of Chili, the war that has been raging along her coasts and harbours, and to a lesser degree, on her shores, has attracted much attention, probably because it was practically the only "unpleasantness" going on in the world at the time; details of the various engagements and movements have appeared in the principal journals, and the English illustrated papers have devoted considerable space to engravings of the combats and combatants. On the ground of suffering humanity alone—apart from other interests—is the downfall of the Chilian dictator a boon to mankind. A more cruel and vindictive wretch does not exist. Since his election in 1886, he has retained power largely by means of personal intimidation, stopping at no means or measures, however revolting, to gain his ends. Since the breaking out of the revolution, now so likely to be successful, he and his myrmidons have been especially active in maltreating and torturing any whom they suspected as being in sympathy with the revolutionary party. Most of these cases will probably never be made public, but enough has been told to stamp BALMACEDA as a brute, and deserving prompt suspension from a gallows—a fate he will doubtless experience if caught. Tortures not unlike those of the Inquisition seem to have been freely inflicted on those suspected of complicity with the Congressionalists, the latest instance published being the experience of a gentleman named BARAHONA, who was thought to be favourable to the revolutionary party and to know the names of its leaders in his district. He was placed in irons, taken to a dungeon, and his arms tied together with ropes which were then twisted until every bone in his arms and chest was dislocated and broken; this was followed by other tortures a recital of which we will spare our readers. This case is only one of many, all under orders or concurred in by this worthy republican President. On commercial and political grounds also will the victory of GENERAL CANTO be welcome. Since the war broke out British commerce with Chili—which controlled nearly one-half of her total trade—has almost entirely ceased, involving a loss of millions of pounds; if the capture of Valparaiso results in the surrender of the remainder of BALMACEDA'S army, peace is ensured, and trade will once more flow through its accustomed channels. From the very beginning of hostilities, the entire press of Britain, Germany and France has pronounced strongly in favour of the revolutionists, voicing very fairly public sentiment on the question; the ultimate success of that party will therefore throw the new administration in immediate sympathy with those three great nations, which cannot but materially aid the country in recovering from the effects of a bloody civil war. In every respect the hopes of Chili for peace, for the return of prosperity, and for amicable relations with foreign countries depend on GENERAL CANTO'S success, which, at present seems almost assured.

The New York Catastrophe.

The recent horrible disaster at Park Place, New York, by which some 80 lives were lost, is a huge warning to us in Montreal and Toronto; not that our buildings are as a usual thing put up so

hastily as to merit a like fate, but that the negligence that in the New York case was the direct cause of the disaster is getting only too common on this side of the line. It is scarcely credible that a building that had been officially condemned years ago should, in a large and wealthy city like New York, be permitted to stand, tenanted day after day by scores of human beings, and its flimsy floors loaded with heavy lithographic presses and stones. An exhibition of gross official boodling,—such as the wilful neglect to strengthen or rebuild the place certainly was—should quiet much of the pride expressed by New Yorkers when discussing rival civic merits; there is not a city in Europe, even in its worst-governed and least civilized States, in which such a thing could happen. Close to the headquarters of New York officialism, it stood day after day under the eyes of Mayor, Inspectors and hosts of officers, bearing the heavy strain of great weight and jarring machinery, until the fatal hour when it could no longer support the load, but crashed down into fragments, burying so many of its occupants. And to what was this due? Some good men might call it an "accident," a "visitation of God." Nothing of the kind. The loss of every life resulting from the fall of that building is directly blameable to the atrocious civic government under which New York groans; to the existence of a "family compact" of officials bred under Tammany influence, and retained under Tammany systems, whose sole object is to make money, regardless of duty or of regard for the interests of the citizens. Not a city of Europe, scarcely another city in America, would retain such an army of boodlers; but the people of New York cannot get rid of them. They are voted into office by a Board of Aldermen who are themselves elected by the most ignorant and most careless class—not American but foreign—who hold the balance of power there. Until the electorate is placed on the basis of property or of stake in civic interests—until a system is evolved by which the men who have most financial interest in the community have most votes,—civic matters will always be at the mercy of the mob. Canada is just as liable to misrule and consequent disaster in this respect as the United States; and too much care cannot be given by civic rulers and civic officials to duties in which human life is involved, and where negligence might entail a catastrophe similar to that of Park Place. Is every factory building in Montreal and Toronto periodically inspected during working hours? Are the date and results of such inspections entered in books which are open to the public scrutiny? If not, they certainly ought to be; and the press and public should insist on such simple measures being carried out. It is absolutely essential that building inspectors be thoroughly trained architects, conversant with every detail of construction and the capabilities of lofty buildings under heavy strain. The great mass of our mechanics and artisans have a right to demand

CHRISTMAS.

It may seem rather premature to talk about Christmas in this hot weather, but we wish to impress on our readers the fact that we intend issuing early in December, the most superb holiday souvenir that has yet been offered to the Canadian public. In supplements, it will be unusually rich presenting features that have never been approached by any paper, while in general artistic and literary excellence it will be the event of the season.