

breathed upon, and the wind was like a blast from the hell of the old Scandinavian mythology.

THE PECULIARITIES OF THE SWEDES, LAPPS, AND FINNS.

The lecturer, leaving the physical and climatic peculiarities of the North, gave a description of the people by whom it was inhabited. Between the Swedes and the Norwegians he would not attempt to draw any very minute description, as they were alike in most essential points, but the Finns and the Lapps presented more points of difference. The first impression made upon him by the people was that of splendid animal health, and those qualities usually connected with health, frankness, directness of character, cheerfulness, contentment, and a freedom from perverted passions. Without being actually handsome, either in face or in form, they were tall and athletic, with clear blue eyes, which seemed to reflect the color of their native skies, and complexions as fresh and as rosy as the morn. He had never seen a more simple, honest, and unsophisticated class of men. Perfectly honest, they were without mistrust, taking it for granted that everybody was equally honest; very kindly and friendly, were yet undemonstrative, and at first sight appeared cold; but they were no milksops, and beneath that cold exterior still sometimes blazed out the fierce passions which in the South were no stronger, but less under control.

On turning round the corner of the Gulf of Bothnia, they came into Finland, and instead of Swedish forms they had the shorter frames of the Finns. What particularly struck him respecting the Finns was a certain Orientalism shewn in their language, which is Asiatic in character, the only European language having any affinity with it being the Magyar or Hungarian. In other respects, too, they gave indications of being of Eastern origin, and it was curious to find so much of the Orient reproduced within the Arctic circle. The Finns were less frank and open-hearted than the Swedes, but more picturesque, with more light and shade of character. They were passionate, and therefore prone to excess; imaginative, and therefore prone to superstition; but the religious element seemed now to have become their only safety-valve for their imagination.

Drunkenness had now almost entirely disappeared, consequent on the exertions of the Swedish missionaries, who made temperance a part of their religious instruction. Their notions of propriety were curiously contradicted; for while both sexes made use of the vapour bath at the same time, and the usual form of salutation was by a close embrace with the right arm, yet a kiss even from a husband to his wife was considered as an outrageous breach of propriety. Still further north than the Finns and the Swedes, were the Lapps, who might be considered as the natural and proper inhabitants of that inhospitable clime. Where they came from had not been satisfactorily determined, but to see them one would be very much inclined to say, with Topsy, that they never came from anywhere, but grew there. He found them neither so small or so ugly as he was led to expect. He found most of the men to measure five feet four inches, or even more, and some of them reached nearly six feet, and he saw in Stockholm the skeleton of a girl which reached the astonishing height of seven feet eight. In one respect, he found them less interesting and picturesque than he expected. They had lost nearly all traces of their ancient mythology, which had disappeared before the advances of the Christian religion. The lecturer then gave a lively description of the animal upon whom the existence of the Laps actually depended, namely, the reindeer; its peculiarities, its adaptability to the various needs of a polar climate, and the great variety of the uses to which its bones and sinews, and skin, were turned; its wonderful sagacity in picking its way without the slightest hesitation across a trackless waste of snow, when the path lay several feet below the surface, and when the drifting snow instantly filled up all marks of previous travel. He then recounted his feelings during the long winter night of the Arctic region, and the delight with which he hailed the return of the sun and of the white light of the day; and then of the effect of the summer day, when the perpetual daylight produced, after a little, the feeling of chronic fatigue and sleepless restlessness, which were almost insupportable. "I never," said he, "experienced a more delightful sense of refreshment than when, after a month of daylight, the blessed old night came back again, and covered me up while I slept, as a mother covers up her restless child." The lecturer closed by saying that science and civilization would never receive any very important aid from beyond the parallel of sixty. Nevertheless, it was cheering to find even there, where men lived under such discouraging circumstances, that love for each other, trust in each other, and faith in God, were all vital among them; and their shortcomings were so few and so easily accounted for, that one could respect them, and feel that his faith in man was increased by knowing them. Those who spent their whole lives at home could not understand how much real good there was in the human race. God had created no race of men, as no individual, entirely bad. He neglected none of his child-

ren, and upon the frozen shores of Lapland, as well as the sunny lands of the South, rested alike his benediction, his mercy, and his infinite love.—*Leader Report.*

II. Papers on a Truancy Law.

1. EXTRACT FROM JUDGE HAGARTY'S LATE CHARGE.

I cannot omit alluding to a subject always brought most painfully to my mind on an occasion like the present. The streets of Toronto, like those of too many other towns, still present the miserable spectacle of idle, untaught children, male and female—a crop too rapidly ripening for the dram-shop, the brothel and the prison—and that too under the shadow of spacious and admirably kept school houses, into which all may enter free of cost. Most nobly does Toronto provide the means of free education. About twenty-six thousand dollars is annually raised by assessment, besides the amount levied for Roman Catholic Separate Schools. The Government grants swell the total to about thirty-two thousand dollars. Such an expenditure in a population of under 50,000, might be fairly expected to ensure the blessings of education to all. Every person acquainted with the worst classes of our poor is aware of the extreme difficulty in inducing them to permit their children to attend school. They will retain them to gather wood for fuel, to beg from door to door, in short for any thing in preference to the free education so liberally provided. Now as has been frequently repeated, it is from this class our young criminals often spring—it is this class we are chiefly interested in humanizing by education—and in this way we are supposed to receive more than an equivalent for our enforced contributions to the maintenance of schools. It is to be feared that the majority of persons content themselves with the assurance that as we devote a very large annual sum to provide free education to all, nothing more can be expected—and a still greater obstacle to improvement is the tendency of others to denounce every suggestion of a possible defect in the system in large towns, as emanating from a bigoted dislike of the Common School System, and as treason to the noble cause of Free Education. But year after year the great evil continues unabated, and those whose heavy responsibility it is to act as Judges or Jurors in Criminal Courts naturally ask if such things are always to be. It was a work of centuries to teach nations that their duty towards their criminals extended beyond punishment. The labors and lives of great and good men and women, and a wider knowledge of social economy, but above all a nobler appreciation of the spirit of that Gospel which preached deliverance to the pressmen and captives, have at last awakened us to the belief that the reformation of the offenders is at least as important to society as punishment. I trust there are many listening to me who will live to see the day when we shall cease to feel perfectly satisfied in having done all that was required of us in providing a very large sum to offer free education to all who voluntarily seek its blessings—leaving that unhappy class most in need of them to follow in vicious idleness their own broad path that leadeth to destruction, whatever may be the various opinions as to the true remedy. I may venture to express my hope that the Grand Jurors of these Counties will join in the earnest desire that means may be devised of extending to our long neglected juvenile vagrants some humanizing benefit from the many thousands of pounds which the public generously contribute for the purpose of education.

2. A VISIT TO THE REFORMATORY SCHOOL AT PENETANGUISHENE.

As one of the great disciplinarian institutions of the country, the Reformatory, besides its own local attraction, should be understood as being now in full vigour and active usefulness—thoroughly organized, and as far as the already limited accommodation admits, doing a good work towards regenerating the evil tendencies of the youth now incarcerated within its walls.

It is hardly necessary to state that the Reformatory, or old garrison, occupies a pleasant position on the east side of Penetanguishene Bay, at the foot of a picturesque slope, and in full command of an extensive view of the Georgian waters, with its numerous islands. The drive from the village of Pentanguishene, a distance of three miles, is such a one as readily calls to mind some of the more rural approaches to ancient fortresses in the old country, being thickly lined with the cottages of the pensioners, some of them very tastefully decorated, and all possessing that quaint appearance that in itself indicates the residence of the "old soldier." We were conducted to the grounds by W. M. Kelly, Esq., the Warden, who took the greatest pains to point out and explain what has been done, and what still requires to be done for the efficiency of the institution. The reserve consists of two hundred acres, now being fenced, and a portion put in order for