

deed Mr. Jones, who is an artist, will hardly be recognized by some as "a working man." We must enlarge our notions of work, if he and we are to be excluded from the workers. Perhaps we may go further, and say that the old class distinctions which have become so much diminished, are on the point of vanishing, and that every one who loves his kind must help them to vanish, and so hasten forward the time predicted by the poet of humanity, "when man to man the world o'er shall brothers be." WILLIAM CLARK.

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Something About Flags.

A LETTER of Mr. Richard J. Wicksteed, published in THE WEEK of the 25th September, revives the controversy that took place some months ago on the subject of a Dominion Flag. Mr. Wicksteed, as he says, not only re-opens the controversy, but undertakes to bring forward fresh proposals, supported by new arguments in favour of what he terms a "novel flag."

His proposition is "to remove with contempt the shapeless and undistinguishable menagerie called the arms of Canada, from the fly of the British ensign, and replace it with some easily detected symbol or emblem of Old France—France as it was in 1759. France when it possessed and governed Canada."

As an argument for introducing some symbol or emblem of Old France into the Canadian flag, Mr. Wicksteed quotes as a precedent that Edward the Third of England, who conquered France in 1340, quartered the arms of France (viz., golden fleurs-de-lys on a blue field) on the armorial shield of England.

He then, after stating as a fact that George the Second of England conquered French Canada, proceeds: "Let us of British descent in 1896, place the arms of Old France on the flag of Old Canada, in token of conquest, if you will; but rather place them there as a recognition of the value of that nationality to us and our respect for the same." I differ "toto caelo" from Mr. Wicksteed in the conclusion he has arrived at and in the force of the argument he advances in support of the same. I would not like to see any symbol of Old France or New France on the flag of the Dominion intertwined with the arms of Canada or of England if for no other reason than that such a symbol might serve to remind the French-Canadians of the conquest of French Canada by Britain, nor would I like to see it so intertwined as a recognition of that nationality by us and our respect for the same. I have as much respect for that nationality as any one, but at the same time do not think that the introduction of the French symbol would be the proper form in which to show that respect or as a recognition of French nationality.

The "tri-colour" is the present national flag of France, and has been for the whole period since the French Revolution, except in 1814 and from 1815 when the king was again, after the Revolution, seated on the throne of France, and until 1830. The "tri-colour" flag is sometimes displayed by the French Canadians on public occasions; if they choose to display it I see no objection, in view of the fact that it is so displayed to mark their French origin, although many do object to it as an insult to the British flag. I do not so regard it, as I believe the French-Canadians to be a loyal people, as shown in many instances, as Mr. Wicksteed well remarks, since the conquest, or, as the French-Canadians put it, since the French king surrendered the country to Great Britain. Let us have a thoroughly British-Canadian flag which shall express the British and Canadian conjunction, not French or English, as the emblem of our Dominion. An ex-captain of the Lake merchant service, residing in Toronto, has devised such a flag, which I have before me, which seems to meet the case, and I thank the captain for extending me the courtesy of placing it in my hands and permitting me to avail myself of it in this communication.

The flag is in three conjoined strips, fess or horizontal, not vertical, with a Union Jack at the corner, on the upper or red strip next the staff, the white or centre strip strewn with maple leaves quite separate from each other and a crown well marked on the lower or blue strip.

We have here the Union Flag or Union Jack indicating our British nationality, the maple leaves in sufficient number if necessary to point to all the provinces, and sufficiently Canadian to mark our Canadianism, French or English, and the

crown to show that we are subjects of a monarchy and not a republic. There are no stars or stripes about this, no "tri-colour or fleurs-de-lys;" all is British and Canadian combined.

Supersensitive Francophobists or Franco-Canadianphobists may take exception to this flag because of the three colours, red, white and blue, the same as the French tri-colour; but such persons must remember that these colours are not exclusively the property of the French, but are the distinguishing marks of the Flag of the United Service, the British Army and Navy, celebrated in the much-prized song, "The Red, White and Blue." I am not learned in French flags, but consulting J. McGregor's work on "Flags," published by Blackie, of Edinburgh, in 1881, I find it stated that in 1794 it was ordained by a French decree, "That the French national flag should be formed of the three national colours, red, white and blue in equal bands placed *vertically*, the hoist being blue, the centre white, the fly red; that this flag continued to be the flag of the French "Army and Navy during the Empire. On the return of the king in 1814, and again in 1815, it was abolished and the white flag restored, but the tri-colour was reintroduced in 1830, and it has remained in use since." If it is as Mr. McGregor states, then the bands in the French national flag should be vertical, and not horizontal, as in the flag presented by the ex-captain, which I propose as an amendment to Mr. Wicksteed's conception and to all of those which have gone before which were very meritorious but do not quite come up to my idea. There is no danger of the flag I present being taken for the French tri-colour, not only because of the different disposition of the bands or strips being horizontal, and not vertical as in the French flag, but because of the distinguishing marks of the Union Jack and of the Crown.

Agreeing as I do with Mr. Wicksteed in that paragraph of his letter to THE WEEK, wherein he states that Canada, yes America, owes much to the French and the French-Canadians, I am not prepared to go as far as he does in mixing up our flag with the flag of Old France and the "Fleurs-de-lys."

D. B. READ.

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Parisian Affairs.

IT was worth while inducing the Czar to visit Paris, if only to secure the general cleansing and brushing up of the public statues. These now look nearly as good as new; such as are entitled to fresh wreaths have received them. Of decorations, a few are not in the best of taste and suggest a little the necro-tributes to be encountered in the cemeteries. After the solemn entry into Paris, beneath floral arches, and along lines of troops equalling in number a *corps d'armée*, the next great day will be the visit to Versailles. As the Empress has a veritable passion for Marie Antoinette souvenirs, halting apartments, in which to rest and lunch, will be prepared for their Majesties, composed of the very rooms the unfortunate queen occupied and furnished with the actual upholstery she used. Pending the repast, selections of her favourite airs will be executed. Indeed, the one she liked best was the swinging, rollicking "Carmagnole," or Communists' Jig. This she enjoyed in her private apartments in the attic of the palace, and where none were permitted to enter, not even Louis XVI. himself, without being invited. It was there she romped with girlish delight. Their Russian Majesties may have a gondola paddle upon the lake, or "Swisse," up to the Trianon. From the palace windows they will see the fountains play; at Paris, they will from a balcony of the Hotel de Ville be able to witness a Parisian sea of up-turned faces; at the Trocadero, from a specially built Russo-Kiosque, they will enjoy the display of fireworks on the Champ de Mars.

The Opera and the Theatre Français are still undecided about the representations to be given; in any case the bill of fare will be short and sweet. As the Czar prefers choral to instrumental music, hence why the "Russian Hymn" will be chanted, not played. In the Russian churches, where nothing but vocal music is to be heard, the singing is very sweet. Why not "sing" at ceremonies more frequently "God Save the Queen," and "God Bless the Prince of Wales"? The State will meet all the expenses of the imperial visit. But France is still able to pay for her glory. Not less than 150,000 frs. alone have been expended to take down, momentarily, the scaffolding round the Arc de Tri-