

munerative, except under high protective duties, which duties make the cost of living high in the country, and really lessen the inducement to immigrants to settle. Clothing is dear, and the implements of the farmer, too, are raised in price."

Is that a fair statement of things in Canada to day? If Mr. Ashton had taken the pains to enquire what the cost of living was in Canada eighteen years ago, and contrasted it with the cost to-day, he would have found that notwithstanding our protective duties the necessities of life—and many luxuries too—are, as a matter of fact, much cheaper now than they were then. So well do we all know this, that even many of the Liberal Party, who have consistently opposed the National Policy, declare that our manufacturers need not fear that a change of Government would materially affect the present tariff. It is only another instance of facts upsetting theories.

In attempting to shew how we are to make up our revenue if we adopt Free Trade Mr. Ashton is forced to admit that there will be a sum amounting to at least £883,523 unprovided for. And how would he provide for it? He says (p. 33) it might be met "by a Property and Income tax, and a resort to a Succession Duty, as in the United Kingdom, which appears to be a rich source of revenue."

He seems to be quite unaware that, apart from any other objections, the Dominion has no power to impose any such duties, which fall within the jurisdiction of Provincial Legislatures.

But perhaps the most shadowy of all Mr. Ashton's proposals is that which relates to the Defence Fund.

No scheme of Imperial Union would be complete without some provision to meet the urgent necessities of national defence. Mr. Ashton proposes a contribution by the Colonies of £2,000,000 a year; but he does not, like Mr. Colmer, suggest that British taxpayers find half the amount.

The means by which it is to be raised are put thus:

"It may be asked where the funds are to come from to pay the £2,000,000 towards the fleet. *The answer is clear. From the increasing prosperity that will inevitably follow on the fiscal policy, explained in the former part of this essay.*"

We feel ourselves totally unable to follow this flight of imagination.

Mr. Ashton's scheme concludes with a suggestion, somewhat similar to Mr. Colmer's, only much more definite, for the formation of an Imperial Fiscal Union Council, consisting of members representing the United Kingdom and its self-governing Colonies, to administer the Defence Fund and to advise on Imperial Defence and matters concerning Trade.

Such, in outline, are the proposals of the two Prize Essays.

Mr. Colmer's will be warmly applauded by such of the Colonies as desire to take everything and give little or nothing. Mr. Ashton's will only suit Englishmen. But each of the essays is replete with information, and will amply repay perusal.

Messrs. H. S. Stone & Co., of Chicago, announce for publication early in June a story whose title is "The Boy Called Checkers. A Hard-luck-Story." The author's name is Henry M. Blossom, Jr. Mr. Blossom, who is a St. Louis man, is known as the author of "The Documents in Evidence," that clever little skit which was printed with such ingenuity of plan. This new story is said to be both of the city and the country. In the former case it is a careful study in dialect, and it is said to be the first faithful presentation of the real speech of the sidewalks. In the latter case it is a simple pathetic story. Through the whole runs a constant under current of satire.

A Colloquy on Browning.

On "First Looking Into" the One-Volume Cambridge Edition.

And this, sir, you say is "complete,"—Robert Browning from cover to cover,
Some fair pound or so of his poems, all tool-turned, embossed,
and gilt-burnished;
His thousand and one odd pages of women and men, love and lover,
With all that a thousand, or one, ever hoped, thought, or acted,
there furnished;
Well, I take it; with payment, my thanks, for 'tis reason
my thanks I should proffer;
You are right, sir; we bookworms are 'ware when a good
yet a new thing you offer.

"A great bard," did you say? (thanks, the change is correct) but I
surely shall call him
Not bard, which is fit for mere singers, but more than a singer,
a seer;
For who, with mere eye and soul-sense, ever saw, or did dream that
he saw, dim,
The all of life's tragedy hopeless, the whole of its ecstasy, fear;
And traced it in letters enduring, life breathing and full
at his portals,
And left man wide-orbed with wonder, we purblind and
soulless, dull mortals.

So call him not seer nor bard, such names fit the green laurel-
wearer;
No laureate he, yet a greater scarce glowed with the Spirit's
soft unction;
I venture—the Sole One, our Author, saw gloom o'er the earth, He
a bearer
Of light to its tingling soul-facets, sent Browning fulfilling His
function.
Stars of magnitude now are agleam, whose light reached
us after much waiting;
High and calm ranged the sixteen odd volumes, few were
sold; one the public's now baiting.

To the bookman, "Good-day;" and I wander, a conflict beginning
within me
(For once let the soul see or grasp all it's longed for to have or to
cherish,
Straight the struggle of old doth revive, for a Something beyond
and above fee;)
With Ben Ezra I wait, trust my Evelyn, with Childe Roland the
brave could I perish,
Feel life's hope and despair in one song, and tune life to a
song with its fellow;
These are mine—Browning's soul's mine when clear—but
what shall I say of Sordello!

REUBEN BUTCHART.

* * *

The United Empire Loyalists.

THE class of Britons called U. E. Loyalists are better known to the present generation than to several previous generations. In fact, after the war of 1812-14, little was heard about them for several decades. Although at the commencement of the American rebellion of 1776 there were in the thirteen revolting colonies more loyalists than rebels, yet from the fortuitous circumstances of the conflict and the final result, the loyalists gradually ceased to be spoken of or thought about. The adherents of the lost cause in a few years sank out of sight; those who returned to England were merged in the general mass of people; those who remained in America were lost sight of in the wilds of the forests while engaged in laying the foundation of the Dominion of Canada. While the successful rebels as a new nation lost no opportunity, nor omitted any means to recount and perpetuate the deeds of the revolutionary heroes and vindictively siezing confiscated property, the unfortunate loyalists had more than enough to do to procure the bare necessities of life. At the same time they had carried with them to their rude homes few, if any, records of their deeds of daring in fighting to prevent the dismemberment of the British Empire, and of the losses they had sustained. They, as well as the victorious Americans, had taken part in making the old colonies prosperous; but the recognition of the independence of the United States left them aliens to the independent, persecuted and driven from their homes. No wonder that in time the loyalists were forgotten by the world, or only remembered and spoken of by the Americans with derision and scorn, and by many others as an unfor-