

came wearisome, and her heart grew heavy beneath its weight of jewels. She had offered Essex a last chance for life. Would his pride yield? Would he take advantage of his mother's visit to forward the ring that she had given him years before, as a pledge that, in any extremity, she would be merciful to him? She began to fear that he might still hold out, that his haughty pride would bend only beneath the keen edge of the axe. Then another doubt entered her heart and fired it with fierce passions again.

What if Essex no longer possessed the ring? What if he had parted with her gift as a love token to some other woman? This doubt became insupportable; and, as she stood there in all the pomps of her regal state, it fastened on her like a bird of prey; she could not shake it off; and when Elizabeth returned to her closet hours after, she was almost as much an object of compassion as the wretched woman whom she had for gotten there.

The Countess of Essex had been alone in that gorgeous little room all the time that Elizabeth was occupied with her court. The torturing suspense of each miserable hour as it crept by, no pen can describe. She had neither strength nor courage to go away, and seating herself upon one of the crimson chairs, remained motionless and heart-sick, waiting for her destiny.

It came at last, for the old queen entered her cabinet, having dismissed her ladies in waiting at the door. She too was suffering the stern torture of suspense, and had come there for rest and solitude. The unhappy Countess arose as she saw the queen. Her clasped hands dropped meekly downwards, and her lips grew palid, as she was preparing herself for some cruel taunt, some bitter sneer, from the royal lips.

But if Elizabeth could have found it in her heart to increase the affliction that oppressed the poor suppliant, she had not time for such cruelty.

Soberly had she reached her hair, when an aged gentlewoman of the bedchamber opened the door and announced—

"The Lady Blunt, Countess Dowager of Leicester."

This lady seemed completely exhausted with the terrible sorrows of that weary day. She approached the queen, tottering in her walk, and knelt at her feet.

"Well," said Elizabeth, sharply, for she was anxious almost as the suppliant at her feet, "our order admitted you, doubtless—and your son; felt he a proper sense of our clemency in granting the visit?"

"He was grateful, and upon his bended knees besought many a blessing upon the mistress who could thus send comfort to an offending servant. He—"

"But the ring—the ring! Why talk of lesser things, woman? If Essex is in truth penitent, he has sent the ring given with our own hand, under a solemn pledge of mercy, even though his crime were deserving death. If he has sent the ring, render it up at once. It should plead his cause against our whole council—nay, against all England!"

"Alas, alas!" said the Countess, "he gave me no ring!"

"Nor mentioned one," said the queen, still in a sharp, anxious voice.

"Nor mentioned one," was the faint and heart broken reply.

"Then God have mercy upon him, for I will have none!"

Elizabeth stopped as she spoke, and took up the roll of parchment, which still lay where she had trampled it on the carpet. She laid it upon the silver cabinet, slowly smoothing it out with both hands, very pale those hands were, and so also was her face, but every feature seemed locked with force resolution; she was calm and stern as death.

When the parchment was smoothed Elizabeth took a pen from the standish before her, and, without a tremor or the pause of a moment, wrote her signature. A cry of terrible anguish broke from the two women as they saw her take up the pen, and they cast themselves at her feet, clinging wildly to her robe.

Elizabeth took no heed, but appended the usual bold flourishes to her signature, and touched a little bell that stood upon the cabinet.

"Take this to the Lord Chancellor, and say that the great seal is affixed," she said to the person who entered—"then conduct these ladies from the palace, and see that they enter it no more."

"That parchment," cried the Countess of Essex, following the man, as he went forth,

with her wild eyes—"Great queen, in mercy say it is not—it is not—"

The wretched wife could not finish the question that she had begun; her lips seemed turned to ice, and her breath choked her. "It is the Earl of Essex's death warrant," said Elizabeth, rising sternly—"Go!" She lifted her withered finger, and pointed toward the door.

The young wife knelt motionless, frozen as it were with the horrid truth that had been told her, but the mother of Essex stood up; her lips were ashen; her eyes had a terrible light in them.

"Elizabeth of England, the Great God of Heaven will call you to judgment for this act."

Before the queen had rallied from the awe with which these words had filled even her undaunted spirit, Lady Blunt had raised her daughter-in-law from the floor.

"My daughter, let us go. Henceforth, we must only trust to the God who will avenge us."

A moment after and the old queen was alone.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**VOLUNTEER, Fergus.**—The Russian army is supplied with the Berdan rifle. It is described as an excellent firearm.

**NORTH OXLOW, Que.**—Will the party who sent \$1.12 in a letter bearing above post-mark kindly send name, and state what the money is for?

**A. McD., Brandon.**—We do not think there is any law by which a party could be fined for going from house to house using a silver-plating machine.

**G. E. BROCKLEHURST, 7 Union Avenue.**—Will you please give the Publisher your post office? For want of it no books or other answer can be sent to you.

**KARL.**—You had better put your case in the hands of a regular physician and place him in a position to know all about the disease. Without such knowledge any opinion will be of very little value, indeed.

**PUZZLED, Barrie.**—The Saskatchewan River is higher in midsummer than in the spring, because the snow on the Rocky Mountains, where the sources of the river are found, does not begin to melt to any extent until July and August.

**ANXIOUS, Port Elgin.**—We prefer not to express a very decided opinion upon the merits or demerits of the new Franchise Bill. You will find reliable and trustworthy information upon the subject in the party papers, which are discussing the points of the Bill so "calmly and dispassionately."

**STAPLETON, Arthur.**—The antecedents of the late General Gordon have been for generations soldiers. His great grandfather fought at Prestonpans, and his grandfather was with Wolfe at Quebec. His father, Lieut. Gordon, was an artillery officer. In addition to Latin, Greek, French and German, the hero of Khartoum knew Chinese, Arabic, and the Turkish languages.

**D. M. G., Halifax.**—It is usual to allow a certain period for vessels to clear out of the respective ports after war has been declared between two nations. In the event of hostilities between England and Russia it is likely such an arrangement would be made as to ensure the safety of shipping, which at the moment might be in the waters of the contending parties.

Work with all the speed and ease you can, without breaking your head.

**DISSOLUTION.**—Mr. Raggles—"You've been an' made a mistake with my washin', Mrs. Mangles, and sent 'ome three old hankychers as don't belong to me, an' nothink else." Mrs. Mangles—"Lor! Mr. Raggles, that ain't hankychers; that is your snirt as 'as come to pieces in the washin' at last."

**BEGIN IT FIRST.**—An old minister in the Cheviots used, when excited in the pulpit, to raise his voice to a loud half whisper, half whine. One day a shepherd had brought with him a young collic, who became so thrilled by the high note of the preacher that he also broke out into a quaver so like the other that the minister stopped short. "Put out that collic!" he said, angrily. The shepherd, equally angry, seized the animal by the neck, and, as he dragged him down the aisle, sent back the growing retort at the pulpit, "It was yer-erel begoud it!"

## THE SCOTT ACT—SOMETHING ABOUT MAINE.

To the Editor.

SIR,—General Neal Dow, of Maine, claims that in Maine they save "at least \$12,000,000 in direct cost, and an equal amount in indirect cost, making in all \$24,000,000 saved annually, which, but for prohibition, would be spent and lost in strong drink. This large saving," he says, "is seen every where through the State in the vastly improved condition of the people, and in the healthy and vigorous condition of all our industries."

Now, as prohibitory laws have held sway in Maine for some 33 years, we may safely estimate that the amount of money saved all those years was \$792,000,000, and as the population of Maine is nearly stationary, ten per cent only being the increase in 33 years, and only numbers 648,000, this vast amount ought surely to leave evidence of its accumulation on every hand. Search, however, fails to find one solitary cent of it. These prohibitions appear no better off, and often worse, than surrounding States in their accumulations and investments.

In nothing whatever can they compare with Ontario. They tell us we are cursed with whiskey, but, thank heaven, we are not yet damned with prohibition.

As of most interest to workingmen we will first glance at Maine's manufacturing interests and wages, and compare them with Ontario, taking only the last census decade:—

### MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Maine	Ontario
1870..... 5,550	1871..... 10,043
1880..... 4,481	1881..... 23,140

Decrease... 1,069 Increase... 4,147

### HANDS EMPLOYED.

Maine	Ontario
1870..... 49,180	1871..... 87,281
1880..... 52,554	1881..... 115,303

Increase... 3,374 Increase... 31,027

The increase in Maine is principally in children employed in the cotton industry.

### WAGES.

Maine	Ontario
1870..... \$11,282,205	1871..... \$2,415,740
1880..... 13,023,315	1881..... 3,000,000

Decrease... \$638,877 Increase... \$916,731

The difference in favor of Ontario is overwhelming. Now for a search for some of that \$792,000,000. There are certain States called New England States. They are New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. With the two first we have nothing to do. They are under prohibitory laws, though not so strongly enforced as in Maine, and present the same features in greater or lesser degree. Massachusetts had prohibition for twenty years, though not strongly enforced. Connecticut also had it on the statute book only, for the same time. Rhode Island also played with a delusive spectro for several years. But none of these three States ever tried to enforce the law as it has been attempted in Maine. The general claim is that Maine's efforts have resulted in the above large saving; hence, the other three States, as they are now license States, with local option, ought to be behind Maine in the race for fortune, especially as they all present nearly the same geographical features. How do they really stand?

### MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Increase in number by per cent. between 1850 and 1880:—

Maine	Per cent.
.....	13
Rhode Island.....	151
Connecticut.....	91
Massachusetts.....	62

No sign of the millions there.

### PRODUCTS OF MANUFACTURING STATES.

Maine	Per cent.
.....	220
Rhode Island.....	274
Connecticut.....	291
Massachusetts.....	372

Still Maine is behind, though she has a larger population than Rhode Island or Connecticut. It is evident that a secret drain exists somewhere, and that "the healthy and vigorous expansion" of the General's speech is tetotal carbon dioxide evolved from the fermentation of decayed ideas in that gentleman's brain.

Leaving the manufacturers we will descend to the people themselves and hunt for this tremendous amount, which seems to be possessed of a similar nature to certain gases which contract or expand, and certainly it is hard to find any trace of. The laws relating to taxation in all the New England States are very similar, so that the following figures may be regarded as founded on an equal basis. We find that in Maine the assessed personal property per head is \$95, in Connecticut \$197, in Rhode Island \$232, in Massachusetts \$265. No trace of the millions saved annually, mind. Taking the owners of Government bonds we find:—

	Male Holding	Female Holding
	holders.	holders.
Maine.....	1,053,751	700
Connecticut.....	1,330,441	1,661
Massachusetts.....	913,345	7,720

It is well here to note that Connecticut has a smaller population. Least there should be a plea that these figures do not represent the working people whom prohibition is said (falsely) to benefit, we will take the holders of \$500 and less. Maine has 693 such bondholders; Connecticut has 719; Massachusetts has 7,244; Rhode Island has 263. Yet Connecticut has a smaller population, and Massachusetts is only three times larger.

Rhode Island here bears the same population as Maine; but there is no sign of the millions put into the poor man's pocket, "nor" the vastly improved condition of the people of the Gen. N. Dow.

We will now leave the people and search the coffers of the commonwealth for this sum, and at the rate of \$24,000,000 per annum, it surely ought to crop up a little here, as we have as yet found no trace of it. In the last census decade the net debt of Maine increased 37 per cent; Connecticut, 29 per cent; Massachusetts, 33 per cent; or placing it per capita in dollars, Maine increased \$9 per head; Connecticut, \$3.50; and Massachusetts, \$3.70.

While in Maine the State is supposed by our talking General to be getting richer by millions, and as the people are getting so rich the State kindly taxes them 45c. per \$100, though in poor licensed-ridden Connecticut the rate is only 15c. per \$100 in Rhode Island the same, and in Massachusetts 31c.

I have heard it said that if the money is not spent in whiskey, it will be given to the poor, or the church, or the school. I need only remark that no one ever heard that the people of Maine were fond of giving away part of this \$24,000,000; no one ever heard that they were better than others at such good work. As to the school, well they have a good school system; but if they had the same population as Ontario, and only gave as they do now, they would come over \$260,000 short of what we spend on our educational system. "The poor you have always with you," says the Great Teacher. They certainly have in Maine, in spite of \$24,000,000 per annum saved, and expanding manufactures, and no licensed bars.

I find recorded that in 1880 there were in Maine 3,211 paupers, of which 1,600 were supported in almshouses (bless the mark), and this enumeration is known to be too small. Much more could be said on the subject, but if the General's boast needs any more extended commentary, or the argument of Wm. Burgess any further refutation, other facts are at hand. Maine is the only State or place which has given prohibition a fair trial; it is the only standard we have to gauge tetotal assertions by, and if it does not uphold their theories it is not for them to grumble, nor to say that we ought not to make the Maine law decide against their ideas, because it is not fully carried out.

We see in this State prohibition working and finding that it has apparently spared the life blood out of the commonwealth, trodden under foot virtue and respect for law, and has not helped the artisan classes, we are justified in demanding further evidence that "beneficial effects would follow a prohibitory law" before accepting the Scott Act.

Yours, etc.,

GEO. BOUSFIELD.

Toronto, May 9.

I lift my head boldly to the threatening mountain peaks, and say, "I am eternal and defy your power."

Smile not on the legend as vain, that once in holy hands a worthless stone becomes a cup of silver. Let thy alchemist be contentment, and stone or ore shall be equal to thee.