The Colonist.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1891.

A MARKED CHANGE.

The readers of Canadian newspapers cannot but observe how much less offensively partisan they are now than they were only a few years ago. Less space is given to abuse than was devoted to it formerly, and a great deal more to rational discussion. The leading men of the different parties are not represented as terrible examples of the depravity of human nature, and political opponents are not spoken of as if they were the greatest scoundrels that were ever permitted to go unhanged. The amenities and the proprieties of social life are now pretty well observed by the Canadian Press. Those papers which disregard them, and which show a reluctance to abandon the Eatanswill style of the past are the exceptions, and their coarse personalities and their ruffianly style of journalism, so far from being approved by the majority of their readers, offend and disgust them.

The improvement in the Press is indicative of a milder and more courteous style of political discussion in the Legislatures, on the hustings, and at public meetings. In these days the representatives of the people in the halls of legislation treat each other as gentlemen, and when public men meet on the platform to discuss public affairs their speeches are, very seldom indeed, mere tirades against the personal character and private acts of their opponents. If an orator, carried away by his feelings, has the bad taste to scold gentlemen with whom he does not agree, and to apply to them epithets more forcible than elegant he is quickly called to order by his hearers. They very soon give him to know that they did not attend the meeting to hear candidates and leading men abuse one another, but to hear what they have to say on matters of general interest. It is surprising to see the unanimity with which a speaker who is inclined to be scurrilous is sometimes put down by the audience. The change is as remarkable as it is cheering. The time was when vilification was the sole stock in trade of many political speakers, and their coarse and offensive personalities were received with boisterous applause by their respective partisans. Every lover of decency and fairplay rejoices that this bad demoralizing species of discussion has gone out of fashion both in the press and among the people.

It is hard to tell where the reform commenced or to whom is due the credit of initiating it. Did the people improve the newspapers or did the newspapers refine the people? We have a very strong suspicion that the improvement began with the public, for it is well known that where there is a demand for anything, let it be good or bad, there are certain to be men prepared to supply that demand. If the people liked coarse vituperative newspaper literature we are afraid that men of ability would be found to cater for their depraved taste. It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the newspaper-reading public of Canada do not approve of journalistic coarseness, and that those who compose it have found means to signify their disapproval of those who have control of the Canadian Press. At any rate the change, however it may have been brought about, is one over which both the people and the Press have good reason to rejoice.

IS MODERN EDUCATION A FAILURE?

Education, so-called, has in these days become a kind of superstition. Many suppose that if a boy is sent to school for a number of years and afterwards attends college for a few terms, he must, if he is not an idiot, be as much a scholar as a piece of wood, after it passes through the different processes of the workshop or factory, is a chair or a table. It is seen that boys and men do go through these scholar factories, and at the different stages of the process get marks and prizes and complimentary notices in unstinted measure, and yet the finished product is not a scholar by any means, or a man well equipped for the battle of life. How is this?

It is also seen that these men who are, so to speak, hewn and planed and polished in educational institutions, are frequently less fitted for the work that men have to do than others who have obtained their knowledge and received their training in places of a very different character and in other ways. People see this result, wonder at it, and are wholly unable to account for it. But their faith in what they call "education" is not shaken. They know that education does not always educate, that the failures are lamentably numerous, but they do not even suspect that there must be something wrong with the education which produces these unsatisfactory results. There are, however, thinking men in the world, who are convinced that there is something radically wrong with the systems of education which, after having been tried so long, are found to be so deplorably defective. Among these is Frederic Harrison, one of the ablest men of our time. He says, in the December Forum: "There are hours when I feel about education nothing but this—wipe it out and let us begin it all afresh." Again he says—and this will shock many who are believed to be enlightened educationists—"A uniform system of education is a form of madness, akin to a project for making men of one size or one weight."

Mr. Harrison strikes a cruel blow at the prevailing superstition with regard to education, when he says:

"We ask too much from education, we make too much of it, we monstrously overorganize it, and we cruelly overload it. Education can do for us infinitely less than we have come to expect; and what little it can do, is on condition that it can be left simple, natural and free. I have known very few men who have been made into anything great entirely by education; and I have known a good many who were entirely ruined by it, and were finally turned out as pedants, prigs, or idiots. Struggling to win prizes in examination, thinking always about the current style of to-day, being put through the regulation mill, and poring over some little corner of knowledge for some material object—may give a one-sided appearance of learning with nothing behind it, will turn out mechanical eccentricities, like calculating machines, may change an honest fellow into a selfish, dull brute, or leave a weak brain softened and atrophied for life. And the more we organize education the greater is the risk of producing this result."

One gets a glimpse at the cause of some of the many failures here. The man who studies merely to pass examinations, or to get the technical knowledge necessary to qualify him for some business or profession, may gain the object for which he strives, and be even regarded as a prodigy by his friends and relatives, and yet be not improved or elevated, intellectually or morally, by the course of studies he has gone through. His education may not make him a bright liberal-minded man, a good citizen, a helpful neighbor, or a judicious head of a family. It may, and often does, have the tendency to make him narrow-minded, venal, selfish, and regardless of the rights and the feelings of others.

Mr. Harrison has an utter contempt for all mechanical means of measuring mental capacity and intellectual progress. "Mechanical examinations, he says, "can never test any knowledge worth having; all it can do is to corrupt and debase education. The pupil has before him an end, which is not knowledge or mental culture of any kind, but success, money, applause, and superiority." The picture he draws of ordinary college examinations is striking:—

"When we speak," he says, "of academic examinations, we mean five hundred students writing like stenographers for four or five days at six hours *per diem*; the papers being 'marked' mechanically under severe pressure by three over-worked experts, who never saw the pupils before, and are forced to pass or to pluck them as a barrack surgeon does recruits."

This the reviewer calls, "a shocking parody on education." Many readers will be rather surprised to find that the great fault which Mr. Harrison has to find with the education of the time is that it has no moral or religious basis, that it is secular and material from first to last. He believes in *home* influences, and influences that most resemble those of home, in education. He considers, too, that teachers can do comparatively little for the learner. "The ground-work of education," he says, "must be laid *at home*, and the essentials of education must come from the learner himself." The last sentences of this thoughtful article are well worth reading and thinking over. They are: "Education may help a man to form his mind; it cannot make it for him, though it may twist it or crush it. And that education will be best which honestly acknowledges how little it can do outside the home, how small is its power for good compared with the natural and acquired forces of each man's brain and soul."

VERY DIFFERENT VIEWS.

The Times tries to create the impression that Mr. Laurier, the advocate of unrestricted reciprocity, which Mr. Farrer virtually confessed; and Mr. Blake declared is nothing more than annexation behind a mask, agrees with Mr. Mowat, who openly and honestly condemns annexation, and consequently everything that tends to bring about annexation. Our contemporary quotes a passage from Mr. Laurier's Boston speech to support its position. There is another and much more pertinent and more significant passage in that speech, which it did not find it convenient to cite. Speaking of a possible clashing of interests, of Canada adopting the policy of unrestricted reciprocity, Mr. Laurier said:

"The proposition which we (the Liberals of Canada) make, involves this, it involves the position that we should offer to the American people that which is denied to the rest of the world. In so saying, I do not forget that I am subject of the British Crown, but though—I say it unhesitatingly upon this free soil—I am a true subject of the British Provinces, so far as present relations go, yet it is unavoidable that between this young and rising country of Canada and the old country of England there should not always be an identity of interests. England has her own interests and Canada has her own interests, and when the day comes that, as a Canadian, I have to choose between the interest of England and the interest of Canada, need I tell you that my whole heart is with my native land. (Great applause.) I leave the interests of the English people to be dealt with by the parliament of England, well knowing that they are quite able to take care of themselves; but to the interests of the people of Canada it is my duty, as a member of parliament, as the leader of a great party—nay, as a simple citizen, it is my duty ever to know nothing but the interests of my native land. In so far as the economic conditions of my country are concerned, I say that they are identical with the interests of the United States, and it is upon the broad basis of continental freedom of trade that I place the question, and that I ask this consideration for it from the people of the United States."

There is no mistaking the significance of this passage. When we recollect that it was the interests of Canada, as Mr. Laurier sees them, and not what they really are, that the Liberal leader spoke of, it can easily be understood what course he is prepared to take. He advocates unrestricted reciprocity. Mr. Laurier knows that the establishment of such a relation between Canada and the United States necessarily involves discrimination in trade against Great Britain, and when we consider the consequences that are sure to follow granting trade favors to the United States which we deny to our Mother Country, it is most disingenuous in the Times to endeavor to tell its readers that there is no difference between Mr. Mowat's views and aims and those expressed by Mr. Laurier. If Mr. Laurier had said explicitly that when the time comes that we have to choose between the United States and Great Britain he will prefer the United States, he would really have said no more than is implied in the passage we have quoted. Does he not say that the interests of Canada are with him paramount, and does he not declare, immediately after, that the economic conditions of Canada are identical with the interests of the United States?

INTERESTING CASES.

Some interesting Customs' cases are soon to be decided in the United States. They hinge upon the validity of Speaker Reed's ruling with regard to what constitutes a quorum of the United States House of Representatives. A quorum of that body must be at least half its number. This all admit. The question is, must it be half the members present and *voting*, or half the members present only. The custom was that if not more than half the number of members present voted there was not a quorum no matter how many were in the House. Speaker Reed ruled that in counting a quorum the number of members present, whether they all voted or not, was to be counted. This decision raised a tremendous storm about the unfortunate Speaker's head. Yet it was a sensible decision, and in accordance with the practice of Parliamentary bodies everywhere. It seems most unreasonable that a member who is present and in his seat could expect to be passed over when the quorum is counted simply because it did not suit his whim, or was not in agreement with the tactics of his party, to vote. In the British House of Commons, if there are forty members present, which is not one-fifteenth of the whole House, business can be done and a division taken. In the French Chamber of Deputies the number present is counted, and in Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Norway and Portugal, Speaker Reed's decision is in conformity with parliamentary procedure. It will be seen from this that both precedent and the practice of other nations are in the Republican Speaker's favor.

It seems that the validity of the tariff, and, no doubt, other acts of Congress, depend upon the constitutionality of Mr. Reed's ruling. Those acts were passed when there was a real but not a conventional quorum present. Mr. Speaker Reed had before him a number of men who desired to be considered, for the time, nonentities. He chose to consider them somebodies, and hence the law suits.

A CLOSE CONTEST.

The contest for the Speakership of the United States House of Representatives is very keen indeed. As our readers know, the Democrats have a very large majority in that body, and consequently the Speaker will be a member of the Democratic party, but who it will be is, just now, a question not by any means easy to decide. It was generally supposed that Mr. Mills, of tariff fame, would be the unanimous choice of the party. But it turns out that the party are very far from being unanimous on the subject. The Democrats are divided in opinion on the two leading issues now before the American people. They differ among themselves on the tariff question, and they are at variance on the silver coinage question. Mr. Mills represents the most liberal section of the party on the trade question, and he appears to be sound on silver. But there is evidently a very large section of his party who differ with him widely on these questions for, when the balloting was concluded in the caucus held on Saturday, he was second on a list of six. The candidate who was ahead of him was Mr. Crisp, of Georgia, and a Mr. Springer made a bad third. The ballot stood: Crisp 94, Mills 91, and Springer 19. This was the seventeenth ballot. The first ballot stood, Crisp 84, Mills 78, Springer 32. The candidate chosen must have a clear majority of the party, which numbers about 240. This appears to be a crisis in which the "dark horse" stands a good chance of winning. It is said that the "dark horse" in this nomination is likely to be McMillin, who, on the seventeenth ballot, had seventeen votes cast for him.

Both Crisp and Mills are for tariff reform, and both have favored the New York press with an expression of their views on that subject. Mills' utterance is clear and explicit. He is in favor of making raw materials free, while Crisp would alter the tariff, here and there, on no particular principle, unless it is to help the farmers, who, he says, cannot be benefitted by protection.

The speakership of the House of Representatives is a position well worth contending for. There is attached to it a salary of $8,000 a year, and it is one of very considerable power and influence. The Speaker of the United States House of Representatives is not, like the speaker of the British House of Commons, a mere presiding officer, who is supposed to have no political opinions of his own, and who has little or no influence in directing or carrying out the policy of the party to which he belongs. He is, on the contrary, a partisan before everything. He is supposed always to have the interests of his party in view, and to exercise his power in the House in such a way as to aid it in carrying out its policy. This is what Professor Bryce says about the office in his admirable work on "The American Commonwealth":

"In America the Speaker has immense political power, and is permitted, nay, expected, to use it in the interests of his party. In calling upon members to speak, he prefers those of his own side. He decides in their favor such points of order as are not distinctly covered by the rules. His authority over the arrangement of business is so large that he can frequently advance or postpone particular bills or motions in a way which determines their fate. . . . Not only does he, at the beginning of each Congress, select all the members of each of these committees, he even chooses the chairman of each, and thereby vests the direction of its business in hands approved by himself. The chairman is, of course, always selected from the party which commands the House, and the committee is so composed as to give that party a majority. Since legislation, and so much of the control of current administration as the House has been able to bring within its grasp, belong to these committees, their composition practically determines the action of the House on all questions of moment, and as the chairmanships of the most important committees are the posts of most influence, the disposal of them is a tremendous piece of patronage by which a Speaker can attract support to himself, and his own section of the party, reward his friends, give politicians the opportunity of rising to distinction or practically extinguish their congressional career."

Professor Bryce adds:—

"The dignity of the Speaker's office is high. In rank he stands next after the President and on a level with the justices of the Supreme Court. Washington society was lately agitated by a claim of his wife to take precedence over the wives of these judges, a claim so ominous in a democratic country that efforts were made to have it adjusted without a formal decision."

Such being the power and the dignity of the Speaker's office, it is not surprising that it is keenly contested for, and that the members of the Democratic Party strongly desire that the gentleman elected shall belong to their particular section and shall represent their special views.

NO CAUSE OF COMPLAINT.

It does not become any one on the Mainland to take exception to what is being done towards establishing a university in Victoria. When the friends of education on Vancouver Island signified their willingness to co-operate with the Mainlanders to advance the cause of higher education in British Columbia, the Mainlanders showed in the clearest possible way that it was not co-operation they desired, but subservience and submission. As soon as a beginning was made to work under the charter which the Islanders had helped to obtain, a Mainland faction, by the arts practised by parish politicians, made a determined effort to freeze the Islanders out. And they succeeded a great deal better than they expected. They not only elbowed the Island men out of all share in the management of the university, but they, by their extraordinary cleverness, killed the whole scheme and nullified what had been done.

We are very far from blaming all the friends of higher education on the Mainland for taking part in the intrigues of the plotters, or helping to kill the project that so much had been done to advance. There are among them many liberal-minded men, who wished to co-operate in good faith with the friends of education on Vancouver Island, but they put too much faith in a few small-minded schemers and allowed them too free a hand.

The work of establishing a University is now in the hands of other men, who, we are very sure, will gladly welcome all who come to their aid and heartily co-operate with them. There is nothing that we can see to prevent the University being a provincial one; in fact, it ought to be provincial. If Island and Mainland work together harmoniously they will be able to accomplish a great deal more united than they could by separate action. The jealousy and the selfishness that produced such unfortunate results, in the attempt to establish a University under the former Act, should not be allowed again to do mischief. Let us have a University, which will be really and truly provincial, and not provincial in name only.

THE RUSSELL CASE.

The Russel scandal case has attracted a great deal of attention in Great Britain. Such cases, indeed, are regarded with eager interest by far too many on both sides of the Atlantic. The report of that trial and others of a similar nature are neither cheerful nor edifying reading. There is much that is going on in this wicked world which it is best to know nothing about. Ignorance of such matters is, not, perhaps, bliss, but knowledge of them certainly does not bring either wisdom or goodness.

The glimpse that the public have had through that trial at the interior of the Russell household, shows that civilization has not done so very much for men and women after all. Here are people who have enjoyed what are considered the greatest social advantages—gentle birth, education, wealth, and the influences of the highest society, and what is the result? How far above the drunken, low brute, who kicks his wife and makes a slave of her, is this Earl Russell? There is not a decent young mechanic in Canada who would not treat his wife with more courtesy and consideration than this English nobleman, who, from the name he bears, should be the very soul of chivalry. It is, of course, not fair to judge a class from the morals and manners of those of its members who are brought before the courts of law, but there are indications that a lamentably large proportion of the young men of the "higher classes" in Great Britain do not make a good use of their advantages and opportunities. The cases of Sir Charles Dilke, Gordon Cumming, Lord Russell, and a number of others whom it is not necessary to mention, do not give those who belong to the rude and rough democracy in this distant dependency, a very high opinion of what ought to be the refined, high-bred, and high-minded aristocracy of the Old Country. One would think that the man who had the credit of such a name as Russell to keep up, would be most careful not to do any thing, either in public or in private, that could be regarded as unworthy an honorable man. If pride of birth has not this influence—if it does not keep the high-born from doing what is mean and unmanly, and dishonest, what is the good of it? When the son of a cad turns out to be a cad no one is surprised or shocked, but when the man who bears the name of a noble family of historic interest, acts like a cad, all that know of it are disgusted, and they will be apt to conclude that their faith in the transmission of noble qualities from father to son is an exploded Old World superstition.

THE CIVIC ELECTIONS.

Very little is being said about the coming civic elections. The citizens of Victoria generally do not appear to take a very deep interest in city affairs. They grumble when things go wrong, but they do not seem to realize that they have it in their own hands to make what reforms they see necessary. We, for our part, have very little sympathy with the mere kicker. The man who finds fault with the city government, from the mayor down to the pound-keeper, but who will not take the least trouble or make the slightest sacrifice to help to bring about a better state of things, may be classed among the creatures for whose existence it is very difficult to account. He may have been created for some good purpose, and he may have a useful place in the general system of things, but what that purpose or that place is, is beyond the power of ordinary mortals even to conjecture.

No man has a right to find fault with the management of public affairs if he is not prepared to do his part towards remedying the evils of which he complains. Some of the citizens of Victoria have gone so far as to ask for a commission to enquire into the way in which the affairs of this city have been administered during the last few years. There was no harm in this. We, however, expect that these gentlemen will take a leading part in finding a remedy for any evils or abuses which the Commissioners may discover. No good will be done if they stop at the fault-finding stage and refuse to take part in effecting the reforms that are needed. Where public spirit and ability are required, is in putting the affairs of the city into better shape. Exposing an abuse and then leaving it alone is like bandaging a wound and then taking no pains to cure it. The gentlemen, who have taken a leading part in discovering where the administration of the city's affairs has been defective, are now, in duty and consistency, bound to take a leading part in finding a remedy for such defects as may be found to exist.

The way is clear for them. Mr. Grant, we understand, has declined to be again put in nomination as mayor. His answer to all who have solicited him to run again for that position has been a courteous but emphatic negative. Which of the men who have found fault with the way in which he has performed his duties is prepared to take his place. There is much work to be done and many sacrifices to be made. The man who performs the duties of Mayor of this city efficiently and faithfully will have no sinecure. But he will have it in his power to do the citizens of the present generation and those of future generations good service. This city is at the turning point of its existence. It is in a state of transition. Hitherto it has been little more than a village. It is fast becoming a city. The work done in it now by its Corporation will affect it for many a long year to come. It should therefore be done well, not for the present alone, but for the future. The men who undertake to do the duty of Mayor for the next few years will have a heavy responsibility on their shoulders, and it is right that they should feel the full weight of that responsibility.

It has long been seen that the financial management of the city requires a careful and an intelligent re-organization. Its business should be done in a more business-like way. We are proud to have it to say that the Commission has not discovered any transaction that is even suspicious in its appearance. The men who form the present City Council and those who formed past City Councils have done their duty honestly. Not one of them has sought to enrich himself at the expense of his fellow citizens. There have been no corrupt practices unearthed and no irregularities which have had for their object the private gain of any member of the Corporation. But there has been a want of system in the appropriation and expenditure of the taxes and the sums raised by way of loan, and the action of the Council has not been always in strict conformity with the Municipalities Act. These are matters that need mending. The man chosen for Mayor should have a business head upon his shoulders. He should be competent to put the finances of the city upon a good footing, and he should arrange matters so that it would be difficult for future councils to commit irregularities even with the best intentions. The credit of the city, as well as its good government, requires that its financial affairs should be well regulated.

It is to be hoped that the citizens, in selecting a Mayor, will be governed by considerations of fitness alone. What the city wants is a man of ability and integrity, who will perform his duties faithfully and well. It matters little whether he does or does not possess the qualities which make a man popular. In choosing a lawyer or a doctor, people do not wait to know whether he speaks sweetly or bows gracefully; what they do want to know is, is he able and is he honest? If these questions are answered satisfactorily, very little attention is paid to his other qualities or accomplishments. And this is how men should act in choosing a Mayor.

We do not know how many of the Councillors will allow themselves to be put in nomination again. Of course we have our preferences, but we cannot say honestly that any Councillor at the board has acted in such a manner as to forfeit the confidence placed in him by the electors last January, while some of them have done their duty in such a way as to make their refusal to act another year a misfortune to the city.

THE JUBILEE HOSPITAL.

We find, by the reports of the President and the Committee of the Board of Directors of the Jubilee Hospital, that that institution is in need of funds. We trust that this will not be the case long. The Jubilee Hospital is a credit, not only to Victoria, but to the province of British Columbia. Very few cities of the size of Victoria can boast of so fine an institution and one so well fitted for the purposes for which it was established. It would be a deep reproach to both the city and the province if this fine and greatly needed hospital should languish or that its usefulness should be impaired in any way for want of the money necessary to maintain it in a state of efficiency. The directors should be in a position to do all the good that the Hospital, well-equipped and well-officered can do. They should not find themselves crippled for want of funds.

It cannot be said that the community is too poor to support the Hospital in good working order. This would be far from the truth. This city and this province can, if those who possess the means are only moderately liberal, maintain the institution in such a condition that every British Columbian would be proud of it, and would rejoice at the benefits it confers on the sick and the suffering. There are not men in this Province who could do for Victoria what Lord Mountstephen and Sir Donald A. Smith did towards supplying Montreal with hospital accommodation. Although there were then several hospitals in the city those gentlemen gave out of their own pockets one million dollars towards the erection and maintenance of an additional hospital. The Jubilee Hospital is greatly more needed in Victoria than the hospital erected and endowed by Lord Mountstephen and Sir Donald A. Smith was in Montreal, and if some of the rich men of this province followed so good an example and contributed to the Jubilee Hospital as liberally according to their means, the directors of that institution would have no reason to complain of want of funds to make the improvements that are needed. And what better use, we ask, could they make of their money?

While the directors are waiting for magnificent donations from wealthy people, the Hospital must be supported, and this could be done handsomely if all contributed according to their means. If every one gave something, its treasury would soon be full, and it is an institution which all should consider it their duty to help to support. It relieves those who most need relief. The sick stranger, the mechanic who meets with an accident, the suffering woman and the afflicted child, all find there the treatment and the comforts that their condition requires. Who will begrudge the utmost he or she can afford to keep such a beneficent institution up and to enlarge and improve it, so that it will afford relief to a still greater number?

A HARD SPEECH.

Many good people are shocked at a speech which the Emperor of Germany addressed to some recruits, a few days ago. In that speech the Emperor set forth the duties of a soldier in the plainest terms possible. He insisted on the duty of unquestioning obedience in a way that is not pleasant to those who believe that even soldiers are men, and not mere machines, obliged to obey the orders of their superiors whatever may be their nature. This is what the Emperor is reported to have said:

"Recruits, you have, before priest and altar, sworn fealty to me. You are too young to understand the true meaning of the words in which you have sworn, but be diligent in following the instructions given you. You have, my children, sworn allegiance. That means that you have given your services to me, body and soul. You have only one enemy, and that is my enemy. In the present Socialist agitation, I may order you, which God forbid, to shoot down your relatives—your brothers, even your parents—and you must obey without a murmur."

This is really dreadful, but is it as we have seen it described, the talk of a madman? Did he not describe the duty of a soldier baldly, it is true, but truly and honestly? Is not the soldier bound to obey orders? Is he not under an obligation, if the State which he serves requires it, to use his arms against his kindred and his country-men? Abraham Lincoln was not regarded as a madman; neither did the people of the United States look upon him as a cruel tyrant who required men to do what was both heartless and unnatural, yet he, as the chief executive officer of the United States, employed hundreds of thousands of men to do exactly what William, of Germany, told the recruits they had bound themselves to do. The men who enlisted in the northern army undertook to fight the enemies of the Republic, no matter who they might be, and many of them actually did meet on the field of battle their relatives whom as members of a family they loved and esteemed, but they considered, and rightly too, that the safety of the people is the highest law, and they voluntarily placed themselves in a position where they must if it were considered necessary take the lives and destroy the property of their own kindred. And this is the duty of soldiers everywhere:—

"Their not to make reply,
Their not to reason why,
Their but to do and die."

What the Emperor William did was to put in very harsh and bald prose the sentiment so delightfully expressed by England's Poet-Laureate.

When the emperor spoke he did not speak as a private citizen; he addressed the recruits as the representative of the German people. He has very high ideas of the power and importance of his position, and seems greatly inclined to lay down as a proposition, which it is high treason for any German to question, the saying attributed to a king of France, "I am the state." But the young man will likely find, before he is much older, that he must share the power of the state with many men whom he regards as his inferiors. And it is quite possible that he will learn before he dies that there is a limit to the obedience of even soldiers. No one is rash enough to say where that limit is, but the knowledge that it exists may have the effect of modifying the policy of even as high and mighty a potentate as the Emperor of Germany. Very little is said in Germany to-day of what an English statesman called the "divine right of resistance;" but all know that peoples have that right as a last resort, and that they will, as sure as fate, exercise it if they are pushed too far, and the Emperor has read history to very little purpose, even that of his own country in his grandfather's time, if he is not convinced that it is dangerous to trust too much to the influence of military discipline. But, to do him justice, he seems in no danger of putting too great a strain on the loyalty of his army. He is doing what he can to win the confidence and the affection of the German people, and there are indications that he is succeeding. It will be observed that it is not the Germans who are finding fault with the young Emperor.

MARINE MOVEMENTS.

A Record Breaker from Rio Janeiro—The Collis Pays a Fine.

Arrival of the Zambesi from Japan and Yokohama—The Wrecked San Pedro.

ALONG THE WATER FRONT, Dec. 5.—There has been no dearth of interesting business in marine circles, to-day, all the overdue steamers arriving safely, in time for their passengers and crews to spend Sunday in port. Local craft also were kept busy, and the day closed with a greater amount of freight handled than has been moved in any previous Saturday for months.

The tug Collis, Capt. Randall, was among the arrivals, her mission being to take the Hawthornbank back to Tacoma, but her plans were somewhat disarranged by a surprise that Collector Milne had been keeping for her whenever she should honor the port with her presence. On the 23rd ultimo, the Collis cleared from this city, and, after receiving her papers, made a special trip with a party of captains out to the wreck of the San Pedro, whose owners also include the tow boat in their fleet. It is laid down in section 99 of the Customs Act that, having cleared outward, no vessel is permitted to perform work other than mentioned in the clearance, and a penalty of $400 is provided if this law is disobeyed. Not only did the Collis make this trip, but her captain received certain stores from the wrecked collier. In consideration of all the facts, Collector Milne felt bound to enforce the law, and detained the tug until the $400 fine was produced.

S.S. Zambesi, of the Upton line, Capt. Edwards commanding, docked at the Outer wharf at 8 a.m., her report of the trip being in brief as below: "Left Yokohama Nov. 10th, arrived at Honolulu Nov. 24th and left two days later. Cargo, general; about 150 tons for Victoria and 1,000 tons for Portland and other U.S. and Canadian ports. Six first-class white passengers, two second-class Japanese, 102 Japanese and 36 Chinese steerage, all for Victoria. Had a fair run barren of any excitement." The news is brought from Honolulu that the Hawaiian sugar crop, this year, has been a grand one, but owing to the operation of the McKinley bill it will do little good to the country. A year ago the two largest sugar mills in the country were erected, with every prospect of their being a fine investment; now they are idle, and next year they will be turned into coffee mills, all the sugar planters having decided to cultivate coffee instead of the cane next year.

At Porter's wharf, the Barbara Boscowitz is resting from her season's labors, having made her last trip, until some time in January. She came in from Fort Simpson and way ports, about noon, with a full freight and all the passengers she could accommodate. She also brought the mails, probably the last to come down for some time, as notices are posted in all the northern offices not to despatch letters by any of the C.P.N. boats. Among the passengers were two survey parties, one under Mr. E. D. Thompson and one led by Mr. J. A. Mahood. The former has been working for the Government on Malcolm Island, while the latter has been going over the coal lands of Queen Charlotte Islands and Skeena river. The only case of sickness reported at any of the ports of call is that of Mr. Spencer's child, at Alert Bay, to whom a doctor is to be at once despatched by special steamer.

To the Celeste Burrill, E. B. Haines, captain, belongs the honor of having made the run from Rio de Janeiro to this port in the best time on record, 77 days—76 days to Cape Flattery. From the Brazilian capital round is, roughly, 12,500 miles, so the ship must have sailed over 162 miles per day on an average. Three hundred miles in the 24 hours was not, however, anything uncommon during the trip. The Burrill was, for 11 days, buffetted by head winds and heavy gales off the Horn, but this home of tempests passed, the ship enjoyed an exceptionally fine run North. When she sailed from Brazil, that country was in an unsettled, dissatisfied condition—on the eve of the troubles that have since arisen. The highest prices prevailed, while the currency of the country was so run down as to be almost valueless. Customs' duties were collected in gold only, and the result was that the bonded warehouses were filled to overflowing and trade was at a standstill. "The rebellion," says Capt. Haines, "no doubt arose because the pockets of the people would not stand the existing state of things much longer." The Burrill is in ballast, for orders, and now lies at anchor in Royal Roads.

The anchors and cables of the San Pedro now lie at the outer wharf, where the Mascotte discharged them yesterday, and the boom to protect the wreck from the waves is now complete. To-morrow the work of lightering the coal commences, and then comes the raising of the ship. Capt. T. P. H. Whitelaw is in charge of all operations, and he has given orders for the construction of four immense pontoons, to be used in lifting the big steamer. An arrangement has been made with the local men interested, and Victoria ships and appliances alone will be made use of.

Steamer Maude arrived over from Anacortes yesterday, and discharged 2,000 sacks of oats for the Brackman & Ker Milling Co., and returned for another cargo for the same firm.

Steamer Thistle leaves for all Northern ports at eight o'clock, to-morrow morning. Mr. Thos. Robinson will be among her passengers.