

substitute being found until the Poor Law was established, which, though a necessity, was fruitful of most serious evils. Happily those evils were checked by the rise of the benevolent societies, or pauperism would have been a cancer in England. Those societies developed a manly hatred of pauperism, and kept it in check. The Commission will, we trust, result ultimately in some system by which the Workhouses will be abolished, the helpless and hopeless poor being relieved in their own homes, or those of their relatives, anywhere but in the poorhouse. The instructions of the commission are: "To consider any scheme that may be submitted to them for encouraging the industrial population, by State aid or otherwise, to make provision for old age, and to report whether they can recommend the adoption of any proposals of the kind, either based upon, or independent of such schemes; with special regard, in the case of any proposals of which they may approve, to the cost and probable financial results to the exchequer and the local rates, their effect in promoting habits of thrift and self-reliance, their influence on the prosperity of the friendly societies, and the possibility of securing the co-operation of these institutions in their practical working." There is now enough money raised by poor rates in Great Britain to provide old age pensions for all worthy cases, and to support others who need public help. An eminent Swedish authority, Dr. Stephenson, recently speaking in London, expressed amazement at 50 millions of dollars being spent in Poor law relief in England, "in a way which degraded and brutalized a large population." We trust the Commission will hit upon some scheme for the better organization of charity, or public relief of the poor, which at present is carried on in so unsystematic a method as to be, we much fear, wasteful and unsatisfactory alike to the needy and deserving as it is also to their generous friends.

A Historic Function.

THE reception by the Queen of the Boston Artillery Company at Windsor Castle will ever mark a bright spot in the history of the relations between England and the United States. It obliterates the unhappy Venezuelan incident. Her Majesty has done some eminently wise things, for she has the instincts that go to make a great statesman. To invite a body of amateur American soldiers to visit her at Windsor was a display of magnanimous hospitality never equalled in royal annals. A strong, shrewd brain and a woman's warm heart went into that invitation. It was the first time that an armed body of foreigners ever were in the precincts of Windsor Castle. We have indeed to go back a good many centuries before we find trace of any armed force, other than native, finding foothold on English soil. We trust the splendid reception given to the Bostonians by the populace, as well as by the Queen and high official dignitaries, will reveal to them and to the people of America what is the real feeling of the Old Country towards the United States. It is exceedingly to be regretted that the school histories in use in America are written in so offensive a tone

towards Great Britain. The scholars in United States public schools imbibe hatred of and a contempt for England with the very rudiments of education. Love of their own land is made a convertible term for ill will towards everything British. In England no such bad blood exists towards America. The people and the press have no objection to a laugh at the expense of the Yankees who are over boastful, but of hatred or dislike of Americans, as such, not a trace could be found in any class in the Old Country. Hospitality to them is unbounded, both in public and private they have attentions paid, such as no other people ever enjoy. It is then a constant source of pained astonishment to the people of the Old Country to find the papers and politicians of the United States perpetually using offensive terms, and threatening offensive action against the Mother Country. We trust the Bostonians will do what in them lies to remove the prejudices and unkindness of feeling entertained against England by their fellow countrymen. They have had a royal reception, the honors they received were paid to them as representatives of their country. We hope therefore the good feeling displayed will be reciprocated, and our American brethren will learn to respect us and our country, as we respect them and their country, the achievements of each being the pride of both, as a family honor and success is a pride to all its members.

A suicide clause question.

THE records published of the Knights of Honor, an American friendly society doing a large insurance business, seem to afford strong evidence that persons join such organizations who purpose defrauding them by committing suicide at a very early stage of their membership. Either this is so, or joining such an organization develops latent suicidal tendencies, which seems incredible. Since 1874, 904 Knights of Honor have committed suicide, which indicates that these knights were neither brave, chivalrous, nor men of honor. By these 904 suicides the society lost \$1,781,000. Out of this extraordinary number 110 committed self murder in the first year of membership, 73 between first and second year, and 65 between second and third. As the Indicator points out, 248, or upwards of 27 per cent. of the entire number of suicides by members of this society, occurred before the end of the third year, and nearly twice as many deaths from this cause occurred during the first year as during any succeeding year. "With such results as these in view, therefore, it would appear to be an act of wisdom on the part of the companies to put such a limit to their suicide clauses as shall carry them beyond the greatest danger point." In view we should say of such wholesale crimes committed by novitiates in the Order of Knights of Honor, it is desirable for a much stricter examination to be made of applicants, as we hold that no society could have had such a suicide roll as 904 members in twenty years if the candidates had been worthy to enter the society of Knights of Honor. A sharp law is needed by the society, as it is by others who have been victimized in a similar way, making suicide an absolute forfeiture of all benefits.