

THE REWARDS OF SONG.

I have a little, soft and plaintive,
Mellow murmuring lute,
To which I oft attune my voice
When Earth and Air are mute,
And though the plodding busy world
Cares not to hear the strain,
I make my music to myself
A solace for my pain.

I reckon not though none hear me,
More than the nightingale,
Or lark beneath the morning cloud,
High poised above the vale;
These seek not men's approval,
But sing for love of song,
As I do in the wilderness
When summer days grow long,

Perchance a passing stranger,
That loiters on the way,
May hear the distant echoes
Of my rejoicing lay;
And bless the unseen singer,
Embowered amid the copse,
Or soaring singing-soaring,
Above the mountain tops.

Perhaps—who knows?—a mourner
For present grief or past,
May hear my hopeful music
Upon the wild winds cast,
And so take heart and courage
To wander less forlorn,
And turn from evening shadows
To sunlight of the morn.

The stars rejoice in shining,
And I rejoice to sing,
For sake of love for sake of song,
And not for praise 'twill bring.
Despise me, if it please you,
Ye traders of the mart!
Not all your gold could purchase
The freshness of my heart.

—All The Year Round.

OUR INDIAN POPULATION.

Foremost among the important questions which from time to time press upon the attention of the Dominion Parliament must be ranked that relating to the present condition and future destiny of the Indian population dwelling within our borders. In its two-fold aspect, first as dealing with many thousands of human lives, and next as influencing the material prosperity and progress of the country, the importance of our Indian policy is clearly revealed. And if proof be demanded that the policy pursued by Canada toward the Indian tribes has been directed in sympathy with the vital interests affected, we submit it is to be found in the single fact revealed by official statistics just published, that the Indian population instead of disappearing before the inroads of civilization, is actually steadily increasing, and that the increase has been continuous for several years. This result is attributed to improved habits of life, proper medical treatment when sickness occurs, habitations and sufficient clothing, better food and an ample supply of it, the outcome of improved civilization. Fewer complaints are heard of the commission of crime; indeed everything connected with the position of the redskins goes to show the good influence at work are making them better members of society. The encouragement given to the Indians of the old provinces of Canada to settle on the soil and raise crops for their sustenance has had a happy effect. The Indian reserves become more thickly settled as they are opened out by the construction of colonization roads; the children receive an education in schools scattered throughout the different districts,—there being no less than eleven of these in the province of Quebec alone; and agriculture is taught at several institutions. Thus the work of elevating the condition of the aborigines of this country progresses; and whilst the settlement of the Indians on their reserves in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia conclusively proves that the redman

can be brought to till the land, it gives us hope that similar success will follow the like friendly and aiding policy inaugurated recently in dealing with the great tribes of the North West Territories, and which, we trust, will shortly be introduced into British Columbia.

The two westerly provinces of the Dominion, Manitoba and British Columbia, with their large native populations, will afford in the future fields wherein to thoroughly test our Indian policy. In the former, a large portion of the work devolving upon the Italian Department last year lay. Recognizing the equity of the claims put forward by the tribes for compensation upon ceding their lands to the Government, the department succeeded in concluding treaties whereby the Dominion became owners of many of the most fertile tracts of prairie land hitherto used by the Indians as hunting grounds. By the first treaty, the province of Manitoba and certain tracts of country lying to the north-east was ceded to Canada, every Indian thereon receiving in return a sum of three dollars a year in perpetuity, a reserve being set apart for each band, of sufficient size to allow one hundred and sixty acres to each family of five persons. A further condition gave to each Indian settling down upon his share of the reserve the necessary agricultural implements, and to each chief some animals with which to commence stock raising. By the second treaty a large tract of country, three times as large as the province of Manitoba, was surrendered by the Indians to the Crown, upon similar terms to those already mentioned. The fertility and resources of Manitoba are well known; but valuable as these lands are, they are fully equalled, if not exceeded, according to Mr. Wemyss Simpson, the Indian Commissioner, by the country of which the government came into possession of by the second treaty. Already settlers from the provinces of Canada and elsewhere are pushing their way beyond the limits of the province of Manitoba; the water courses of the province are excelled by those of the territory, and the want of wood which threatens serious difficulty in the former, is reported to be by no means so apparent in the latter. The fertility possessed by Manitoba is shared by the North-west country and its confines, and cannot fail to attract a large immigration of small farmers and hardy laborers. And since it is necessary for the prosperity of any community that security should be assured to life and property, it is highly gratifying to have the assurance of the Chief Commissioner that there is no reason to fear any trouble with those Indians who regard themselves as subjects of Her Majesty, that nothing but gross injustice or oppression will induce them to forget the allegiance which they now claim with pride, or molest the white subjects of the sovereign whom they regard as their supreme chief. But whilst referring to this subject, the Chief Commissioner adverts to the large mixed frontier population in the Saskatchewan district, and points out that a treaty with the Indians of those regions will become essential to the peace, if not to the actual retention of the country.

Notwithstanding the large Indian population of British Columbia, numbering not less than fifty thousand souls, the work of organization and the introduction of an Indian policy and system has practically to be commenced in that province. The ground hitherto has been occupied almost solely by missionary societies, who have been carrying on the important work of instructing the native tribes in the rudiments of education

and in reclaiming them from heathenism. Among other efforts made for their benefit is the establishment of an industrial and agricultural school, and we are told that its effects has been to encourage, in some settlements, successful farming, but of course in a limited degree. The difficulties which will have to be surmounted before a thorough Indian policy can be introduced into the Pacific province may be judged when it is remembered that of the fifty thousand Indians inhabiting British Columbia, almost all are in a condition scarcely approaching to semi-civilization. But notwithstanding the arduous nature of the task, we confidently anticipate that the adoption of a policy similar to that pursued towards the native tribes of the other provinces of the Dominion will be followed by like happy results, and the whole population, mixed though it be, will devote its united energies to the development of the magnificent resources of the gold producing province.

AN AMERICAN OPINION OF THE AWARD.

(From the N. Y. Tribune, Sept. 16.)

We published this morning the text of the award made by the Court of Arbitration appointed under the Treaty of Washington. So much has been done by our own Government to neutralize all the good results which might have been attained by this experiment of international arbitration, that there will be a general feeling of surprise and possibly even of congratulation that anything has been given in satisfaction of the claims of the United States. The controversy has grown stale, and every one will be glad to hear that it is at an end. But it could scarcely have ended worse. We have lost every point we tried to make. By asking too much we have gained nothing. The thousand millions which would have made our case sublime if they had not made it ridiculous, have dwindled to fifteen and a half. This petty sum will doubtless be greatly diminished by the English claims against the United States which are yet to be allowed. Of course the mere matter of money is the least important feature of so grave and authoritative a decision, which forms a sort of epoch in international proceedings. But this trifling sum is positively all we have gained. In every point of view the great moral advantage is with England, and against us. In their anxiety to convict England of negligence, our attorneys have persistently urged the propriety and necessity of the employment of arbitrary powers by the Government, to prevent possible violations of the neutrality laws. As we are to pass the greater portion of our national life as neutrals, and as we all expect our ship-building interests to revive some day, it is easy to see how jealous belligerents could annoy our legitimate industries by the weapons we have thus put into their hands.

The Government of Great Britain are in a condition to repudiate this award entirely, not of course, as it binds their present action, but as a precedent for the future, if it should ever be quoted against them. At the same time it is fully binding upon the United States, as the Arbitrator appointed by our Government has joined with those of Italy, Brazil, and Switzerland in making it. The English Government are in a position to say that they will respect the decision of the Court to which the settlement of the present differences have been referred, but they do not agree that England is justly liable for the damages which in the interest of universal peace they consent to pay. The