

CLERICAL WHEELMAN'S TOUR.

The accompanying Map shows the route which is laid out for the above tour in August. Already a large number of clergy have signified their intention of joining, as well as some invited laymen as guests, and the tour is attracting considerable attention. The party will undoubtedly be well taken care of by their Canadian friends.



THE C. T. C.

The Cyclists' Touring Club, founded at Harrogate, in August, 1878, has achieved such wonderful things in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, that it is highly desirable to further extend its usefulness abroad, and especially in the United States of America, and other portions of the American continent where cycle touring is practicable.

The ways and means pursued by this mammoth club are so familiar as to need no recapitulation here, my object in the present paper being to point out defects and endeavor to suggest courses by which the success that has been attained in its mother country may be repeated by the C. T. C.'s, American division more particularly, possibly as a prelude to further developments in other countries foreign to the English. Already, indeed, the large division in America is threatened with dissemination, and practical men cannot but recognize the justice of the contention, that a purely American Touring Club would be infinitely more useful, and consequently more popular, than the present branch of the C. T. C.

As far as concerns the class of American members by whom the division was originated, those who are able to enjoy the full privileges of the club by touring in England, no fault can be found; but it is unlikely that any considerable portion of the five hundred are able to obtain the benefits of the splendid organization in the mother country, and if the C. T. C. is ever to become more than a sentimental "fad" for American cyclists, its work must be extended to the American touring ground. Already, I am aware, this has been commenced in a small way; but the task of promoting touring in America cannot be accomplished without funds; and the American division of the C. T. C. cannot prosper so long as its members' subscriptions are remitted to England. Leaving out such of its members as are able to go to Europe, the only return which it receives for this annual remittance of five hundred half-crowns consists in the reception of the *Monthly Gazette*, and the privilege to wear the uniform, both of which are unquestionably advantageous, since the *Gazette* deals with but few topics of value to American tour-

ists, and the uniform, or imitation of it, can be purchased outside the club. Sentimentalism, therefore, is evidently the dominant factor in inducing the five hundred Americans to subscribe to the C. T. C.

Nobody will question the assertion that a touring club organization would be eminently useful in the United States, in Canada, and in other portions of the American continent where cycle touring is practicable. It is also highly desirable that the C. T. C. should retain its international character, in order that mutual advantage may accrue to each nation by co-operation. The problem is, how to enable the men who are ready to do the work in America to achieve their object without severing connection with the parent society. It must be obvious that the head centre cannot be expected to affiliate an American branch *gratis*; and yet the subscription is so small that any appreciably less remittance to headquarters would be insufficient to pay the costs incurred. The real solution would appear to lie in the direction of an increased subscription, on the part of Americans, to such an amount as would enable a substantial sum to be retained for the working of the American division after remitting to London a proportion sufficient to defray expenses. The *Gazette* printing and postage would probably be covered by half a dollar per annum, and other contingencies would be paid for by the profit made in London on the supply of uniforms: so that if the American division paid an annual subscription of a dollar per member, one-half thereof would be retainable for the practical extension of the club organization in America. On this basis, it would be feasible for the American division of the C. T. C. to spend \$250 per annum in "domestic" extension for promoting touring, without actually being a drain upon the parent body in England.

From what I have said, and from the opinions I have quoted, it must be plain to the reader that there will be no opposition on this side to the development of the American branch of the Cyclists' Touring Club on a basis of practical independence; and the matter rests entirely with the Americans themselves, who can make the C. T. C. organization in America of practical use and influential prestige as soon as they like.—"FAED," in *The Bicycling World*.

THOMAS STEVENS IN MISSOURI.

In his account of his bicycle trip across America, Thos. Stevens relates the following amusing incidents of the journey through Illinois:

"Pushing on to Lamoille for the night, the enterprising barber hustles me into his cosy shop, and shaves, shampoo, shingles, bay-runs, and otherwise manipulates me, to the great enhancement of my personal appearance, all, so he says, for the honor of having lathered the chin of the 'great and only—.' In fact, the Illinoisans seem to be most excellent folks, and I can only regret that limited space prevents a more detailed account of their attention. After three days' journey through the great prairie State, my head is fairly turned with kindness and flattery; but the third night, as if to rebuke my vanity, I am bluntly refused shelter at three different farm-houses. I am benighted, and conclude to make the best of it by 'turning in' under a hay-cock; but the Fox-river mosquitos oust me in short order, and compel me to 'mosey' along through the gloomy night to Yorkville. At Yorkville, a stout German, on being informed that I am going to ride to Chicago, replies: 'What! Ghigago mit dot? Vy, mine dear vellow, Ghigago's more as vorty miles; you gant ride mid dot to Ghigago;' and the old fellow's eyes fairly bulge with astonishment at the bare idea of riding forty miles 'mit dot.' I considerably refrain from telling him of my already 2,500-mile jaunt 'mit dot,' lest an apoplectic fit should waft his Teutonic soul to realms of sauer-kraut bliss and Limburger happiness forever.

Coming Events.

- JULY 1.—Annual Meeting and Races of the C. W. A. at Woodstock.
- JULY 3 & 4.—Annual Meet of the L. A. W. at Buffalo, N.Y.
- JULY 6.—Big Four Tour starts from Buffalo.
- JULY 10.—Big Tour Century Road Race from Cobourg to Kingston.
- AUGUST 1.—Clerical Wheelmen's Canadian Tour starts for Niagara Falls.
- SEPT. 8, 9 & 10.—Annual Tournament of the Springfield (Mass.) Bicycle Club.