

disfigure the American side? Thanks to the chairman of the Victoria Park, and the good sense of His Nibs' co-directors, there is to be, in the power-house of this latest company, a stately dome, a fane, rising against a tree-clad and historic bank, which will be handsome enough to suggest a library or a gallery of art instead of a place where by means of whirling wheels electricity is collected and dispersed.

Thanksgiving Day, 1904.

J. H.

A GREAT SPEECH BY A GREAT CANADIAN.

The recent unveiling at Halifax of a statue of that eminent son of Nova Scotia, Joseph Howe, reminds us of the occasion when Howe's gift of oratory made a remarkable impression upon the people of Western Canada and of the Northwestern States. In the summer of 1865 a convention of Boards of Trade of the United States and British America was held at Detroit to discuss commercial conditions, transportation, and reciprocal trade. It was a memorable gathering. Forty-two boards sent delegates, and their sessions lasted during four days. Its outcome was the passage, without a dissenting voice, of a resolution in favor of Reciprocal Commercial Interchange between the two countries. Notice of the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty of 1854 to 1866 had meanwhile been given, a fact which made the subject the more interesting.

On the fourth day, after lengthy discussions and deliverances, the convention was stirred to its depths by a speech from Hon. Joseph Howe, of Nova Scotia, who was present with six other delegates from the Halifax Board. The writer has heard one of the deputies from the Toronto Board, present on that occasion, describe the effect of Howe's great speech. When his third and fourth sentences fell upon the ears of those who hung about the doors or corridors chatting, or even of those engaged in committee-work, there was a curious stillness in the great hall, broken when his second paragraph was reached, by bursts of cheers. The orator had impressed them, as the statesman afterwards convinced them. We give the eloquent opening of the speech:

Howe on International Relations.

I never prayed for the gift of eloquence till now. Although I have passed through a long public life, I never was called upon to discuss a question so important in the presence of a body of representative men so large. I see before me merchants who think in millions, and whose daily transactions would sweep the harvest of a Greek Island or a Russian Principality. I see before me the men who whiten the Ocean and the Great Lakes with the sails of commerce—who own the railroads, canals and telegraphs, which spread life and civilization through this great country, making the waste plains fertile, and the wilderness to blossom as the rose. I see before me men whose capital and financial skill form the bulwark and sustain the Government in every crisis of public affairs. (Cheers.)

On either hand I see the gentlemen who control and animate the press, whose laborious vigils mould public sentiment—whose honorable ambition I can estimate from my early connection with the profession. On these benches sir, or I mistake the intelligence to be read in their faces, sit those who will yet be Governors and Ministers of State. I may well feel awed in presence of an audience such as this; but the great question which brings us together is worthy of the audience, and challenges their grave consideration.

What is that question? Sir, we are here to determine how best we can draw together, in the bonds of peace, friendship and commercial prosperity, the three great branches of the British family. (Cheers.)

In the presence of this great theme all party interests should stand rebuked—we are not dealing with the concerns of a city, a province or a state, but with the future of our race in all time to come. Some reference has been made to "Elevators" in your discussions. What we want is an elevator to lift our souls to the height of this argument. Why should not these three great branches of the family flourish,

under different systems of government, it may be, but forming one grand whole, proud of a common origin and of their advanced civilization? We are taught to reverence the mystery of the Trinity, and our salvation depends on our belief. The clover lifts its tri-foil leaves to the evening dew, yet they draw their nourishment from a single stem. Thus distinct, and yet united, let us live and flourish. Why should we not? For nearly two thousands years we were one family. Our fathers fought side by side at Hastings, and heard the curfew toll. They fought in the same ranks for the sepulchre of our Saviour—in the earlier and later civil wars. We can wear our white and red roses without a blush, and glory in the principles those conflicts established. Our common ancestors won the great Charter and the Bill of Rights—established free Parliaments, the Habeas Corpus, and Trial by Jury. Our jurisprudence comes down from Coke and Mansfield to Marshall and Story, rich in knowledge and experience, which no man can divide. From Chaucer to Shakespeare our literature is common inheritance. Tennyson and Longfellow write in one language, which is enriched by the genius developed on either side of the Atlantic. In the great navigators from Cortereal to Hudson, and in all their "moving accidents by flood and field," we have a common interest. On this side of the sea we have been largely reinforced by the Germans and French, but there is strength in both elements. The Germans gave to us the sovereigns who established our freedom, and they gave to you industry, intelligence and thrift; and the French, who have distinguished themselves in arts and arms for centuries, now strengthen the provinces which the fortune of war decided they could not control.

But it may be said we have been divided by two wars. What then? The noble St. Lawrence is split in two places, by Goat Island and by Anticosti—but it comes down to us from the same springs in the same mountain sides; its waters sweep together past the pictured rocks of Lake Superior, and encircle in their loving embrace the shores of Huron and Michigan. They are divided at Niagara Falls as we were at the Revolutionary War; but they come together, again on the peaceful bosom of Ontario. Again they are divided on their passage to the sea; but who thinks of divisions when they lift the keels of commerce or when drawn up to heaven they form the rainbow or the cloud? It is true that in eighty-five years we have had two wars; but what then? Since the last we have had fifty years of peace, and there have been more people killed in a single campaign in the late civil war than there were in the two national wars between this country and Great Britain. The people of the United States hope to draw together the two conflicting elements and make them one people. And in that task I wish them God speed! In the same way I feel that we ought to rule out everything disagreeable in the recollection of our old wars, and unite together as one people for all time to come. (Applause.)

I see around the door the flags of the two countries. United as they are there, I would ever have them draped together, fold within fold, and let

"Their varying tints unite,
And form in heaven's light,
One arch of peace." (Applause.)

He thanked the Board of Trade, and the people of the city for the hospitality extended to the provincial delegates, and proceeded to the general exposition of his subject.

A CHRISTMAS SUGGESTION.

"Somehow," said Mrs. Wiggs, of The Cabbage Patch, "I never feel like good things b'long to me till I pass 'em on to somebody else." And so, at this Christmas Time, when nearly every one is thinking of giving or getting Christmas Presents from relatives and friends, it is well for us to try if we can help to pass along help to persons who need things they cannot themselves procure. There are many worthy charities, public ones in the large cities, private ones in the smaller communities; and these it would be difficult, perhaps ungracious, for us to select or advise upon.