

Correspondence.

While we give full publicity to the views of our correspondents, we wish it to be distinctly understood, we do not hold ourselves responsible for them.]

S. G. L. OFFICERS' VISIT TO MANITOBA.

To the Editor Anglo-Saxon:

SIR—At the close of the first, and usually most trying month of a new year, as the days brighten, we begin to look forward to the prospects of what material prosperity we are likely to enjoy during the eleven months next following.

To us here in the Northwest, a bountiful harvest was the *sine qua non*, but we now find something even beyond that is needed, viz., remunerative prices.

But I am not just now going to dwell upon the agricultural phase of our condition in life, but on the hopes and prospects of the Sons of England Society. Before we can intelligently comment upon a prospective view of affairs to come, we are compelled to take a retrospective glance as a preliminary, for unless we have sown, we cannot expect to reap.

It appears to my mind several very important operations in this direction have taken place during the past year. For instance, four new lodges have been established in this province, besides several in B.C. and the Territories.

Here, we in Winnipeg have instituted an amalgamated White Rose Lodge, with a separate sick benefit department attached; so far the venture cannot be said to be entirely satisfactory, for while two-thirds of it is thriving vigorously, the other moiety seems to have got into a shaded corner, or be exposed to malignant influences of some kind, but the times are early yet; with the long continued, and intensely bright sunshine of the days to come, such influences will likely be reduced to the elements from which they came, and before fall the backward corner be as promising as the rest of the field.

The proposed new constitution has apparently proved too tough a morsel for successful recrimination, even during the long winter months.

The scheme for obtaining a hall for our own exclusive use seems now to be well under weigh to a successful issue. Last summer there was a deal of excitement in regard to the appointment of a lodge organizer. So far, nothing has been done in this direction, though an appropriation is said to have been made at S.G.L. meeting for such purpose.

In any case the supreme grand president and secretary came in person, viewed the ground, travelled in various ways over some of it; and what was of more importance than all, had an opportunity of becoming personally acquainted with individual officers and members in this otherwise, to them, *terra incognita*.

On our side, previously formed ideas of the prescient forethought, and hypnotic power to see through stone walls at a moment's notice, supposed to be possessed by S.G.L. officers, were dispelled. We found them only to be just ordinary business men, such as we might meet in Winnipeg, Toronto, New York or London, only their special business was that of the Sons of England B.S. On this they were thoroughly posted, and gave us during their much too short stay some valuable pointers. These two gentlemen must have gone back east fully impressed with the grand prospects for the future this country so densely settled by Englishmen must present to the order, they must know by personal acquaintance and local reputation gathered from those who know them best, the men amongst us on whom to rely in time of need, and putting these things together I am sure it will be the unanimous wish of the Northwest lodges at least, that neither of the offices now filled by these gentlemen shall be vacated by them during the ensuing term.

Leaving personalities out of the question, it appears an absolute necessity, and in the best interest of the whole order, that the money expended on the visit of the Grand Lodge Officers here should not be thrown away for a little evanescent excitement, and certainly their visit will amount to little more, if they are not allowed to continue to fill the only place where they will have power to continue to do the most good according to the light they have obtained by personal observation.

WINNIPEG FREE LANCE.

In 1660 the land of Great Britain constituted 57 per cent. of the country's wealth, and was valued at £250,000,000. Land was then worth \$5 an acre.

OUR DESTINY.

Editor ANGLO-SAXON:

SIR,—Having heard that one of our sister lodges in this vicinity does not contemplate sending a delegate to the next meeting of Grand Lodge, I am constrained to ask, will the same occur in other localities? Do all our members realize the importance of attending said meeting? It should not be overlooked by any lodge, no matter how small or remote. It is a privilege enjoyed by every subordinate lodge. As the prosperity of our Order depends principally upon the unity of its members they should of necessity send delegates to represent them at Grand Lodge, especially at a time when a contemplated change in our Constitution is anticipated. If every lodge were properly represented there would be no possibility of reflections being cast at any one lodge for want of zeal, etc., the peculiarities of Englishmen regarding such circumstances being well known. I would, therefore, urge upon our members to consider their position in the Order. Let us impress upon our minds that the founders of our institution had a purpose in its organization of far more importance than the thought of pecuniary benefits. The Beneficiary and other benefits are important, and very necessary adjuncts to our Order, but are only secondary considerations. They are good investments for our money, but we want, and earnestly desire, a larger amount of sentiment, and the full conviction of the grand possibilities of our Order, the same, perhaps, being desired, in the near future, to be a factor of no mean dimensions in this portion of the British Empire.

The Aims and Objects of our Society are for mutual improvement and the maintenance of the British Empire. What grand possibilities and opportunities are contained in those few words! A large field of usefulness is opened up—a vista—so full and vivid, of opportunities for doing good to our fellow-men, of building up and enhancing character, of helping each other in the time of adversity, of condolence in the time of affliction, of giving joy and pleasure to the despondent, of caring for the widows and orphans, of counselling the young and inexperienced by example and precept, all conducing to the welfare, effectiveness and popularity of our Order. So that, the letters S.O.E.B.S. should be an index of sterling worth to all those by whom it is worn.

Such being, in a small measure, part of our aspirations, shall we not do all that is in our power, individually and collectively, to perpetuate an order that may achieve so much good? Then let us hold on to the birth right that has fallen to our lot. We read with absorbing interest, and gloat over with joy, and revel in the deeds of our forefathers, and in the fullness of their valor and chivalry, and with pardonable pride we point to their names, and say of such and such I came; then brethren, shall we be the less loyal to our name and country; less zealous in the cause of right? No. By the source of England's power, the book of Holy writ, we must in this the 19th century, hand down to our children and posterity a nucleus of a society that shall be known for its intrinsic value throughout the width and breadth of the British Empire.

G. T. MARTIN.

Smith's Falls, Feb. 10th.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.

On January 15th Bro. A. J. Edwards, S. G. V. P., installed the officers of Lodge Suffolk, No. 87; the hall was artistically decorated for the occasion.

After the lodge had been formally closed the festivities of the evening commenced.

The chairman, Bro. R. A. Bowie, bade all welcome, and proposed the toast of "The Queen," the National Anthem was sung.

Toast—Grand Lodge Officers—responded to by J. A. Edwards, S.G.V.P., in an excellent speech, urging the officers and all present to a spirit of patriotism. He urged that more earnest attention should be given the juvenile branch.

Toast—Our District—Coupled with the names of Bros. W. White and A. C. Bacon, who responded.

Toast—Our Kindred Lodges—Coupled with the name of The Ven. Arch. T. Bedford Jones, who responded with a short speech, expressing his pleasure at belonging to a society that upheld such noble causes as all Englishmen loved, and at the beginning of this new year he should endeavor to be of as much use as possible in assisting to forward the interests of the society.

The soldier is the best fed individual of his class in Europe. The British soldier receives for his daily ration 16 ounces of bread, 12 of meat, 2 of rice, 8 of dried vegetables, 16 of potatoes, and once a week he receives 2 ounces of salt, 4 of coffee and 9 of sugar.

PAGES OF BRITISH HISTORY.

Historical Battles—Noteworthy Events in the Story of the Creation of the British Empire.

Rodney in the Leeward Isles, 1780.

This year saw our warlike operations so much on the increase all over the world, that no less than 85,000 men, including 18,779 marines, were voted for the fleet. About this time the new gun called a carronade, or "smasher," came into use for the ships and batteries. They were cast at the Carron Iron Works in Scotland, hence their name, and were the invention of General Robert Melville, an officer who served under Lord Rollo at the capture of Dominica and elsewhere. They were peculiarly constructed, being shorter and lighter than other cannon, and having a chamber for powder, like a mortar. They were cast in enormous numbers at Barron, and were employed throughout the fighting and mercantile marine of all Europe and America till nearly about the time of the Crimean War. The first of them was presented by the Carron Company to the family of the general, who still preserve it; and an inscription on the carriage records that they were cast for "solid, ship, shell, or carcass shot, and first used against the French fleet in 1779."

On the night of the 15th, the French admiral put suddenly to sea; on the following day his fleet was discovered to the north-west of St. Lucia. Sir George Rodney instantly made the signal for a general chase; and by five in the evening the count's force was seen to consist of twenty-three sail of the line, one ship of fifty guns, three frigates, and two other vessels.

Night coming on, Sir George formed his fleet into line of battle ahead, keeping the while a sight of the enemy, who, by their manoeuvres, evidently wished to avoid a battle.

When day dawned the British fleet certainly had the weather-gage; and at ten minutes to twelve the admiral made a signal for every ship to bear down, steer for an engage, yard-arm and yard-arm if possible, her opposite craft in the enemy's line.

On came the British fleet, under a press of canvas; by one the action began, and ere long the roar of 3,400 pieces of cannon, together with small arms, reverberated over the waves.

Admiral Rodney, in the Sandwich 90 guns, bore into the heart of the French fleet, pouring a dreadful cannonade from his tiers of artillery; his port and starboard guns being both engaged at once, spouting fire and death, as he set a noble example to his officers by crippling and beating in succession the Couronne, 80 guns, bearing the flag of M. de Guichen; the Triumphant, 80, under Chef d'Escadre the Count de Larde; and the Fendant, 74, Captain the Marquis de Vaudreuil, and driving them fairly out of the line; on which the first-named vessel set all her sails and bore right away before the wind, an example which was speedily followed by the whole fleet, the crippled state of some of our ships particularly the Sandwich (after a conflict so unequal with three ships in succession), which for twenty-four hours was with difficulty kept above water, preventing a pursuit. Of this engagement, which lasted till four in the evening, the French give a very different account:—

"The Count de Guichen was in hopes that the combat would terminate in a more decisive manner, his position to the leeward leaving no resource to force the enemy, who was master, to push on the action with vigour, or to slacken it. The surprise of the French admiral was great indeed when, at half-past four, he saw Admiral Rodney set his mainsail and haul his wind, which was also done by all his fleet. Half an hour after, the foretopmast of the Sandwich was seen to fall. The ship seemed to be much disabled, and it was perceived that the admiral had shifted his flag on board of another. The king's ships kept their lights burning, and made their signals by firing guns; but on the 18th at break of day they saw nothing of the enemy, who were not discovered until the 19th, when they were to leeward."

According to Sir George (afterwards Lord) Rodney's dispatches, every exertion was made to put the fleet in order to pursue the French, of whom they got sight on the 20th, and whom they pursued for the three successive days. The great object of the Count de Guichen seemed to have been shelter in Fort Royal Bay, Martinique; but finding it impossible to obtain that without another action he took shelter under Guadalupe; while Sir George returned to St. Lucia to refit, fill his water-casks, and put ashore his wound-

ed, who were 353 in number, while his loss in killed amounted to 120—in the former list were nine officers, in the latter six.

On the 6th of May Sir George received intelligence that the enemy's fleet had left Guadaloupe, and were seen standing to windward of Martinique. He instantly put to sea, and on the 10th discovered them about nine miles windward of him, their force being the same as in the preceding action, with the addition of 600 grenadiers, whom Marquis de Bouillie had embarked on board La Courageuse, a thirty-six-gun frigate, commanded by the Chevalier de la Rigoudiere.

Still the French admiral studiously eluded coming to general action; but, aware of his superiority in sailing, he frequently bore down upon the British with all his ships abreast in line of battle, and then brought them to the wind again, before he came within range of cannon-shot.

Mortified to find that he could not get to windward of this cautious and vigilant enemy, and thereby force him to fight, on the 15th Rodney signalled his fleet to make "all sail possible on a wind," which led the count to think he was retiring; and this emboldened him, when next he bore down, to come much nearer than he intended. Rodney quietly permitted them to enjoy the flattering delusion, until their van ship had come abreast of his centre, when, by a lucky and sudden shift of the breeze, which he knew would enable him to weather the enemy, he signalled for the third in command (who then led his van) to tack and beat to windward of the enemy.

The moment this movement was perceived, the French fleet wore, and literally fled with all sail crowded to their trucks, another change in the wind enabling them to recover their advantage. By seven in the evening Captain Bower, in the Albion, 74, which had a party of the 5th Foot on board acting as marines, reached the centre of the French line, and opened a furious cannonade, supported by Rear-Admiral Rowley, in the Conqueror, 74, and the rest of the van; but as the enemy were still flying under a press of sail and fring as they fled, none of the rest of the British fleet could take part in the action, which was renewed again on the 19th, when the Count de Guichen, seeing that his rear could not escape being engaged, appeared to have taken the resolution of risking a general action.

As soon as his van had weathered the British, he bore away along their line to windward, and opened a heavy cannonade, but at such a distance as to do little execution; though by one shot Ensign Curry, of the 5th Foot, was killed; a second mortally wounded Captain Watson, of the Conqueror; Lieutenant D. Uglass, of the Cornwall, lost a leg; and an officer of the 87th Foot was severely injured on board of the Magnificent. But when the van, under Commodore Hotham (who was afterwards created a peer), closed in with the enemy, they ran out their studding-sails to escape, and sailed so swiftly that by the 21st they were completely out of sight, and after that Rodney steered for Barbadoes.

The total loss of the British fleet in these affairs amounted to 118 killed and 567 wounded; while that of the French was 158 killed and 820 wounded, eleven officers being among the former, and twenty-eight among the latter.

In Great Britain it was formerly compulsory that all persons should be buried in flannel gowns, and there was an act of Parliament to that effect. The nearest relatives of the deceased person had to go before a magistrate and oath that the body was buried according to the act of Parliament—that is, in woolen. The object of this decree was the benefit of the wool trade.

The art of making needles was kept a secret until about 1650, when it was taught to the English by Christopher Greening. Now English needles are sold all over the world. At Bidditch alone 20,000 people make more than 100,000,000 needles a year, and they are made and exported so cheaply that England has no rival in this country, and practically monopolizes the trade.

The natives of British New Guinea have taken seriously to the task of raising coconuts for export. During 1890 the natives, acting under the direction of the government officers, planted 1,500 coconut trees, and last year the number planted on Fanko Island alone reached 12,000. About 2,000 coconuts were also planted on the mainland.

Queen Victoria will be settled in Florence before Easter. At the close of the following month she will be found in Coburg, and the next (May) will find her 74 years old.

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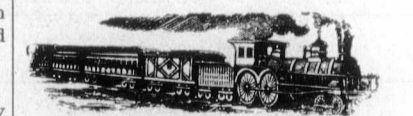
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