

OUR SAILORS.

As we take our way along the streets of a modern city we may see much in the human faces we encounter to bring feeling to the kindly heart, and thought to the mind. When the quiet gentleman and the typical sailor—"Poor Jack," as we seem to like to call him—meet amidst the busy throng, the glance that is exchanged between them soon lets each see that they belong to separate departments of civilization, and will be likely to lead to the belief in the son of ocean that he has not altogether the best of the bargain. He cannot be expected to call to mind that he has never had to busy himself in the transfer of merchandise, or piling up correspondence with the House in Europe, and if it could only be explained to him what anxiety these sometimes involve, might be inclined to banish the thought of envy rising in his breast. Still, the merchant at his desk sees his lode-star, or believes he does, and we do not think the treatment our visitor receives to be in the least commensurate with the excellent service he confers upon the community. No one seems to understand him, or to take much trouble to do him justice—an essential link in the intercourse of nations. A man who has familiarized himself with hardships, that luxury in many forms may be ours, we almost treat him as if he were an extra growth of the social order, a being alien to our sympathies. Some of us may never have spoken to a sailor in our lives—and many more may consider that it would be hard to make themselves altogether intelligible to him. Such is the effect of the separation that a mere calling in life has imposed. But in the midst of all this anomaly a few are found, who, prompted by feelings of true philanthropy, have striven to break through the barrier that divides the denizens of the sea and shore, and to bring themselves into a fuller sympathy with our poor bird of passage, while they bring a stream of sunshine to flow down upon his life. Thus they shield him more or less completely from the frightful injuries and deceits to which he is exposed, so soon as he sets foot upon the treacherous shore.

In such cities as London, Liverpool, Bristol and Montreal, Sailor's Homes or Institutes, which people of judgment will know to be the best citadel of the missionary and his good influences, have been thoroughly furnished for the work of enabling him to pass his time while in harbour in what we may call Christian comfort. Their promoters have managed to let the poor fellow know that it is their wish to advance his welfare—to afford him the exercise of a quiet mind amid peaceful and agreeable surroundings during the few hours he spends amongst us landmen—to put him in the way of profiting himself, while his bodily comforts are judiciously ministered to. Nor are we to assume that this man comes to us in the guise of a pauper. After the first expenses are overcome, your seaman in port is quite able to sustain his Institution by paying as he goes. Will it not seem strange, that any seaport of importance should be found unwilling at once to enhance its own reputation, while it benefited the sailor, by adopting a similar course? Calmly looked at, the making a port justly pleasant to the seaman would seem to redound so fully to the benefit of the captain and shipowner as to ensure for every such commercial emporium a proportionate enhanced share in the general traffic arriving by sea. Against so obvious an arrangement has to be set, however, the mighty power of "use and wont." It may be hateful enough in its pretensions, "Use and wont" will continue to bear away, nevertheless, until displaced by a stronger power. The right spirit will one day become stronger than itself. The Governments, general and local, are, we will say favourable to the true course—offers of assistance are more than hinted at, for at least the supply by daytime of the seaman's needs, if it be thought necessary that he should sleep on board ship while in port. The banquet is ready or might be so—the guests are ready, in the case we have supposed, to partake of the pleasant viands to be set before them; but an ague-fear—a groundless one, we are fully persuaded—of not being able to impound the men when they are needed and of not getting the human merchandise under lock and key when a ship is wanted to be manned, causes a well-intended enterprise to collapse for the time, and efforts that could hardly be overvalued for their far-reaching effects to lose for the present the name of action. Let us be thankful for what we have—an effective police is a great point gained—but in England we have Plimsoll—and in London there is a special Mission to Seamen. Has it ever proved the power of deputations to ports at a distance, in order to plead with the authorities for humane treatment for these men? They are more Britain's children than those of any other country, although other nations would equally benefit by a judicious movement for their welfare.

FRENCH FANATICISM.—The Switzerland *Gottardo* reports the following act of almost inconceivable religious fanaticism, which occurred at Lucques: The police have just discovered a poor girl who was betrothed tied by her relatives with a heavy rope to a beam in the attic of the house where she lived in such a way that the whole weight of her body rested upon the fastening. Everything had been done to increase her sufferings; she was deprived of food, water, and sleep. When she was found she had lost her reason and could not speak; she howled like a wild beast. The father, sister, and uncles of the unfortunate creature have been arrested as well as a curé who appears to have been the instigator of this savage act.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FREE TRADE AND ARBITRATION.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS:

SIR,—Free trade can hardly ever become universal or continuous. It is opposed to the inevitable necessities of national prosperity. Every time two great nations become involved in war their whole commercial policies with other nations require changes. In some cases the effects of these changes are felt severely in very remote places. The trade relations between England and the States were totally changed by the late civil war. The commercial treaty between England and France was swept away by the late French and Prussian war. This is the fate of every treaty sooner or later; and such a fate is always disastrous to trade. *Permanent, steady prosperity cannot be secured without a large development of home manufactures.* If Canada now enters into trade relations with the States, to the injury of home manufactures, a war between the East and West, of which there is some real danger, will again find us without manufactures of our own and compelled to pay war prices for everything we import. Duties and taxes are and will always be the only means of paying war debts. Nations, not having home manufactures, are constantly assisting to pay the debts of other nations. As shown in a former letter, England built up home manufactures by protection; till now, nearly every nation in the world is contributing towards the payment of her national debt. Protection is what makes free trade ultimately profitable. Free trade, however, can never be profitable for all. It is so only for those who possess natural or acquired advantages.

It is no use to preach free trade to a nation in the present position of France or in that of the States immediately after the civil war. Adversity teaches those people to reject such nonsense. *True economy is learned in adversity.* It is only in prosperous times that false theories like free trade take root. In every financial embarrassment nations have to flee to protection, and if people would not forget the arts by which they surmount difficulties, they would make fewer mistakes. The way to pay debts and the way to make money is the same. Nations pay debts by duties and protection to home manufactures; to continue prosperous it is necessary to continue this policy. The conditions that might possibly make free trade safe and profitable do not exist, and are never likely to exist. For example, the idea that international disputes are about to be generally settled by arbitration is nonsense. Such men as Emperor William and Bismarck, backed by immense resources, after enormous expenditures in military preparations, feeling strong and confident of victory, will never submit a weighty matter to arbitration where the decision of such a tribunal is at all doubtful. Military men have no faith in such a prediction. Krupp, the great cannon manufacturer in Prussia, is putting \$7,500,000 of new capital into his work. All these things point to a continuance of war, as usual, and the unfitness of free-trade theories at present. Capitalists are as willing as ever to furnish money to carry on war, and invest money in the manufacture of arms. The most gigantic warlike preparations are going on on every side. England, where the doctrine of arbitration finds its chief support, is building as many ships of war as ever. It was by war she won her vast dominions, though peace would suit her best now; but younger nations are not yet satisfied to give the game up. For those who give attention to the subject, there is more to be gained yet by war than by arbitration. The age is still far off when war will cease to be the principal arbiter between nations. There are too many barbarous and semi-barbarous nations still in the world for civilized man to lay down the only means of defence which holds such people in awe. As the pugilist requires the blows of a training master to prepare him for the real conflict, so one civilized nation still requires to come into collision with another to prepare them for a conflict with the barbarous nations by which a great portion of the earth is still inhabited. If civilized man is master of the world, at the present day, it is his superiority in arms which has made him so. Our intercourse with half the world and a large majority of the human race is preserved only by our superiority in the use of arms. If Europe and America abandoned warlike preparations, and adopted rules for settling international disputes by arbitration, both countries would be conquered by the barbarous and semi-barbarous hordes of Asia and Africa within two centuries. To civilized man war is an evil, but the abandonment of the art, as advocated by the arbitration movement, would be a greater evil. In wars between civilized nations civilization suffers little in comparison with what it suffers when a civilized nation is conquered by a barbarous one. This is where the screw is loose in the free-trade movement. Free-traders think that arbitration as a means of settling nearly all international disputes is an accomplished fact, and that any policy which the present civilized nations think proper to adopt will control the destinies of mankind in all time to come. This kind of egotism is common in all ages. Greece, Rome, Persia, Assyria, and all the nations of antiquity, thought the same thing of themselves. They never dreamed that the seat of power would be in Western Europe some day; just as the free-traders of Western Europe now think it will never remove to any place else hereafter.

Should any considerable declension take place in the military art in Western Europe, the British army might probably be drawn out of India within fifty years. Were it not for modern improvement in the manufacture of fire-arms I doubt if the Government could hold India even now. With the old musket British soldiers could hardly succeed in expeditions against even such enemies as the Abyssinians or Ashantees; and repulses in cases of this kind might lead to the invasion of Europe by Asia or Africa once more. However improbable this may appear at present, it might be rendered quite practicable by the operation of such principles as free trade and the settlement of international disputes by arbitration.

The arbitration and free-trade doctrines emanate from the same source. Free-trade economists are the blindest of all politicians, and those who elevate such men are the blindest of all electors. They remind one of the man who in lopping the branches of a tree cut the one on which he was standing. The declension of the military art likely to arise from arbitration would efface civilization on two continents and exclude the manufactures of Western Europe from half of the human race.

To each civilized nation individually there is no more im-

portant question than protection to home manufactures; and to all civilized nations collectively there is nothing of greater consequence than progress in the art of war. While the former confines the evil effects of war pretty much to its immediate locality, the latter is required to push forward civilization in barbarous countries. Disarming civilized nations is equivalent to arming barbarous ones. But the practice of modern philanthropists is to disarm everything good and leave everything bad armed to the teeth. They are silly enough to suppose that if the saint lays down his sword Satan will follow the example. The ballot bill just passed is a corresponding principle. By it, law and public opinion, the highest emanations of public virtue, are totally disarmed, while every elector is placed in a position to bribe or be bribed with impunity.

Yours truly,

W. DEWART.

Fenelon Falls.

THE FLANEUR.

The London *Figaro* calls Jenkins a demi-semi ambassador. In a letter addressed to the *Times*, the irrepressible Agent-General quotes Mr. Mackenzie himself to prove that he is a quasi-diplomatic agent. This thing should be cleared up. Jenkins is not fit to be Ambassador, even of the demi-semi variety.

Some time ago one of our comics was accused of plagiarizing *Punch*. It maintained a prudent silence, thus acknowledging the corn. It will now have its revenge, on learning that *Punch* itself has been caught plagiarizing. In its number of May 30th it had the following:

Terrible child. What is matter?
Sensible parent. Never mind.
Terrible child. What is mind?
Sensible parent. No matter.

Now the self-same witticism appeared, word for word, in the *Month*, for 1851, a shilling magazine edited by Albert Smith, with illustrations by John Leech.

Our French papers sometimes succeed in hitting off a good joke. Referring to the lamentations of the present Opposition over the sins of the Government, one of them says:
 Scratch a Russian and you catch a Tartar.
 Scratch a Tory and you find a Pharisee.

The Conservatives want to run Mr. Chauveau for Napier-ville. I hope Mr. Chauveau will not allow himself to be "run." He is free from the bad record of the old party, and ought to hold aloof. After a short retirement he will come to the fore again, under happier auspices, for the country cannot afford to lose the services of one of her purest and most scholarly public men.

It is a morbidly bad fashion to be forever abusing mothers-in-law. Will not your wife become a mother-in-law some day? And how will you like to have a beardless fellow who has inveigled your daughter from you, add the further indignity of looking down upon your wife?

Superannuation is the order of the day. There are so many young and hungry members of the "pairty" who want to get a berth that the outbreak of an epidemic—say cholera or small-pox—among the members of the present Civil Service would be regarded as a "providential interposition."

Sir John A. Macdonald is going to repeat his visit to the salt water this summer. Let him be prudent. He might get drowned again.

Norris absolutely denies everything. Mr. Abbott is just now absent in Europe. Is there any coincidence?

Whether is it better to be Premier of a Province or Collector of Customs at its principal port?
 Mr. Annand will soon tell us.

What is a Cathedral?
 A Bishop's Church.
 Then there is no English Cathedral in this city, according to Dr. Oxenden's own showing.

There are to be no general elections for the Provincial Legislature after all. That is right, Messrs. Ouimet and Chapleau. Your own dissolution will come soon enough, without your hastening it on.

A literary friend who was toiling through the labyrinth of Winchell's "Doctrine of Evolution," said it would require half a dozen bottles of beer to help him through the book.
 "That would be *involution*," replied a sympathizing colleague.

It is pretended that Mr. Mackenzie has set his eyes upon Kingston as the seat of the proposed Military College. Ordinary people would imagine that the Premier had based his choice on purely geographical and strategical reasons. But it seems that is a mistake. An Opposition paper informs us that Kingston will be selected, because Mr. Mackenzie hopes thereby to alienate that constituency from its old fealty to Sir John.

Ours is truly a paternal Government. It pays its faithful servants in advance. Mr. Young, who has been President of the Harbour Commission about three months, has received \$2,000 for his services *during the year!*

On the other hand, the Civil Service clerks, most of them appointees of the old Government, have been warned that if they talk about increase of salary they will be summarily dismissed.

A prominent doctor of this city advertises that a cow has strayed from his residence!

"Green Grass" butter is advertised by a grocer on Craig Street. It is very yellow.

ALMAYTA.