

sign ! There is no more prosperous country on the face of the earth, to-day, than our own, and the events of the past year have proved that we are equalled by few in point of financial integrity, and excelled by none in the spirit of national progress. Nevertheless, we might take a lesson from our sister colony, Australia, in the matter of a denotative badge on the ensign of the empire. In the colony of Victoria, it is a constellation of five stars (the Southern Cross); in New South Wales, it is a red cross, on which are four stars, lion in centre; in Queensland, it is a blue Maltese cross, crown in centre; Western Australia has a black swan on a yellow disc,—all on the fly of the British ensign. These are simple and appropriate emblems, and when the colonies are federated, it is not likely that Australians will place a menagerie on their new flag.

The great powers do not blazon their standards with fantastic devices;

their national banners are neat, but striking in appearance; those of Germany, Russia, France, Italy, Turkey, Austria, and that "meteor-flag" of our mother-land are easily remembered; and so, too, should be the Canadian ensign. Thus, with a truer sense of its significance, we could sing with greater fervor the praises of our national emblem:

"The Maple Leaf, our emblem dear; the Maple Leaf forever!
God save the Queen, and Heaven bless the Maple Leaf forever!"

Let us pray that, whatever indicative mark may be displayed on the fly of that flag, the Union Jack shall remain next the staff—never to depart from this Canada of ours, until the voice of Albion be stilled forever, until the English tongue be hushed throughout the world!

"With that loved flag above us, with Britain to watch o'er us,
We should never fear the future—be it famine, be it foe."

PROMPTINGS.

On this strange stage where men and women play,
When they, who linger on their half-learned lines
To look before and after, go astray,
An unseen Prompter from without reminds

The Actors of their half-forgotten parts;
And then the faltering Comedy takes life;
Out-laughs the sterner Tragedy, and starts
Anew to act the drama's rantèd strife.

ARTHUR J. STRINGER.