

Did You Meet Them?

Two little Tempers went their way
Through town and country, one winter day.
One, like a queen, wore a golden crown,
And the fairy Sunshine, had spun her gown:
And she gaily tossed, as she danced along,
A largess of smiles, good cheer and song.

The other one wore on her brow a cloud,
And her voice was fretful, and cross and loud;
And said, 'There's an east wind passing by.'
And she scattered about, in the frosty air,
Quarrels and bickerings, everywhere.

Both had followers in their train,
Earning their wages, pleasure and pain.
And Time took snapshots of each and all.
And hung the pictures on Memory's wall.
Sunshine and shadow, gloom and cheer;
Which will you walk with today, my dear?

—*Congregationalist and Christian World.*

CURRENT EVENTS.

The death of Leopold II., King of the Belgians, which occurred on the 17th of last month, has placed his nephew on the throne of Belgium, with the title of King Albert I. The new king will rule over a population in the home land as large as that of Canada, and about twice as many in the Congo State. The late king, during his lifetime, was much abused by the foreign newspapers, both for his private life and for his rule in the Congo; but the Belgians regarded him as a good king, and it is certain that the little kingdom was very prosperous during his reign.

Zelaya has resigned his office as President of Nicaragua, and has been succeeded by Dr. Jose Madriz, who is elected president by the unanimous vote of Congress. Meanwhile, the insurgents have defeated the government troops in battle, and the ex-president has fled to Mexico. The contending parties are trying to come to terms of agreement, lest the United States intervene and take possession of the country.

The laws for the protection of birds have been so well enforced in Massachusetts that only eleven cases of their violation were reported in the past year. One result of "bird day" in the schools of the state of Victoria, Australia, is the enrolment of fifty thousand children as members of a society for the protection of birds.

The customs revenue of Canada last year reached nearly sixty million dollars, and the amount collected in December was greater than in any previous month in the history of the Dominion.

The new anæsthetic, stovaine, is said to have been in use in the Montreal General Hospital for the last four

years, though its wonderful results were not widely known until the recent visit of its discoverer to the United States.

It is estimated that twenty-eight million dollars were expended in railway construction last year in Western Canada.

The population of British Columbia has doubled within the last ten years, and is now nearly three hundred and fifty thousand. Here, as in the prairie provinces, a large proportion of the new arrivals are immigrants from the United States.

The number of post offices in Canada increased five per cent last year, and the postal revenue four per cent.

The Canadian canal system affords a minimum depth of fourteen feet from Lake Superior to the head of ocean navigation at Montreal. The expenditure on these canals since Confederation aggregates nearly one hundred and twenty-four million dollars.

The second class cruiser "Rainbow" has been purchased from the British admiralty to be used as a training ship for the new Canadian navy. She will be sent to the Pacific coast.

Grain shipments from Canada in 1909 were much larger than in previous years; and, owing to the improved railway facilities, the grain was moved much more rapidly.

It will surprise many to learn that Argentina exports more wheat than Canada; and it is stated that in wheat alone our South American rival's output is about double that of our country. Siberia is another rival of Canada in this respect; but, while the Argentine winter is shorter and milder than ours, that of Siberia in some parts is more severe.

In its forests Canada is unrivalled, and there are immense forest tracts still unexplored. It is proposed that a department of forestry should be established by the Canadian government for the better protection and development of this great natural source of wealth.

The great viaduct at Lethbridge, in southern British Columbia, where the Canadian Pacific crosses the Belly River, is over a mile in length, and is three hundred and fourteen feet above the bed of the stream. The bridge over the Zambesi River, at Victoria Falls, is higher, but not so long; the Tay bridge is twice as long, but only fifty feet above the tide.

An interesting story of white men coming in a "house from the sky," is brought from the far north by a returning missionary priest, who had heard of it among the Eskimos. It is thought that this house may have been the Andre balloon, of which nothing was known after it disappeared from view at Spitzbergen some years ago.

The results of the London conference respecting maritime rules of war, in which ten leading powers took part, are now made public. Among the things settled are the rights of neutral vessels, the laws of blockade, and what constitutes contraband of war. Disputes are to be settled by the International prize court provided for by the last Hague conference.