

The Value of Our British Connection.

By W. E. HARRIS.

When some time ago the writer was framing a little for this paper entitled "Canada for Canadians," he avoided making particular mention of the value to Canadians, of our British Connection; feeling that it was a subject worthy of much greater attention than one could afford it in a short article, such as the one mentioned above. It is regrettable to find one still meets with the same difficulty, i. e. want of space, when he turns to the broad and weighty subject in hand, and attempts to enter fully into a discussion of the same—However, I shall endeavour to set forth herein some strong reasons for keeping alive the noble sentiments of loyalty to the Mother Country—not on the ground of sentiment alone shall I speak; but from a necessary standpoint as well, for one can safely say the little point is the more popular one with the majority of people now-a-days—Therefore, in addition to showing why we should feel proud to be recognized as British subjects, if only for that alone, I must tell our readers how this matter affects us in dollars and cents, and will adduce some figures at the end of this article showing what an immense volume of our trade is done with Great Britain alone as compared with all other countries in the aggregate.

Some of our friends are ever anxiously turning their gaze upon the south of us, and are very fond of expatiating upon the glorious achievements of that country, since it declared its independence. I would ask these same people to pause and enquire as to whether they might not find truer pleasure, as loyal Canadians, by turning their eyes in another direction? Could they not reap greater enjoyment by looking toward the steady-throbbing living heart of the whole civilized world of today? That heart which pumps the warm gushing life blood of civilization, liberty, and christianity through an empire so vast in its proportions, that the sun never sinks to rest upon its bosom. Then let them realize the fact that the heart of which we speak is none other than that of our own dear Mother-land—How fully do I realize the inadequacy of my feeble attempt to find suitable words with which to frame a fitting eulogium of that country, which has done so much towards bringing about our happy condition of to-day! Great Britain has done so much towards increasing, by tremendous strides in late years, not only our commercial prosperity by sending forth armed forces to subdue the unenlightened inhabitants of the further ends of the world; but also by supplying by God's

grace, the noble men and women, who have taken their lives in their hands, and gone forth offering themselves as a means of carrying God's message to them, and of extending Christ's Kingdom on earth.—England's greatness has been sustained through long, long years not more fully by her achievements in the first named direction (that of advancing civilization alone), than through her noble efforts to supply the vast means necessary to carrying on the advance guard, of the "Church Militant, here on earth," which to day, is found warring against darkness and sin, even in the uttermost parts of the earth.

England reminds one of a man who in seeking his own welfare, seeks first the welfare of his Creator's cause. Such a man is sure to succeed, and stand firm throughout all time, likewise a nation.

It is not necessary for me to recount the great achievements of the British forces by land and seas, in an article of this kind, and bring before you events with which you are all quite familiar if you have given your attention to British History. All people who have a proper knowledge of the World's history, concede British greatness without the slightest murmur of dissent.

"Give me the grand old Union Jack,
Baptized in blood and tears;
The flag that o'er a nation free
Has waved a thousand years,
More modern flags with stars and bars
As beautiful may be;
But the flag that waved a thousand years
Is good enough for me."

Yes! That flag which loyal Britons might liken to the most brilliant gem in the diadem of some great potentate, when they behold it on the brow of that impregnable sentinel which keeps eternal vigilance over the entrance to the Mediterranean sea. That flag which is the ensign of the largest, strongest fleet, which moves upon the face of the waters to-day; and which fleet guards our marine commerce from interference on the part of any. The flag which waves proudly and victoriously over those vast rich British territories in South Africa, that flag which floats so freely over millions of square miles, and millions of British subjects in sunny India; and over our prosperous Southern sisters in the Australian group; and which lends its prestige to millions of industrious Canadians, who occupy millions of acres of British soil in this Canada of ours—Yes! that flag will do for me! When we pause for a moment and consider what our British connection really means to us, and realize with what a mighty nation our names, our interests and our future are identified, it makes one thrill with pardonable pride.

When we, as Canadians, find we have a mighty army, and a navy which has never met with defeat, to lead force to all our demands when difficulties of a diplomatic

character arise, or when "Uncle Sam" attempts to trample upon our rights, as in the Behring Sea seal fisheries; to know we have so mighty a friend to come forward and plead our cause, and to see that the fullest justice is meted out to us by all: I assure you this furnishes rich food for the minds of all Canadians to reflect upon; and more especially those whose minds are tainted with disloyalty, or the "anti-British sentiment."

British troops and ships are sent to protect us, and gigantic fortifications are built and maintained, not at our expense but at the expense of the Imperial government.

When Canadians feel it would be to their advantage to borrow funds to carry on some great public work, such as the construction of that famous continental highway, known as the Canadian Pacific Railway; it is English capital that we borrow, and not the capital of some nation uninterested in our welfare.

When the Canadian government decides that we require a fast Atlantic steamship service, or when we feel that it would be to the advantage of Canada to have the British colonies more firmly cemented together by improved means of communication, such as the proposed Pacific cable, is it not the generous heart and open hand of the mother country which comes forward and proffers assistance?

Time and space would fail me, should I attempt to enumerate the countless reasons for sustaining and strengthening our relations with the mother land.

Now in order to give our readers who have not already looked this matter up for themselves, some idea of the immensity of our trade with Great Britain, I shall submit the following accurate figures taken from the latest trade and navigation returns, issued by the Dominion Government. Let us look at our exports alone, and point out the principal articles exported, in turn:

During the fiscal year ending June, 1896, we shipped to Great Britain alone, 7,587,280 lbs. of canned lobsters and 21,861,276 lbs. of canned salmon, not mentioning the enormous quantity of dried fish shipped to the same place; \$12,178,701 was the value of our forest products sent to Great Britain; 17,179 horses, worth \$1,729,508; 97,042 cattle, worth \$5,816,361; 219,810 sheep, worth \$1,721,250; 4,970,047 lbs. butter; 164,410,940 lbs. cheese; 5,585,725 dozens of eggs; \$1,380,165 worth of furs; 17,026 lbs of honey; 64,807,605 lbs. meat, fresh and canned; 504,680 barrels ripe apples; 487,252 bushels of oats; 1,347,170 bushels of peas; 9,729,368 bushels of wheat, leaving unmentioned thousands of bushels of other kinds of grain, and thousands of barrels of flour and meal.

Our total exports to Great Britain for