

The flag borne on the winds of a country, and that floats from the masts and flag staffs of a nation, is a matter of very great consequence, because if it engages the affections of the people it must form an important element in that wonderful power called patriotism or the love of country.

All history teaches us that this love of one's country is one of the great forces of national greatness, and therefore it will have the effect of adding to the strength of our country by choosing a flag that will appeal to the instincts of our people, and that will inspire them with a strong sentiment of attachment. Mr. Fleming in his letter has already set forth the importance of the historic Union Jack, with its reference to the union of Scotland and Ireland with England, and he has also showed the appropriateness and deep meaning of using a star upon the Union Ensign, as the symbol of the Dominion.

In all that he has said we can agree heartily, and if we were only considering the question as regards Canada, there would seem to be little else left to be said.

There is, however, another aspect of this flag question that has been rightly brought up for consideration by one of your correspondents, who has reminded us that other countries are also at present bearing stars on their flags, although, of course, our country alone would have the right to combine the star with the Union Jack.

In this connection there is a suggestion that, perhaps, may serve to harmonize the proposition to use the star, with the objection that has been urged in regard to other countries also using a star or stars. All who are acquainted with the history of Ireland or Erin are aware that from the earliest dawn of her gallant story her leaders bore on their flags an emblem called the "sun burst" which is only, in plain words, a large star with rays proceeding out of it and these rays figured on the fabric of the flag. Of course, such an emblem worked upon the silk and colour of a flag is striking in the extreme and is not only true to nature but is productive of the highest practical and hopeful aspirations that the human mind can imagine in connection with a flag.

The warlike bards of Erin's chivalry, who first designed the sunburst on their flags could safely count upon the warm attachment which all their followers would feel towards the sun—bursting into brilliance—giving heat, fine weather, good crops, bodily comfort.

If the writer of this letter were an Irishman he might hesitate to enlarge upon the value of the sunburst, but, as he is a Briton, he may state that history also tells us that the same large star, with rays proceeding out of it, worked upon the fabric of the standard, has also been the race device of Great Britain from so early a date that the Roses, the Lions and the Unicorn are but as of yesterday in comparison.

The only other devices that can be considered to be of somewhat equal antiquity are the White Horse that was borne on the banners of the Saxon invaders of Britain, and the Mountain Pine Tree of the Quidhelic clans of Caledonia, and the galley with oars of the Scandinavian Princelets of Scotland.

The pine tree is still to be seen on the Escutcheon of Queen's University, of Kingston—the galley is still borne on the arms of the Province of New Brunswick, and the White Horse still floats on the Battle Breezes on the standards of nearly a dozen of the English regiments.

We know that when the Roman standards, tipped with the Roman Eagles, landed on the coast of Britain, even at that remote epoch, 55 years before the Christian Era, the British kings bore on their flags the Rising Sun and the Red Dragon.

There was a Roman conquest of most of Britain for 500 years, although the west and north-west of Britain and Caledonia still remained British, and then there supervened a still further period of 500 years of Saxon rule over the Romanized parts of Britain, while eight or nine counties, now called Wales or "Waelsh Land," remained independent and unsubdued; and the kings of Wales all this time continued to display the Rising Sun.

In fact, as last, a Welsh dynasty, the Tudors (Twdrs) ascended the throne of Britain in the person of Henry VII. And at the present day one of the most renowned regiments in the British service bears upon its flag the Red Dragon and the Rising Sun, the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers. (See army list.)

I think the flag is a thing of real importance, and it would be a great historical continuity for Canada to bear on

her Union Jack the emblem of a large star with rays proceeding from it as this would be the reappearance of the ancient symbol of the British and Irish stems of the nation.

Kingston, June 17th, 1895.

R. CARR HARRIS.

SIR,—Professor Grant asks my attention to (to quote his words) "the fact that it (a star) is no more republican than the English language is republican and un-British because it is spoken in the States." But the "fact" thus asserted will not bear criticism: it is not a fact because Professor Grant asserts it. For my part I assert that the fact is precisely the contrary, because the American States, while they held the attitude of being Britons, or quasi-British, contending for what they conceived to be their rights, fought under a then well-known British flag of red and white stripes with the Union Jack of the period—without the cross of St. Patrick, which was added later—in canton; when this attitude developed into republicanism they marked the change by the adoption of stars. Who can doubt that they would also have changed the language if it had been possible? The adoption of a star as the emblem of the republic, which McKenzie proposed to establish in 1838, I have already pointed out in your columns.

Professor Grant questions the appropriateness of a maple leaf, as he thinks it is not recognized as a badge in (1) the Maritime Provinces, (2) Manitoba and the North-West, (3) British Columbia, but he has so written forgetting that (1) it appears in the official coinages of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island prior to confederation; (2) Manitoba and the North-West have been chiefly peopled by settlers from Ontario and Quebec, who carried the maple leaf with them, and I think I am correct in stating that it is there generally recognized as a national badge; it is certainly so regarded officially, as witness the North-West medal; (3) for British Columbia it is entirely appropriate, as any one will agree who has seen the variety which is typical of that province with a magnificent leaf of the familiar shape, but measuring over a foot in diameter. For all Canada, maple leaves are the world-wide recognized emblem both officially and unofficially; the latter is so well known that it is useless to quote instances; for the former it is sufficient to point out that the official flags of the Governor-General and of each one of the Lieutenant-Governors have a wreath of maple leaves in place of the wreath of oak leaves which is borne by other colonial governors. If Newfoundland joined the Confederation her Lieutenant-Governor's flag would also have the maple wreath as a matter of course.

Perhaps it may be contended that stars are not un-British because they appear in Australian flags; but they are so used, not as stars, but as representing the constellation of the Southern Cross, and so constituting a peculiarly appropriate emblem for that part of the Queen's Dominions.

E. M. CHADWICK.

Since writing the above I have observed a paragraph in *The Mail and Empire* with quotations from an American paper, the *Philadelphia Record*, distinctly claiming Mr. Sandford Fleming's suggestion as an imitation of the American flag, and a step towards republicanism and annexation. Is not this sufficient to close the discussion so far as a star is concerned?—E. M. C.

SIR,—While commending you most highly for your enterprise in displaying in colored form the new flag suggested for Canada by Dr. Sandford Fleming, I cannot help noting the error in the divisions of the crosses of the flag. In properly constructed Union Jacks the upper part of the white of the St. Andrew's Cross, in the two more important quarters, viz., those next the flag staff, is always larger than the part below the red of the cross of St. Patrick which is laid upon it. The reason for this is that the white cross of St. Andrew entered the Union before the red cross of St. Patrick and therefore was given this precedence. In yours the distance is divided equally, and the historic story of the flag is lost.

It is scarcely right to say, that Canada has now no national ensign. As a matter of fact we have had one since 1889. In that year permission was given by the British Act to all dependencies to place the badge of their Colony upon the fly or field of the red ensign thus forming for each a distinguishing flag. Victoria placed upon the flag five stars, the sign of the Southern Cross,