

in order to remain true to the constitution they have chosen as the best. There is, therefore, material power and national sentiment to draw upon, and it is delightful to see a paper like the Daily Graphic giving first place to contributions intended to draw the Empire closer together in one bond. How different from the tendency twenty or thirty years ago, to let everything slide, and draw in the garrisons from the Provinces as Rome did in her days of decay just as if England were, as Rome was, at the last gasp.

The first postulate laid down by "Splendid Isolation" we entirely agree with. He says: "Nothing is more clear than that if we would favourably employ our strength and resources in war, we must organize them in peace; yet, at least as regard the colonies, we have never acted on that principle. We have been content to drift. All the nations around us are organized as vast machines for the most economical utilization of energy. The British Empire only remains a mass of crude, or half-manufactured material." This statement is too true. Now we add another. If you want to remedy this state of matters, be quick about it. There is no time to be lost. You are going to have such a struggle that you will need every man, every gun, and every shilling you have. You think the Americans will not combine with other foreigners to attack you. They will. The sooner you organize, the better for you; and the sooner you awake from your complacent and silly reliance on a baseless confidence in their good feeling, we repeat, the better for you.

The suggestion concerning colonial training ships made by "Splendid Isolation" appears to us admirable. One at Halifax and one at Vancouver would be easily kept full all the time, and would supply a constant stream of the very best type of sailorman. We are not so sure about a Colonial Lord of the Admiralty. It is a matter of importance that no distinction be drawn between Imperial and Colonial branches of either service. They are both British. The executive command and the administrative department must be under one management at head quarters, viz., the capital of the Empire. Let the middies and the sailors from the Halifax and Vancouver training ships go through the same course and be drafted into ships exactly on the same terms as those taken from training ships in English waters. We suppose there are such ships in Scotland and Ireland. If not, there ought to be. And similar ships in Canada and other parts of the Empire will do exactly the same work.

As to the army we do not think the idea of "Splendid Isolation," to form a colonial army corps, is possible. But what can be done? Give Canada a regiment in the service. Give Australia another. The Cape another. Let these regiments be recruited on the Territorial system. Just as the East Kent is recruited for in East Kent, so let the Canadian regiment be recruited for in Canada. In the fifth paper there is an account of an interview with Lord Wolseley. In reporting this interview the writer makes a mistake. He says: "Lord Wolseley evidently referred to the old hundredth, which, after vain attempts to raise a sufficient number of men in the Dominion, had to be recruited mainly from Liverpool." The whole regiment was first raised in Canada, and so far as we have ever heard it never was seriously attempted to recruit for it in Canada. After it was raised, the Trent affair happened. Ten thousand regular troops were sent to Canada, but recruiting for even these regiments was systematically discouraged here. When they were finally withdrawn it was at a time when, as we said above, the apparent policy of England was to "cut the painter" and turn away every colony.

The change of public opinion which has since taken place in England, has met with a sympathetic response in every part of the Empire, Canada, perhaps more than anywhere

else. If the Imperial Government will once more make the "Royal Canadians" a Canadian regiment in reality as well as in name, and recruit for it in the Dominion, they need not fear but that the ranks will be kept full enough. That the regiment will do its duty when the time comes, they need not worry about. It will be found where wanted. With this regiment can be linked the permanent militia of Canada which in turn can draw on the active militia. The Military College at Kingston can supply the officers and thus England can utilize the devotion of Canadians to her institutions and her flag in a simple and economical manner. One thing ought to be provided for, as a term of enlistment, and that is that no matter where the regiment is when a man's time expires he will be returned free of expense to his native country if he desires it.

Lord Wolseley knows all about this country, and we have not much fear in appealing to him to endorse this suggestion. If it answers for Canada why not for Australia, Cape Colony, New Zealand? It is only extension of the territorial system and short service to the outlying portions of the Empire and need not include only infantry. It could extend to artillery and engineers.

We have written to little purpose if we have not proved to "Splendid Isolation" that we welcome his suggestions. On points of detail we cannot entirely agree with his plan. But he is on the right track, and the publishers of the Daily Graphic will do the Empire a very great service by giving the greatest publicity to the agitation in favor of Imperial Unity. Say no more about "the colonies." Call them what they are, and what the Americans are not, your own flesh and blood, the true Anglo-Saxon races beyond the seas, not hybrid; and show them that you consider them worthy to stand by you, shoulder to shoulder—not in the rear rank, as supports, but in the front rank, ready and willing to conquer or die by your side.

A Prairie Storm.

(From "Shanty Songs and Stories," now ready for publication.)

I.

The mudded shack shakes at the roar
Of north wind down the white waste hissing,
Snow-wreaths go whirling on before
The Furies, clasped, and madly kissing!
Roof-high the drifts, blocked is the trail,
The stacks of yellow grain are whitened;
And here and there a broken rail
Lies, where the sweeping gale had heightened.
The branching poplars bend and sway;
Within the bluffs the cattle shiver,
The pallid grasses parched and gray
Fringe all the ice-bound sloughs. The river,
Like some dead form, lies draped in white—
Its voice is stilled—stilled is its sighing;
The last snow-bird has taken flight;
Gray clouds in wild retreat are flying.

II.

The moaning of the wind grows low—
Repentant sobs of Nature, grieving—
Wind-swept, the pallid grasses show,
Their tendrils kindly interweaving.
Adown the way fall slanting beams
Of gold that woo the Furies sleeping,
And from the west soft melting streams
Set every thatched roof a-weeping.

III.

So is it with our human wills
When swayed by Passions, dark and blinding;
Adown life's path light coming, thrills;
Time's sunset soothes new patience finding.
Oh, storm-tossed hearts hurt by the blast!
Through angry years God's pity blending—
His Face the kindly Light at last;
Our falling tears, His Peace descending!

Regina, N.W.T.

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