

motherhood for the excitement and so-called pleasures of a life filled with dances, operas, summer resorts, social functions, Parisian gowns, late suppers and alluring wines. The best dressed woman on the street may be the woman who is the least valuable to the race.



THE recent Gould separation case in New York gives some idea of the life which the wealthy women of that city are leading. A head waiter in one of the leading hotels declares that "nowhere in the world do wealthy women drink so freely and so audaciously as in New York." The moral effect of such conduct on the women of the United States must be the opposite of beneficial. In London, as in all other large cities, the same state of affairs exists to some extent, though the stern attitude of Royalty, especially in Queen Victoria's time, has held intemperance and other social vices in check among the wealthy persons of Great Britain. A Canadian professor recently remarked that monogamy was getting so rare in New York that it was almost fashionable, but such a sarcasm could not reasonably be applied to London. The Church of England has steadily set its face against the re-marriage of divorcees.



THE mothers of Canada are probably the equal of any in the world, though they are manifesting tendencies to ape the pleasure-seeking practices of wealthy Americans. Our divorce laws have restricted the freedom of those who are inclined to be careless and the atmosphere of all classes of society has been in favour of the maintenance of honoured motherhood.

The influence of the Congress on woman's position in society and the state must, nevertheless, be for good even in a country where women are of so high a type as in Canada. It must add a note of greater seriousness to the work of those who aim to improve the condition and opportunities of women and children. It has impressed upon us all how great a work is being performed in this direction by women themselves and how beneficent the influence which these national councils are wielding in behalf of a higher civilization.

ST. JEAN BAPTISTE CELEBRATION

TO the man from Toronto or Hamilton, the city of Montreal on the holiday of St. Jean Baptiste, June 24th, is a foreign metropolis which he is likely to regard with some bewilderment, inasmuch as the Anglo-Saxon is disposed to patronise the picturesque. The holiday belongs to French Canada, and French Canada knows how to keep festival or observe ceremonial, abandoning itself to devotion or gayety in a fashion impossible to the descendants of the Saxon. It is a gay and impressive spectacle on a sunny morning in late June, when the greatest city of Canada keeps holiday with hills and river for majestic blue setting. Flags are a-flutter everywhere and the crowded cars bound downtown or uptown flaunt the merchant flag of Great Britain or the Tricolour of the land of *La Marseillaise*, while from several towers may be seen the bright folds of the Stars and Stripes.

The great reception at the Monument National on the eve of St. Jean Baptiste Day, attended by Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself, marked the social importance of the festival; the procession of the next day was a bit of religious pageantry and the laying of the Lafontaine monument foundation on Friday showed the memorial spirit in national and artistic form. When the Saxon spectator is reminded that this is the seventy-fifth anniversary kept by the St. Jean Baptiste Association of Montreal, he is properly chastened and feels that Western Ontario is a mushroom in comparison with the communities of Quebec or Nova Scotia. He picks up a morning paper to find that Mr. John Boyd has written thirty-three glad stanzas in honour of the day, to show that the mere Anglo or British-Canadian appreciates the poetic side of French-Canadian devotion.

The spirit of the celebration is what "gives one to think," as the French would say. It is difficult for the Britisher to grasp the idea that gayety and goodness are quite compatible, that devotion and dullness are not chosen companions. Hence he is likely to consider these bright blue ribbons and dazzling pink roses, this merry laughter and air of good comradeship entirely out of keeping with a saint's day and to wonder if these holiday-makers have any sense of the solemnity of the open air mass or the uplifting harmony of the music. Let him look closer and come nearer to these crowds who swarm to the Lafontaine park and he may become convinced that sincerity and

sadness are not bound together and that a long countenance is not especially acceptable to the Creator of this world of flowers and June sunshine.

It is a procession of gladness and tenderness, with its marshals and allegorical cars, its clergy, members of the *Chambre de Commerce* and Saint Jean Baptiste car, bearing the little lad who represents the forerunner of our Saviour. The military splendour of a regimental parade is forgotten as one sees the boyish face, lighted with innocent pride in the spectacle, turned towards the symbolic lamb beside him. Peace and gentleness are the qualities enthroned in this celebration on St. Jean Baptiste Day, and it is good to be near the crowd, to hear the music and to feel the spirit of good-will which makes Montreal on June 24th a scene of brilliant festival.

FRITH.

Montreal.

SHOULD THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BE A CANADIAN?

SHOULD we ask for a Canadian Governor-General, and when? The question obtrudes now and again. No one will deny that there are a number of Canadians of parts, standing and dollars who could fill the distinguished office with honour to their country and to themselves. But tradition dies hard. Many naturally hesitate to impugn the old order. Mr. Hamar Greenwood, I think, is reported to have recently expressed the view that Earl Grey, who has proved such an excellent representative of His Majesty, was the first governor-general who seemed to study our problems from a Canadian standpoint. Apart, however, altogether from personal considerations, the query is as to whether the official link of a British peer as our nominal head continues to be fitting or is out of date? Certainly the ties that bind Greater Britain together are quite other than what they were in the days of the trading companies, or even twenty or thirty years ago; and one may be forgiven if one enquires whether the Empire's hopes for the future are not pinned rather to vigorous local development of each Dominion-over-Sea and to the possibilities of inter-Imperial community of interests and support.

We may take for granted that the measure of success of a Canadian governor-general would necessarily depend upon the ideals and vigour of the man chosen. The present system enjoys in contrast the distinct advantage of holding before each appointee the prospect of diplomatic or other preferment at home. It stimulates in proportion. What spur could there be to a Canadian? Could he earn a further reward this side Jordan? If not would he incline to drop back into the inconsequential innocence of a provincial lieutenant-governor? Or would popular commendation be a sufficient incentive to a man whose worldly ambitions one may assume must be practically gratified? Or are we to look forward to peerages in this country (what does our democracy say?) or how otherwise are we to reward or slay our ex-governors? Or may we brush aside these considerations in the simple faith that our Canadian governors would measure up to past standards, which all said and done have not been pitched high, whatever the explanation.

On its face, to open the office to a Canadian seems a very natural development. It would certainly mean the widening of the horizon of honorific public life; possibly, too, to some extent the stimulating of non-partisan consideration of national affairs. It might do more; it might secure a gubernatorial head familiar with our national problems; and it might also go towards satisfying the natural and healthy ambition of an optimistic and democratic people to enjoy exclusive control of its own local politics.

The glamour of the post may incline us to over-rate its importance. After all, is not the position little more than the social head of our political society, a rôle perhaps few Canadian gentlemen and their wives could fill with equal graciousness and éclat. Granted even that this view is mistaken, and that a Canadian nominee would make the office of greater consequence, do we really wish for a governor-general who would be a species of second premier, keeping tab on his less honoured but more nimble and effective brother? For with us, what public matters of moment can be handled independently of party politics?

"British connection," let us agree, must be safeguarded—preserved as an indissoluble part of our national life. Though subscribing to this canon, an English student of affairs, an eager imperialist, with whom the subject was being discussed the other day, gave it as his opinion that we would see probably not more than two or three more governor-generals cross from the motherland, and that he himself would enjoy very much being the last. Whether or not we would care to strike a bargain with our friend on this basis, may we not at least venture so far as to say that British connection would not be weakened if His Majesty in selecting his Canadian representative should act only on the nomination, for example, of a combined sitting of our Senate and House of Commons. But is the change worth while? Is there not a real advantage in having in our midst a distinguished British ambassador, a living symbol of our Imperial relationship? And is the present arrangement not in harmony with present tendencies?

S. MORLEY WICKETT.