

If you ask me of that evening,
 If you wish to know more of it,
 Ask those strangers who enjoyed it,
 Ask the songster too who sung there.
 Shall I ask, (as hath a brother)
 That our guests should praise our city,
 Shall I say "you must concede Sirs,"
 "That our port is very thriving,"
 "That it is a rising place Sirs,"
 "Though there may be larger somewhere?"
 No, I will not tell of these things,
 And we will not pray for puffings,
 For is heard the railway whistle;
 We must wish our friends good speed now,
 Leave them to their own reflections,
 Leave them with our reputation,
 As they choose to make or mar it.
 One thing surely will be granted
 By our greediest for honour,
 That they saw us at our fullest,
 In the very prince of seasons;
 That they saw our very noblest (?)
 Saw us working and at play too,
 Met our best (?) and shared the savour
 Of our daintiest fare to boot too;
 If they love not then our city,
 After all that has been shewn them,
 We must feel that such re-unions
 Do no good to man or brother.

Through Provinces and ball rooms though you may roam,
 Husband, sweet husband, there's no place like home;
 Both excitement, it always does harm,
 Remember, dear husband, the marital charm.

Union is a so-so thing, enjoyment is no better,
 I'm glad to see you home at last, (the children have the tetter;)
 'Tis good to study wretched places, right they should be seen;
 I'm glad you've come back home at last, so God save the Queen.

PUBLIC GATHERINGS.

Meetings convened for no other purpose than setting forth the excellence of integral portions of the British Empire, are no longer very popular in the mother country. People, now-a-days, are content to merge into one common vortex all those minor peculiarities of character which distinguish the people of England, Ireland, Scotland. Irishmen, when abroad, have no objection to be called Englishmen, and Scotland is now called North Britain, even in the hearing of Highlanders. It is true that on rare occasions, platforms are erected for the convenience of fervent patriots, and much eloquence is expended without any result greater than uproarious cheering. Intelligent Scotchmen do not care to give up much of their time to the consideration of some fanciful slight put upon the Lion of Scotia by those who designate the Royal Standard. In Ireland, too, the people have grown somewhat tired of hearing of their wrongs, and even the O'Donoghues cannot, while on this topic, command a respectable audience. This is as it should be, in a Kingdom where all are at heart united for the common good. As the most ultra Irishman is far more English than Austrian, and the most patriotic Scot far more English than French, it follows that meetings purely patriotic cannot do much good when held in Great Britain. Neither can they avail much in our Eastern Colonies. A Scotchman in Mauritius is not at all likely to copy the French settlers, nor is an Englishman in India or China, likely to adopt Asiatic views. But here, we are inclined to argue from a somewhat different point of view, and to uphold patriotic gatherings as productive of good. This Province is, so to speak, a stepping stone between England and America—between opinions founded on long and bitter experience, and opinions hastily adopted in the excitement consequent upon a sudden rise to great prosperity. While profiting to the utmost by the example of American enterprise, ever before our eyes, we should hold fast to those lofty English principles which animated the earlier American settlers. We are, from our position, liable to become infected with Yankee "smartness" (G. G. Bennett, is considered the "smartest" man in the States), the best guard against which is to cherish customs, which, for the time being, bring us back in spirit to the land of our forefathers. Such gatherings as that held at Downs' on the 24th August, tend no less to foster our loyalty than to promote good fellowship.

"SAVE ME FROM MY FRIENDS."

We notice that several of our contemporaries have published from the St. John Telegraph, an account of a day spent at Downs' establishment. The correspondent of that newspaper must be a

man of vast imaginative power, and our enterprising naturalist, we feel sure, will be the first to laugh at, and condemn, the bulbous flattery, and fulsome meditations of his visitor. This correspondent seems peculiarly ill selected as a writer upon natural history, not to mention his inaccuracies upon the life of courts. How General Seymour can be an aquarian, what an aquarian is, and what are its duties, we are at a loss to conceive, unless indeed the gallant General be a walking fish pool, in which absurd supposition he would only then be an aquarium. Again, the comparison of the snapping Turtle (the only reptile at present on the premises) to maiden tresses, and the certainty of a sanguinary end to any loving advances on Mr. Downs' part towards that offensive beast, compel us to the conclusion that the writer must have had in his head a strange jumble of Mr. Downs, Medusa, and the golden age. Passing by the snobbish allusions to the Prince of Wales glove, (by the by we were not aware that it was customary to wear white gloves in the day time) we can only imagine, that whilst, as he remarks, he was making mental comments upon the mildness of Mr. Downs' eye, that gentleman was debating upon the propriety of having him removed from the premises as a lunatic. Since he was permitted, however, to remain, we should fancy that if his conversation is at all on a par with his writings, Mr. Downs would hardly agree with his visitor in pronouncing the day spent in his company one of the pleasantest of his life.

Seriously—although Downs' grounds are undoubtedly very pretty, and his collection excellent in its way, this stupid flatterer expends upon those hundred acres as much hyperbole and extravagant language, as though he were describing the beauties of Switzerland or the falls of Niagara. Such nonsense can do no good, and only stultifies the writer. It raises expectations so erroneous that they cannot be realized, and causes disappointment to those who visit the grounds, from which, had they not anticipated too much, they would have derived unmingled pleasure and enjoyment.

HOME NEWS.

The news by the "Europa" is scanty in the extreme. With the exception of the Belfast riots, an account of which we publish elsewhere, there is little to demand attention.

The rumored additions to the peerage include the Speaker, Mr. Evelyn Denison, Sir Charles Wood, Secretary for India, and Mr. Beaumont, three very respectable and uninteresting members of the Lower House, who will probably serve their country as efficiently as heretofore in the solemn chamber of the Lords. The elevation of Lady Palmerston to a peerage in her own right, is a graceful tribute to the premier, who though full of years, seems loath to depart from the scene of his former glories. Did he do so indeed, it were difficult to name his successor.

It is said that the Prince and Princess of Wales will shortly visit Paris, the great event of whose summer season has been the magnificent reception accorded to the King Consort of Spain.

Thackeray is to have a monument in Westminster Abbey, the Dean having cordially granted the request of many of the great novelist's friends and fellow-labourers that such an honor should be allowed.

Progress is being made in the preliminary arrangements for laying down the Atlantic telegraph cable.

The funeral of Mr. Robson, the celebrated comedian, took place on the 17th August, and was attended by many members of the theatrical profession and literary men of London and its vicinity. In the *grand pakein* line, Mr. Robson has never been excelled by any previous actor, and in purely grotesque acting, his powers were unrivalled.

NEWS FROM THE STATES.

The most prominent feature in the Field movements of the two great Northern armies of Virginia and Georgia, would appear to be the abandonment at both points of any direct scheme of attack against the enemy's entrenchments. These having proved hitherto fruitless, both Grant and Sherman are directing their energies against the railway communications which they believe to be indispensable for the longer occupation of Richmond and Atlanta by Confederate forces. The obstinate fighting which has been going on, on the Magon and Weldon Railways, proves that the new task which they have undertaken is no light one. Rumors of Southern raids into Maryland are still afloat, though all that was desired in the way of a diversion, and for the sake of plunder, has been accomplished, and the truth of these rumors is rendered still more improbable, by the new line of attack so far successfully entered into by Grant upon the railroads around Richmond. General Early, though commanding a sufficient force to keep Sheridan in check, can scarcely expect sufficient reinforcements from the South, to make an attack across the border either safe or expedient.

Mobile appears to be in much the same position as Charleston has been in for the last 15 months, with this advantage in its favor, that it is free from the bombshells of the enemy, and will probably continue to be so for some time to come. The capture of Fort Morgan can have produced little change in the situation either way, and with so much on their hands elsewhere, it is hardly probable that the North will afford such a force as would render a land attack against the city itself successful.

Far more important, however, than the absolute war news, are the statements which reach us day by day of the new force which is steadily asserting itself, and tending towards peace.

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