

left hardly any time to deal with the great mass of work which he has produced since 1842.

In 1847 he produced "The Princess, a Medley," dealing with the question of woman's rights in a fashion so masterly that, as far as the *principle* is concerned, the last word has been said; whilst the songs dispersed through the poem are of marvellous beauty in sentiment, in expression, in melody.

In 1850 "In Memoriam" appeared—in the judgment of some the greatest of his poems, although perhaps the one which is least popular. It commemorated the death of Arthur Hallam, already mentioned. In 1852 he wrote the splendid ode on the death of the Duke of Wellington, in 1854 the "Charge of the Light Brigade," which, with "Hohenlinden" and two or three other odes, occupies the foremost rank among his warlike poetry. It is remarkable that the last stanza of this magnificent composition has undergone several alterations. It was first published in the *Times* newspaper, and afterwards at the end of the volume containing "Maud."

In 1855 "Maud" appeared, and was received with shouts of admiration and cries of derision. A London newspaper said it might be described by omitting either of the vowels in the name. Dean Henry Alford declared, in the presence of the writer, that of all Englishmen who had ever lived only two could have written "Maud"—Alfred Tennyson and William Shakespeare.

In 1859 appeared the "Idylls of the King," "Enid," "Vivien," "Elaine," and "Guinevere," to which a large number were afterwards added. It is possible that these four were put out first by the poet as being the most remarkable, in case he should be able to publish no more. The wonderful beauty of these poems, the absolute perfection of passages in "Elaine" and "Guinevere," can hardly be denied. These "things of beauty" will certainly be "a joy forever." Among his later poems mention should be made of "Locksley Hall" and the poem already mentioned at the end of the volume, "Demeter," etc. "Locksley Hall" is the answer of old age to the youthful aspirations expressed in the early poem of the same name. Mr. Gladstone, in an astonishing manner, took it as a kind of testimony from the aged poet himself. Perhaps this notion was partly correct, but only partly so. It was rather the view of one who had outlived the dreams of early days, and records his reflections in the past and the present. The other poem, as we have said, "Crossing the Bar," is of surprising beauty.

We have left ourselves no space at present even to refer to the dramas. The place of Tennyson is among the loftiest. If we give Shakespeare the first place and Milton the second, who is there that will contest the place with Tennyson? Coleridge might have done so, if he had only been able to give free scope to his glorious genius. Keats might have done so, if he had lived and his later work had shown as steady a progress as that of Tennyson has done. Wordsworth would have done so, if his average work had been anything like as good as his best. But what poet is there at once so profound, so imaginative, so melodious, so strong, so sweet, so perfect in matter and in form as our great Laureate?

May these imperfect lines, written in great haste, be forgiven for the sake of the reverence and admiration which they feebly convey!

WILLIAM CLARK.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LETTER.

THE people of British Columbia have recently learned in the school of experience that improved facilities for communication with the outside world have brought new dangers. The smallpox epidemic, which recently visited them, especially the city of Victoria, was clearly the result of the close connection with China and Japan, which the C. P. R. steamships has given them. The scourge was brought on one of these ships, and the inadequacy of the quarantine arrangements allowed it to come ashore, when it rapidly spread, causing not only considerable sacrifice of life, but a large direct and indirect pecuniary loss by interruption to business. One of the unpleasant features of the visitation was the intense ill-feeling which was created between the cities of Vancouver and Victoria. Ever since the former sprang into being there has been strong rivalry between the two places, just as there has existed for many years between the mainland and the island, of which these two cities form the focal points. There is no occasion for such. There is ample room for both, and instead of jealousy there should be mutual aid and co-operation. But Victoria's calamity seemed to be Vancouver's opportunity, at least many of the citizens of the latter, encouraged by the inflammatory articles in the press, seemed to think. Gressly exaggerated reports were circulated, and I am credibly informed travellers on the trains were waylaid and advised that it was dangerous to go to Victoria. This was, to say the least, ungenerous, for the epidemic was carried from Vancouver to Victoria, though it did not spread in the former city as in the latter.

While it was quite right and proper for the people of Vancouver to protect themselves, there was no reason for them to put an entire stop to traffic as they did. For some time no vessel from Victoria was allowed to land, and no one from Victoria was permitted under any circumstances to enter Vancouver. When the authority of the courts was invoked, and an injunction obtained, the order was evaded, and anyone who did land was arrested

and placed in quarantine for fourteen days, where they were kept under close surveillance and indifferently housed and fed. This was an unwarranted interference with the rights of innocent travellers who had simply passed through Victoria and had complied with all the precautions necessary to prevent infection. The city authorities will probably yet have to answer for this, in actions for damages before the courts. The Vancouverites assumed an unwarranted position when they undertook to put an entire stop to traffic. The city of Nanaimo allowed people to come and go, adopting strict precautions, and yet not a solitary case of smallpox made its appearance among them.

Another unpleasant feature of the affair was the collision of authority between the provincial authorities and the city council of Victoria. When the disease broke out the municipal authorities were taken unawares, and did not adopt the prompt measures which the impending danger called for. The Government took matters into their own hands, and with the assistance of the public hospital board, soon had the disease under control. But it so happens that the mayor is the leader of the Opposition in the Legislature, and the city medical health officer is one of his supporters in that body, so that there are not wanting those who believe that the Government was prompted by political motives to some extent in adopting the course they did, especially as the Premier's brother was appointed provincial medical officer with almost unlimited powers. But desperate diseases require desperate remedies, and the prompt action of the Government secured the desired result.

The extent of the epidemic has been greatly exaggerated. There were in Victoria only about 80 cases all told, and less than 20 deaths. In a population of about 20,000 this is not a large percentage. Vancouver had a dozen cases or thereabout, and New Westminster less, while there were only one or two all told outside the cities.

An impression has gone abroad that the disease was prevalent among the Chinese. This is a mistake. While the presence of somewhere like four thousand of that element, living crowded together in a Chinese quarter, not too cleanly in some of its surroundings, is doubtless a source of danger, it is simple justice to say that only one case made its appearance among them, and that one, long after the epidemic had spent its strength. Nor was a single case heard of among the Indians, who occupy a reserve of 140 acres within the city limits.

The outbreak has been a serious loss to the Province, but more especially to Victoria. Apart from the necessary outlay invested in suppressing it, the interruption to business has been very serious. Occurring during the tourist season it destroyed that trade on which Victoria depends so much. The hotels were the principal sufferers, but it is wonderful how soon, when the quarantine was raised, trade resumed its old channels.

Such calamities teach their lessons, and this has had its effect in impressing upon the people of this coast the importance of improving the quarantine arrangements. With the possibility of cholera coming, strong pressure will be brought to bear to compel the Government which has been too lax in the past, to guard the public interest better, in this respect, in the time to come.

The Behring Sea dispute has assumed fresh interest this season by the high-handed proceedings on the part of the United States and Russia in seizing a number of Canadian vessels when engaged in their legitimate calling on the high seas. The question is one of very great importance on this coast. Most of the sealing fleet is owned in Victoria, and Vancouver has a small interest in the business. Seizures in past years since the dispute began have caused much irritation and loss, but never before have our sealers been subjected to such high-handed interference. So far as I can learn, our vessels have studiously kept out of Behring Sea, pending the result of the arbitration, and being on the high seas was within their rights. First, the supply steamer, *Coquitlam*, which went up during the season to replenish their stores and bring back the skins so far secured, was seized by a United States revenue cutter and taken to Sitka, where she has been held for over three months. The result was that most of the vessels which had not been supplied had to return at once, instead of completing their season's work. Then the Russians, emboldened by the course of the United States, and assuming rights which they did not pretend to hold till this year, seized a number of vessels and turned their crews adrift to shift for themselves on the barren shores of Siberia, whence they were rescued by a passing vessel. Strong representations have been made to the Government, and the Imperial authorities have had the facts laid before them. Few people in Canada, and still fewer in England, fully realize all that is involved. In connection with the Behring Sea matter it has been said that England will not go to war for the sake of a few seals. But the sealing industry is a very important one, and the rights of a large number of British subjects are involved. England is bound to protect them, even to the extent of going to war with either the United States or Russia, though I do not believe such is involved in protecting the rights of our sealers. But their rights should be protected at all hazards.

A scheme for settling a large number of crofters in British Columbia has assumed shape, and next spring will witness the first arrival of these hardy colonists. The project is certain to be fruitful of good results for this

Province. They are expected to do much in developing the deep sea fisheries of the Pacific coast, which are very valuable, and which have not as yet been turned to much account. Their arrival will also help to solve the labour problem. The Chinese have hitherto almost monopolized the position of domestic servants, because no others were available. The daughters of the crofters will make domestics of the very best class.

There is every prospect that the Canadian Western Railway will shortly become a reality. This road will be built over the line of the Canadian Pacific as first located through the Yellowhead pass, and, crossing to Vancouver Island at Seymour Narrows, make Victoria its terminus. A strong American syndicate has the project in hand, and there is a well-grounded belief that one of their objects is to build to Alaska. Of course they will form a connection with some line from the East, and thus give us another transcontinental line through Canada.

Considerable attention has been directed this season to the Kootenay country by the discoveries of gold and silver ores, principally the latter, found there in connection with galena. The work so far has been principally prospecting, but some of the claims have passed into the hands of wealthy syndicates, which will, no doubt, develop them. The mining laws are not in a very satisfactory condition, and further railway communication is much required.

The necessity for further detailed surveys of this coast is shown by two mishaps which occurred this season. The Dominion Government steamer *Quadra*, while entering Rose harbour, struck a rock not shown on the chart and sank. Fortunately she was running at a low rate of speed, and there was time to beach her, but it cost well on to \$20,000 to raise and repair her. H.M.S. *Warspite*, while passing through Discovery passage, discovered a rock not marked, and did considerable damage to her keel. She is now in the dry dock at Esquimalt, and she may be ordered back to England in consequence of the accident, though her time of service on this station will not be completed for another year.

The people of Victoria have been in a state of mild excitement over the visit of the French flag-ship *Dabour-dieu*, the first French man-of-war which has visited this coast for a number of years. She is of the old wooden build, and presented a marked contrast to the *Warspite* as they rode at anchor near each other at Esquimalt harbour. Social amenities between the officers of the warships and the people of the city have been freely exchanged.

After a career of seven months, the *News*, a second morning newspaper in Victoria, has succumbed to the inevitable and been consolidated with the *Colonist*. One morning and one evening paper now monopolize the field. They are enough for the requirements of the place, but, while it lasted, the *News* was a vigorous journal.

J. JONES BELL.

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TWO KNAPSACKS:

A NOVEL OF CANADIAN SUMMER LIFE.

BY J. CAWDOR BELL.

CHAPTER XX—(Continued).

THE morning saw Miss Carmichael in the sick room again, putting things to rights, purifying and beautifying it, as only a woman can, with the romantic and tearful, Shakespeare-loving Tryphosa in her train. Poor little neglected Marjorie, who had performed for her young self an art of heroic sacrifice in handing over her own Eugene to her unworthy cousin, was allowed, a great and hitherto unheard of reward, to bring the patient an armful of flowers from the garden, gathering any blossoms she chose, to fill vases and slender button-hole glasses in every corner. She was even permitted to kiss Eugene, although she protested against the removal of that lovely moustache. She offered to bring Felina to lick off the stubble on her friend's chin, but that friend, in a wheezy whistling voice, begged that Maguffin might be substituted for the cat, in case pussy might scratch him. Maguffin came with the colonel's razors, and Marjorie looked on, while he gave the author of his present fortunes a clean shave, and made ironical remarks about moustache trimming. "Guess the man what trimmed yoh mustash fought he was a bahbah, sah?" The patient smiled seraphically, and whistled in his throat. "Never want to have a better, Maguffin."

"It's awful, Guff, isn't it?" asked Miss Thomas, and continued, "it quite gives me the horrors!"

"Dey's bahbahs and dey's bahbahs," replied the coloured gentlemen, "and I doan want ter blame a gennelum as cayn't help hisself."

The barbering completed, Marjorie junior was dismissed with her ally Guff, and the senior lady of that name reigned supreme. The eyes of the feeble invalid, whose heart had been hungering and thirsting for love during a month that had seemed a lifetime, followed her all over the room, and almost stopped beating when she went near the door. But she came back, and held that hot fevered hand on which her modest ring glistened, and cooled his brow, and made him take his sloppy food, and answered back in soft but cheery tones his deprecating whispers. She had him now safe, and would tyrannize over him, she said; till, spite of the weakness and the sharp pains, his eye began to twinkle with something of the old happy light that seemed to be of so long ago, and, smilingly, he