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## Quakerism.

It is, we think, not generally known that the quiet and faintly-understood creed of the Quakers, whose adherents had been gradually diminishing in numbers, has of late years seen a revival in its membership. Few of those who profess other faiths will regret to hear this; to many it will be welcome. The wild fanaticism which at times broke out among the early Friends, became prominent solely as standing out in marked contrast to the quiet and reserved life so characteristic of their belief; at the time it was most pronounced equally violent were the actions of many men prominent in religious leadership, whose even greater excesses attracted but little attention. The peaceful life of Quakerism, modified somewhat from the possibly too hard and colourless surroundings of its earlier days, has of late years had no little attraction for the wearied struggler, jaded and unnerved from the crash and bustle of nineteenth century life; and it would be a matter of little surprise if the haven the Society of Friends offers to men of the more contemplative and spiritual school of religious thought was hereafter taken advantage of by many. Of recent years, the increasing interest in the sect has been shown by the frequent use of Quakers and their life in fiction; many of the most charming short stories in the American magazines having their groundwork in the placid Quaker homes. A recent article in the *Edinburgh Review* gives some interesting facts and figures of the present position of the Society; pointing out, in its sketch, the peculiar position it occupied in the religious world during the last two centuries, and the effect such isolation has had on its position up to a comparatively recent date. The minimum appears to have been touched about fifteen years ago, since when there has been a slow but steady increase in membership. To this satisfactory result, Quaker schools have greatly helped, owing to the attractive and progressive methods employed by the masters; many boys from families outside the Society have been sent to them for tuition, and

the combination of quietness and forbearance shown by the teachers has proved singularly winning. In the early days of Upper Canada the Friends formed a fair share of the scattered population; it would be of interest to trace the fortunes of the sect, and to note if their present position corresponds with that of the parent society.

## The Laurier Banquet.

To the leader of HER MAJESTY'S loyal Opposition, the surroundings of the great banquet tendered him in Boston must surely have been distasteful in the fact of the lack of any emblems of his nationality. It shows that the organizers of the demonstration were either grossly careless or densely ignorant of the first principles of international manners. To invite one of the most prominent men in Canada to a public dinner, and, while displaying much bunting, to deliberately omit the Canadian flag, shows a singular lack of courtesy. The chief officers of the smallest village in the Canadian backwoods could teach such people a lesson. Fancy a Canadian or British city inviting a prominent foreigner to a public banquet and surrounding him with Union Jacks and other flags, but omitting *in toto* the national emblem of the guest! People who commit a solecism like that have everything to learn in questions of good manners. The profuse display of the tricolour may possibly have been intended as a compliment to the distant Gallic descent of the chief guest; to his forefathers of a century and a half ago the flag of France (*not* the tricolour) was doubtless of interest, but to the average Canadian of to-day it should be—and is, to the great majority—of as little concern as that of Russia would be. The absence of any reference or toast to the Sovereign, whose subject the HON. MR. LAURIER is, was also conspicuous; but this is an occurrence less to be expected, although it has always been customary. The proposal of the health of the Queen at an international gathering in the States, and that of the President at similar affairs in Canada, is but a matter of courtesy; it is in most cases the echoing of a hollow sentiment. It is not at all likely that the average American is sincere in wishing long life to the Queen of Great Britain, and certainly Canadians do not care two straws about the gentleman elected every three years by the *finesse* and strategy of one or other political organization in the United States. We all know the compliment is to the nation, not to the person; but of late the offering has become so one-sided that it is a question whether we would not only be more truthful but more dignified in letting the habit fall into disuse.

## A New Serial Story.

In next week's issue we begin a story of remarkable power and interest entitled, "Alone on a Wide, Wide Sea." It is written by W. Clark Russell, the most brilliant and successful writer of sea tales now living.

## Our Christmas Number.

To avoid any misunderstanding we beg to notify our subscribers that the Christmas number is an extra one, and is sent only when specially ordered. The price is fifty cents, and we would recommend that early orders be placed.

## Literary and Personal Notes.

The Hon. A. J. Balfour has just been elected Chancellor of Edinburgh University. \* \* \*

The first complete translation of Edgar Allan Poe's works into Italian has just been published. It is accompanied by a critical biographical essay and a general bibliography. \* \* \*

A new monthly magazine will be issued next week in London. Its name will be *The Victorian Magazine*; its object, to supply high class literature, with a certain amount of illustration. \* \* \*

"*El Artista*," the high class Mexican monthly, which ceased publication a few years ago, has been revived, under the management of Mr. L. E. Gibbon. It is a folio journal of thirty-two pages, well illustrated and printed. \* \* \*

Mr. Henry Harrison, M.P., writes to the *London Times*, stating a genuine and authentic biography of the late Mr. Parnell is being prepared under the superintendence of those with whom the deceased statesman was most intimate. \* \* \*

Another copy of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's first work, "The Battle of Marathon," has turned up, making the third known to exist. As written by a girl scarcely fourteen years of age, it is a marvel of rich thought and happy choice of language. \* \* \*

A short time ago Mr. E. W. Thompson, of Toronto, one of the prize story writers of the *Youth's Companion*, was taken on the permanent editorial staff of that periodical, and now Mr. W. N. Harben, another favourite writer, has been given a position. \* \* \*

A few days ago a memorial bust of Matthew Arnold was unveiled in Westminster Abbey by Lord Coleridge before a very large gathering of distinguished people. An eloquent eulogy of the deceased, referring to his many distinguished qualities was delivered on the occasion. \* \* \*

The November issue of *The American Bookmaker* gives an excellent portrait and biographical sketch of Mr. W. A. Shepard, manager of the *Mail Job Printing Co.*, of Toronto, formerly editor and manager of the *Belleville Intelligencer*. Mr. Shepard has just been elected president of the United Typotheta of America. \* \* \*

A large paper edition of Bancroft's "History of the United States" is announced by Appleton. It is to be issued in six volumes, and will be limited to one hundred numbered copies. The same firm is preparing an edition de luxe (limited to 500 copies, numbered), of Jules Breton's "Life of an Artist." The work is to be printed on large paper with uncut edges, and will contain a portrait and twenty full-page reproductions of Breton's most important paintings. \* \* \*

The habit of calling Canadians abroad "Americans" still continues in spite of the protests that have been made against the habit. Both English and American journals are culpable in this matter, the former through ignorance, the latter through unscrupulousness. The *Illustrated London News* recently referred to Sara Jeanette Duncan, (now Mrs. Coates) as an American, while much of the English newspaper comment on the Canadian Football team now touring in Britain is erroneous in a similar direction. Let it be distinctly understood that Canadians wish to be known and spoken of as such, and not as "Americans." \* \* \*

A directory of living writers is in preparation in Boston, the editor of which is William H. Hills, of the *Boston Globe*, editor also of the "Writer" and the "Author." In this directory for the first time will be gathered the names of living Canadian writers in all the Provinces of the Dominion. The requisites are that the person whose name is given shall have written a book proper to literature within ten years, or a magazine article within five years.

Mr. Hills has also in preparation a Biographical Dictionary of Authors, in which at the suggestion and by the aid of the Rev. Arthur Wentworth Eaton, of New York, himself a native of Canada, all the authors of Canada are to appear. This is the first time our authors as a body have received such recognition.—*Quebec Chronicle*.