

series of letters on British Columbia, with her own clever illustrations. The first of these bright original sketches appeared in our issue of the 20th of April (No. 42), and we would just suggest to our readers who are not regular subscribers that they will do well to preserve all these contributions. We would also take the opportunity of remarking that, owing to the proof not having been submitted to Mrs. Spragge, a typographical error or two somewhat altered the sense from what the writer intended to convey. For instance, in the sentence: "We had, therefore, to fall upon our own house-work, and my husband, owing to the fact that he had acquired a great reputation in the country from long experience in the Northwest, in a *lumber* establishment, was unanimously chosen cook," the word "*lumber*" should have been "*bachelor*."

### OUR ETHNOLOGY.

Mr. Sandford Fleming, C.M.G., chose for the subject of his presidential address before the Royal Society, a subject to which slight allusion was made in our last number—the common origin of both the great sections of our population. Though Gaul and Britain have long been neighbours, both the French and the English are comparatively modern peoples. At one time both Britain and Gaul, with a large portion of the adjacent continent, were inhabited by tribes of Celtic race and speech. In the generations preceding the Christian era, Gaul was reduced to subjection by Rome, and the Roman invasion of Britain prepared the way for a subsequent occupation of some four centuries. The presence of the civilized conquerors had a more marked effect on the mainland where intercourse between colony and metropolis was more frequent, cities were more numerous and the civilization of the world's mistress was more readily adopted, than in the then remote island. The Celts of Gaul learned to speak Latin, and, in a modified form, Latin is still the national tongue. The inroads of the Franks, though Gaul was destined to make their tribal name her national designation, produced no appreciable change in the Gaulish Latin tongue. That the Teutonic admixture affected the people physically and morally is evident to any one who compares northern with southern France. In Britain the Saxons and the Angles played the same part—only more thoroughly—in modifying the Celtic and Roman elements. The fact that where they prevailed Celtic speech declined and disappeared created the impression, now known to be wrong, that the Celts had no representation at all in the present population of England. Indeed, not only is the Celtic element, but the pre-Celtic element also, recognizable in districts which are deemed strongholds of Anglo-Saxon predominance. That the Celts have left powerful remnants, virtually pure of blood, in Wales, Cornwall, north and west Scotland, south and west Ireland and the Isle of Man, in all of which centres, save Cornwall, Celtic speech still survives, it is almost needless to remind our readers. Just the same survival is to be found in Brittany, across the channel.

The Norman Conquest is generally considered the chief—it is sometimes spoken of, indeed, as if it were the only—bond of race between the people of France and the people of England. It is certainly a very important one, especially to the insular side of the relationship, for it is to the tongue brought over by the gallicized Norsemen of Duke William that our English language is largely indebted for its literary grace, copiousness and flexibility. How

Gaul came to speak what is called French, Britain what is called English, are seeming anomalies at which we can only glance. What is of special interest to us in Canada is that the two nations of which these languages have come to be regarded as representative and characteristic are compounded, though in different proportions, of the same pre-Celtic, Celtic, Roman, Teutonic and Scandinavian constituents.

But, when we have ascertained that important fact—that the two main sections of our population are in the last resort derived from just the same racial elements—we are only at the threshold of the inquiry into our complex ethnology. On the French-speaking side, indeed, we have a mass of information unexampled in the history of nations. Mgr. Tanguay's great work is the *libro d'oro* of a people. By means of it we can take the map of France and say: "Here at Ploermel, at Dinan, at Nogent, or away north at Cambrai, there lived in the 17th century a family from a scion of which are descended all the thousands of the same name in Canada and the United States to-day." Perhaps we may be able to follow up that family history to a remoter date—some of our Canadian noblesse could trace their ancestry to the crusaders; some of them have even gone back to Charlemagne. But what concerns us is that we can learn whence they came and what of physical, intellectual and moral vigour they brought with them for the building up of the new nationality. Now, with the exception of the Loyalists and some leading families that came direct from the old land, we have no such facilities for studying the *origines* of the English speaking colonists. Of some immigrations, indeed, we may gather that they were mainly from the Orkneys, from Skye, from the West Highlands, from Donegal, from Yorkshire or from Cornwall, but of the original homes of the vast stream of new-comers that spread over the land from 1815 till to-day we have but vague and scattered indications. We are better informed when the influx is from outside of British territory—from Iceland, from Norway, from Germany, Hungary, Roumania, Russia—the peculiar circumstances in such cases generally prompting inquiry as to the previous whereabouts of the settlers. Now it is only when a fair amount of knowledge has been collected—both as to the non-Loyalist element in the gradual growth of our population until 1815, and as to the general immigration since then, that we can speak with anything like certainty on the subject of our ethnology. An immigration nominally Irish may be German or French—as, in fact, we know to have been the case when homes were found on this continent for the Irish Palatines and Huguenots. Districts in western Ireland are largely Spanish, and such instances might be multiplied. Even the so-called Russian settlers of the North-West are really of German descent; the Roumanian immigrants largely Jewish. Then there is the question of racial intermarriage of which the census takes no account, and as to the extent of which, save among our higher families, we are in the dark. What can be more interesting than the fact, revealed by Miss Alice Baker's researches, that one of the greatest of the French-Canadian prelates—Bishop Plessis—was of New England stock? In fine, our Canadian ethnology is—apart from our aborigines, whose affinities constitute a distinct question—a field the cultivation of which might profitably engage the spare energies of a large number of inquirers all over the Dominion, and we thank Mr. Fleming for directing attention to it.

### AUSTRALIA.

PROGRESS, PEOPLE AND POLITICS.

#### PART VI.

Intimately connected with the life of the miner, already alluded to, is the liquor question. The law in some of the countries is very lax in this respect, and drinking is everywhere common. Fourteen thousand persons were arrested in Victoria for drunkenness in 1886. Mr. Finch-Hatton describes the bush public houses of Queensland as follows: "The most violent poisons are habitually used to adulterate the liquor sold and to an extent which renders a very moderate consumption sufficient to destroy life," and adds further: "I have seen a strong sober man driven perfectly mad for the time being by two glasses of so-called rum given to him at one of these shanties. Though not having the slightest appearance of being drunk, all the evidence went to prove that he was poisoned, and he did not recover for a fortnight. The same writer makes a statement almost beyond belief when he says that no habitué of a Queensland town who wishes to find a business man ever goes to look for him first in his office. If he knows the run of the town, he will start the reverse way around the various public houses, and if this process fails to discover the object of his search, he will then go to his office, in hopes of finding him before he starts again on his rounds. Whether this may be considered an exaggeration or not, there can be no doubt that treating is carried to extremes and is a fruitful source of drunkenness.

Mr. Froude, in one of his works, gives an incident of Australian mining life which seems to me to present one of the saddest pen-pictures ever drawn. The reader is asked to imagine a once cultured officer of the Royal Navy lying on a pallet in a dirty tent, near a place where the incessant search for gold is going on. He is seriously ill and is surrounded by a crowd of boon companions and sympathizers, all drinking heavily from a large pannikin of rum, and every now and then forcing the sick man, in a spirit of drunken friendliness, to take a drink himself. Finally, in the course of their revelry, they insist on their companion singing to them. Leaning on his arm, with death plainly stamped on his brow, he sang with a pathos and power which partially sobered even the drunken crowd around him and impressed them in a manner they never forgot. The first and last verses were as follows and perhaps only too truly and vividly pictured his own sad career:

Who cares for nothing alone is free,  
Sit down, good fellow, and drink with me;  
With a careless heart and a merry eye  
He will laugh at the world, as the world goes by;  
He laughs at power and wealth and fame,  
He laughs at virtue, he laughs at shame,  
He laughs at hope and he laughs at fear  
And at memories' dead leaves, crisp and sear."

I cannot see you—the end is nigh;  
But we'll drink together before I die.  
Thro' awful chasms I plunge and fall.  
Your hand, good fellow. I die; that's all.

With the end of the last verse he sank back exhausted and in a short time was dead. Throughout Australia the principles of prohibition would seem to have taken but little hold upon the people, and effective temperance legislation is still a matter of the distant future, although in Victoria the license laws press somewhat heavily upon the liquor seller.

The aborigines of Australia are a theme of considerable interest. Higher in the scale than the Digger Indians, the bushmen of Africa, or the natives of many of the Pacific islands, they are still very degraded intellectually and physically, and are as a people gradually dying out, before the steady onward march of a superior race. They are prone, in common with other races in a similar position, to catch the vices of the white man, without acquiring his virtues. Many individual natives, however, are exceedingly fine specimens of humanity and possess great muscular strength. In swimming, diving, climbing trees, they are a match for any man under the sun, and are also very proficient in running and jumping. Throwing the boomerang is an unique custom peculiar to themselves. In acquiring what too often prove to be the rudiments of civilization, such as drinking, lying and thieving, the black fel-