

An English  
Opinion.

A notice of Canadian literary productions in the London Times is not a matter of such frequency that when it occurs it should be passed over in silence. What will they say of us in England? is after all a feeling deep in the heart of every inhabitant of Canada or Australia. When something pleasant is said of any Canadian it is satisfactory to all. In this spirit we call attention to the friendly notice in the London Times of Dr. Kingsford's eighth volume of the History of Canada. This volume has already been favourably reviewed in nearly every prominent Canadian newspaper, and in the columns of this journal we have been very happy to record our pleasure in reading Dr. Kingsford's able and impartial account of the War of 1812. The appearance of Volume VIII. is very *à propos*, and, no doubt, as The Times says, naval and military authorities will read this volume for the benefit of the lessons it teaches. In any event, a complimentary notice of a Canadian work by so plain spoken an authority as The Times is a source of pleasure to all Dr. Kingsford's fellow-countrymen.

A Question  
of Dirt.

Twenty journeymen bakers waited upon Ontario's Minister of Agriculture on Tuesday evening, and called his attention to the long hours they have to work, and the unsanitary condition of many of the shops in which they are employed. The long-hours' grievance is a small matter, serious as it is, compared with the filthy condition in which the majority of the shops are said to be. The most rigid inspection of such places is an absolute and immediate necessity, and if the Factory Act does not apply to more than eight of the hundred and thirty-eight shops in Toronto, its scope should be enlarged with all speed so as to embrace the very smallest concern engaged in this important business. In the meantime the citizens should obtain their bread only from those bakeries which are subject to inspection. Such action would speedily reduce the unclean and unsanitary concerns to a sense of their criminal negligence. We have frequently remarked upon the slovenly way in which bread is delivered in the city. The loaves are mauled and tossed about by men whose hands are frequently reeking with dirt and perspiration. In carrying the loaves from and to the delivery cart a basket is often dispensed with, and the carrier takes them by the armful. He is lucky if he lands his load without dropping part of it in the street. The loaves that roll in the dust or mud are "cleansed" by the carrier rubbing them on his coat or shirt sleeve, or perhaps his trousers. It is only too evident that inspection of bakeries in every detail must be provided for at once, and the Board of Health should give the matter its careful attention. Indeed, the premises of every person engaged in providing food of any kind should be open to regular and frequent inspection. Uncleanliness and roguery go hand in hand.

## Ventilation.

The question of dirt naturally suggests ventilation. From long observation we have come to the conclusion that the majority of people do not object very actively to dirt, and are utterly indifferent with regard to ventilation. Our street cars in winter are absolutely sickening from their need of ventilation. Those running through the poorer districts of the city are never free from offensive odours. The lower you go in the social strata the more there is the need for ventilation, but the more it is required so much the more is it neglected. Dirty people are always indifferent about ventilation. But this indifference is by no means confined to those

of uncleanly personal habits. Many offices and other apartments occupied by those who delight in the daily bath have no means of ventilation and are never properly "aired" from the first day of winter to its end. One of the huge departmental stores of Toronto is notorious for its evil smells and closeness. Many of the great unwashed throng its counters all day long, but no adequate provision is made for ventilation, and the unfortunate employees live from morning till night in an atmosphere laden with every impurity and foulness. But if one class of people suffer more than another from the need of fresh air it is the printer employed in our larger printing establishments. It has been recently stated that the death-rate amongst printers is higher than among any other class. The room in which they are employed is generally crowded to its utmost capacity, but we have never yet been in one that had any means of ventilation whatever. Men cannot work beside an open window in the depth of winter, and yet the window is the only means in these rooms by which fresh air can be admitted. Proprietors should be required by law to provide adequate ventilators in their establishments.

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Imperial Defence.

ONE QUEEN, ONE FLAG, ONE FLEET.

THE editor of the London Daily Graphic has sent us a set of contributions by one of their correspondents who signs his papers, "Splendid Isolation." These papers are four in number. There is also an additional paper giving an account of an interview with F. M. Lord Wolseley, who discusses the proposals made in the previous papers. Paper I. relates to the general subject, and is introductory. Paper II. includes proposals as to the fleet. III. deals with the army, and proposes a colonial army corps. The fourth paper relates to financial considerations. With the object of these papers we are heartily in accord, and if we take exception to any of the suggestions they contain it is in no captious spirit, but with the intention of furthering the object aimed at by their writer. This object is to suggest some practical scheme for knitting together more closely the colonies to the Mother Country. The term "colonist" has acquired an unfortunate association with ideas of imperial superiority as compared with colonial inferiority. The colonist is more touchy on this point than he ought to be. Proposals such as "Splendid Isolation" makes are the best means of allaying these feelings and the adoption by the people of Great Britain of the conception of an equal union of all the countries in the world flying the British flag will do away with the now out of date term "colony." Canada's present place in this association is very high. She is the largest British possession peopled by the Anglo-Saxon race in point of territory, population, and commercial importance. Her position, in a military point of view, may be thus summed up: She has now a drilled force of thirty-six thousand permanent and active militia. The number of males capable of bearing arms between eighteen and forty-five is one million. Let the Mother Country supply the arms and the generals, and these men will give a good account of themselves. The naval strength of the Dominion rests in her fishermen—of these she can supply seventy thousand. If Great Britain supplies the ships Canada will furnish the men. In a material point of view Canada is therefore of importance to England. In the point of view of concentrated and determined sentiment, the wishes and aspirations of Canadians are even more important. They have chosen the English model for their institutions, and have sacrificed a great deal in the past, and waived aside many temptations