

Art in some respects seems to supersede nature. For instance, manufactured ice has the advantage of being a sure crop and is of a uniform good quality provided the water is pure. The process of manufacture is said to be economical, and in the south the dealers make their ice without the assistance of grim but fickle old winter. It is by no means improbable that before long the larger proportion of ice used in America will be the manufactured article.

The Convocation of Toronto University, held on the 10th inst. must have somewhat resembled a garden party, as, owing to the destruction of the old Convocation hall by fire, a large tent had to do duty in its stead. The place was gaily decorated with flags, and a brilliant assembly of guests graced the proceedings. The Chancellor, Hon. Edward Blake, received the degree of LL.D. He afterwards made a brilliant speech in the interests of the University. It is probable that whatever is needed for the work of restoring the University will be speedily forthcoming, and next year the Convocation will likely be held in a handsome new building. At all events the government, faculty and students have been doing their best, and the wealthy citizens of Toronto will not see the college want for funds to provide ample accommodation for all its branches of educational work.

The *Boston Literary World* of the 7th inst. contains the following appreciative notice of Mr. F. Blake Crofton's "Haliburton, the Man and the Writer," which appeared as the first of the Haliburton series over a year ago: "The Haliburton Society of King's College, Windsor, Canada, prints in a pamphlet the biography of its patron saint, 'Sam Slick,' otherwise Judge Haliburton. The sketch is by Mr. F. Blake Crofton, who records the life and character, and criticises with affection, the writings of the Canadian humorist. Mr. Crofton's portrayal is vivacious, appreciative and impartial, a worthy literary tribute to the man who, more than others, has been the advertiser of the British Provinces in America." The late date of this notice, and the approaching centennial celebration at King's College, which will doubtless awaken renewed interest in "Sam Slick," brings Mr. Crofton's work again before the public.

The French Government is following the good example of Germany in its endeavors to benefit the working classes. It is proposed by a Parliamentary Committee that the working day for women be fixed at ten hours—the effective working day for children and for girls over thirteen but under eighteen years of age, at ten hours, and that night work for women, children and girls be strictly forbidden, except in certain specified cases. These regulations to be temporary or permanent according to the nature of the industry. It is to be hoped that these proposals will soon be embodied in an act of the Corps Legislatif. But the great danger in limiting the hours of labor without limiting the rate of wages is that the employers may increase the number of their employes at a lower rate than that now given, for "flesh and blood" have always been cheap on the Continent. It goes without saying that the great dress and mantle-making houses, who often keep girls employed far into the night, are against all change.

If our American friends wish to uphold their rights (?) in the Behring Sea, they had better despatch vessels of more use than those now stationed there for the protection of their fisheries. Both the Government cruisers are at present actually unable to overhaul a fast schooner; and a good story is told of the escape of the schooner *Sapphire* from the U. S. steamer *Bear*. It was about 10 o'clock, A. M., and the sun was emerging for the first time from the encircling mist, when the schooner sighted a suspicious-looking vessel about five miles off her quarter, and when the sailors recognized the big, ugly hull which was known to be a peculiarity of the *Bear*, Captain Cox determined to act on the old adage that "a stern chase is a long one," and put his little ship on her mettle. He, therefore, set every stitch of canvas his vessel could carry and, aided by a strong southerly wind, fled before the steamer. For an hour or so the latter gained, but soon the gallant sealer began to show her abilities and slowly but surely left the chaser behind. The Union Jack was run up to the masthead and with hearty cheers the *Sapphire* sped away and was soon lost to sight in the friendly mist. Nothing more was heard of the *Bear*.

Recent events in Africa have made it desirable to have British gunboats on the Zambesi and Shire rivers, and some difficulty has been experienced in selecting a class of vessel capable of contending successfully with the difficulties of African river navigation. If these boats were made so as to be carried out on board ocean steamers they would be too small to be of much general use; while, if built to be navigated from England to their rapid stations, their draught would be too great for the shallows and rapids which abound in the streams of the "Dark Continent." So the Government being at fault, a private firm—Messrs. Yarrow & Co.—came to the rescue, and undertook to construct gunboats well adapted to the service for which they were intended. The first of these, the *Mosquito*, was completed on the 3rd of May last. The boats are built in sections, not too large for a steamer's hold. On arrival the pieces are lowered into the water and fastened together by means of various straps and belts, and this is performed with such ease and rapidity that it is said steam can be got up within 24 working hours from the time of lowering the sections into the water. The dimensions of H. M. S. *Mosquito* are as follows:—length, 70 feet, beam, 18 feet, draught, 18 inches. She is propelled by a stern-wheel, and her engines drive her at a speed of about 10 statute miles per hour. She is armed with Nordenfeldt and Hotchkiss guns. The crew consists of a chief officer, three petty officers, eight European seamen and a certain number of natives.

Mr. Goldwin Smith, writing in the *North American Review* for May, says that there are three kinds of Anglophobia raging in the United States. Two of them are spurious; one, the hatred of England stimulated by politicians angling for the Irish vote, the other, the hatred nursed by Protectionists with the object of putting obstacles in the way of the admission of British goods. The third is genuine hatred imbibed from their youth up from traditional visions of historical grievances perpetuated in school books. That there is a certain amount of this feeling existing in the breasts of our cousins across the border line is true, but it is principally confined to very young people, and is strongest in schoolgirls. We remember hearing a bright young lady say she would not go to England for anything in the world, she hated England, but since then she has changed her mind, and travel in the old country has much improved this young American. The percentage of grown men and women who hate the English is a small one, at any rate quite small enough not to trouble either Englishmen or Canadians, who, whenever they visit Uncle Sam's domain, find the people everywhere kind and hospitable. Whatever the national feeling may be, in Mr. Goldwin Smith's opinion, individuals seem very successful in overcoming their prejudices and being eminently pleasant to us when we go to see them.

Some uneasiness is felt as to the growing trade between India and Germany on the prejudice of the English trade with India. German newspapers urge their countrymen to make a bold bid for the trade of a country which far exceeds even the United States of America in respect of its consumption of European wares. Statistics quoted by German writers shows that Great Britain turns over £52,000,000 yearly in her export trade to India where Germany shows but £160,000. German observers note, however, that year after year India's trade is increasing, and that Germany shares in this increase to a larger extent than England. They think, too, that direct communication with India would draw the trade still more to Germany. The *Madras Times* says:—"Trade nowadays depends less than it once did upon considerations of loyalty or patriotism. Sentiment has given place to utilitarianism. The cheapest wares and the best adapted to consumers' requirements are certain to come to the front, be they English or German, French or Russian. If England wishes to retain the lion's share of the trade of India, she must push ahead energetically, never lagging on the way, never neglecting the study of contemporaneous progress, and never failing to learn the lessons that are taught by the actions and suggestions of her competitors."

The Honorable John Wanamaker, Post-Master-General of the United States, has directed public attention to himself recently by offering to supply his customers with a pirated edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* at a fraction less than thirty-seven dollars. This, of course, is a bargain, but if Mr. Wanamaker came honestly by his volumes he would have to charge three or four times the price named or lose heavily. Being a politician—for in these days politicians have to endure almost as fierce a light as that which beats upon a throne—his little scheme has been investigated, and he is being pitched into on every side, as he well deserves. Those who make their living by the sale of books do not like to have their bread and butter taken from them in this way, but perhaps Mr. Wanamaker's action may have a salutary effect by directing public attention in the United States to one of their most besetting national sins, that of book piracy. The Post-Master-General probably thought as it was the fashion to steal books, that it would be no harm for him to do so. As he has been prominent in Church and Sunday school work, and generally considered a most estimable member of society, it is well to make all the extenuation possible for his offence, but it is just this fact of his eminent respectability which has brought down on him all the castigation which he is getting, and which if properly managed may result in stamping out to a great extent the long standing disgrace of book stealing.

Some years ago in the official report of a lunatic asylum an account was given of an inmate whose delusion was that he was perpetually tracked by detectives with the intent to arrest him on a capital charge of which, although entirely innocent, his conviction was certain. It would be difficult to imagine a more wretched state of mind than that of the unfortunate man in constant terror for his life, but this must be very much the state of mind of His Imperial Majesty the Czar of all the Russians—shut up in his country palace with sentinels at every possible post—never venturing abroad without the greatest precautions for his safety and always being the object of numberless conspiracies. About a week ago we had news that another plot against the Czar's life had been discovered in Paris, and that the French police were on the track of the conspirators. From this it would appear that in France, as in England, to conspire against the life of a friendly ruler is a crime. The present Russian Government is certainly an anachronism in the nineteenth century, and all right thinking powers must wish to see it displaced by a constitutional monarchy. To us, however, with our western ideas a despotism is infinitely preferable to anarchy, which appears to be the aim of the nihilists. But be that as it may, murdering the Czar is not likely to accomplish the ends of the malecontents, whatever they may be, for if it be true, as has been said, that the Czar is dependent on his courtiers and dare not grant a constitution, the Russian Government would not be changed, and surely another Pharaoh would rise in the stead of the murdered monarch. The present Czar and his immediate predecessor have been much more friendly to the people than have the nobility. Alexander II incurred the odium of the aristocracy by freeing the serfs. Speaking of Russia as it is, Stepniak, who cannot possibly be called a prejudiced witness in this instance, says: "personally a modern Czar does no harm to anybody at all, and is just as quiet and inoffensive a person as any constitutional monarch."