

under which it is possible for a Pullman to make his forty millions, more or less, in a score or so of years, while the men whose labour has been one of the main and indispensable factors in creating this vast wealth have had to be content with a small fraction of the products of their toil. But the case would be infinitely worse were there no sense of justice, no ideas of right and wrong constantly at work in society counteracting the operations of the "natural law." The fact is that, outside of the most inhuman "sweating" shops, there is not, probably, an industrial establishment, great or small, in Christendom to-day, in which the wages paid are not very much higher than they would be were the limit fixed simply by competition, or the operation of the merciless law of supply and demand. In not a few such establishments, happily, the righteous principle of profit-sharing is being introduced in such a manner as seems to have settled the great labour question so far as these are concerned.

But we must return to the railroads. The limits of space compel us to condense into a proposition the conclusion we set out to reach. The logical outcome of President Cleveland's action is to make it a matter of public policy, a principle of the political economy of the future, that railway corporations are not strictly private concerns, but are henceforth to be regarded as, within certain limits which will have to be defined by legislation, public institutions under State control. Some of the magnates of the railway companies affected by the late strike lately affirmed in the most emphatic manner their claim to be regarded as strictly private business companies, having a perfect right to manage their affairs as they please, without interference from any quarter. The claim is untenable on its face, in view of the public concessions, to say nothing of public contributions, which are necessary to the existence of a railway. But if the claim were tenable, it could be shown to follow, as a logical result, that the interference of the National Government on their behalf was an act of partisanship, and a gross injustice to the other party in a private quarrel, in that it forbade combination on the one part, while permitting and upholding it on the other. Henceforth, then, the State becomes the third party and the umpire, in some fashion yet to be determined, in all disputes between railroad corporations and their employees. This is the main issue of the strike, as we are able to read it.

The hymnology of Foreign Missions is a subject which is beginning to receive considerable attention. While native writers have not been able to contribute many edifying hymns, the best of German and English lyrics have been translated so well as to be very helpful in Christian worship, and also efficient in evangelization. The power of Christian song is manifesting itself on every mission field.—*Lutheran World*.

## CANADIAN LITERATURE.

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### CHAPTER I. (Continued).

Major John Richardson is the next author to claim our attention. According to his own account, dated New York, Jan. 1, 1851, he belonged on his father's side to the younger branch of the Annandale family (Dumfriesshire) which was attainted because of its part in the rebellion of 1745. His father became an officer in Simcoe's Rangers and was stationed near Fort Erie during the latter years of the 18th century. Here he met a daughter of Mr. Erskine, who had been active in the relief of Detroit during the famous siege by Pontiac. The issue of their marriage was eight children, of which Major Richardson was the eldest, being born about 1795. Mr. Erskine's reward for the bravery that he had displayed was a large grant of land and a considerable sum of money. With this start he became one of the largest vessel owners and merchant princes of the lakes. He had lived near Detroit, but in consequence of the troubles during the Revolution moved across the river and settled near Amherstburg. Consequent upon the removal of the Rangers to St. Joseph's, Richardson was left with his grandparents, and from his grandmother's lips he heard such descriptions of Pontiac and such vivid portrayals of the famous sieges of Detroit and Michillimackinac that he says his highest ambition was to write a book on the subject.

While still young he entered military service, and along with his regiment entered Detroit on its capture by Brock in 1812. In the vicissitudes of war he was taken prisoner, spent some time in Kentucky, and was exchanged on the conclusion of the war. In 1816 we find him in the West Indies. From that time to 1836 he seems to have changed from station to station, until in the latter year he turns up in Spain with Gen. Evans on the occasion of the Carlist rebellion. Here he had some difficulty with his commanding officer, which he ventilates in his *Personal Memoirs*. About 1838 he returned to Canada and lived for some time at Montreal, writing and revelling. In 1841 he published the *New Era*, or *Canadian Chronicle*, at Brockville, but it did not succeed, and publication ceased Aug. 19, 1842, with a second volume of 19 numbers. From this time on little is known of his course, except that he got into difficulties with the Government because of their unwillingness to reward his services, and finally went to New York or Providence, where he seems to have been busy writing novels, but making no fortune. Indeed, it is said he died from lack of the necessities of life. By the kindness of Mr. Bain, I am enabled to give paragraphs from a notice in the *Providence Journal* of May 27, 1852. The heading is "The Vicissitudes of Life."

"We were much surprised, a day or two ago, to hear of the death of Major Richardson. It seems scarcely a week ago that we met him in the streets, apparently in his usual health, and, as usual, accompanied by his dog, a favorite of many years' standing."

"Major Richardson was the author of 'Wacousta,' the 'Canadian Brothers,' and a variety of other works of peculiar merit in their style which display close powers of observation and deep knowledge of human nature."

After speaking of the hardships he had undergone, the writer goes on to give a short account of his life, from information gathered from a friend of Richardson. This is what followed after 1836:

"On arriving in England with wrecked fortunes, and a constitution somewhat shattered by hard service and reckless living, the Major, who possessed considerable talent as a writer, turned his attention to literature, and was the author of several brilliant sketches of Spanish adventure which appeared about that time in the columns of the London journals and magazines. Shortly afterwards he was introduced to one of the editors of the *London Times*, and as Canada at this period was rather an interesting ground, this event being, we believe, some time about the period of the rebellion of '37-39, Major Richardson, who, when a young officer in the British army, had spent considerable time in Canada and on the frontiers, was sent out as the *Times* special correspondent at a salary of five hundred pounds per annum. He held this lucrative appointment for about a year, when influenced, perhaps by his own political biases and by advantageous promises from Lord Sydenham, then Governor of Canada, he adopted a course of writing which displeased the *Times*, and he was obliged to resign his connection with that journal. Had Lord Sydenham lived, he would probably have rather gained than lost by this course, but the sudden death of his lordship blighted all hopes the Major had from that quarter. He then became connected with various Canadian journals, and also published one or two weekly journals at different periods on his own account in one of which some of his early novels first saw the light. All his attempts were, however, unsuccessful, while his habits, when he had command of means, were expensive. He lived several years in Montreal and other Canadian cities after this manner and then came on to this city where he has since resided."

His age at death is given as 53 years, which would make his birth year 1799. Morgan gives 1797, so that he could not have been more than fifteen years old when he entered the army. In the absence of definite data, perhaps the most probable date is 1795.

The following is a list of his works with as accurate dates as I can give:

- 1829. *Ecarte*, or *The Salons of Paris*, New York.
- 1832. *Wacousta*, or *The Prophecy*: an Indian tale, London (also at Philadelphia—Canadian Ed., 1840 [?]).
- 1836. *Movements of the British Legion in Spain*, with strictures on the conduct pursued by Gen. Evans. 2nd Ed. with a continuation from May, 1836, to March, 1837. London, 1837.
- 1838. *Personal Memoirs* of Major Richardson, as connected with the singular oppression of that officer while in Spain by Lieutenant-General Sir De Lacy Evans. Montreal.
- 1840. *The Canadian Brothers*, or *The Prophecy Fulfilled*. Montreal.
- 1841. *Jack Brag in Spain*. (Appeared in the *New Era*).
- 1842. *War of 1812*. First series, containing a full and detailed narrative of the operations of the Right Division of the Canada army. (Appeared in the *New Era*).
- 1842. *Tecumseh: A Poem*. (Appeared in the *New Era*). Morgan gives this in his list as XII.—*Tecumseh*; a novel.
- 1847. *Eight Years in Canada*. Montreal.
- 1848. *The Guards in Canada*, or *The Point of Honor*. Montreal.