

territory passed into our possession by purchase in 1867, twenty years ago. Thus we have fallen heirs to it, and some of our original arguments against the Russian assumption return to plague us."

Winnipeg.—A Military View of its Possible Future.—IX.

[CONTRIBUTED.]

(Continued from Page 156.)

YOKOHAMA is the principal port of the chief city of the Japanese Empire. It is situated 35°40' N. lat., 139°50' E. long. Vancouver is in 45°43' N. and 122°30' W. long.; Hong Kong 22°12' N., 114°13' E.; Calcutta, 22°35' N., 88°25' E.; Gatte (Ceylon) 6°2' N.; 80°16' E.; Bombay 18°53' N., 72°48' E.; Kurrachee 24°52' N., 67°10' E. This last port is at the mouth of the Indus.

With such a number of available and commanding ports there need be no fear for the future of India if the British Parliament only does its duty. A railway along the Valley of the Indus to Peshawar, with properly organised military stations at as many of the above enumerated points as may be found necessary, with a fleet organised and appointed on the same principles as the late East Indian navy, ought to afford the requisite measure of naval defence—under conditions which should render the task a light one.

The only foe to be encountered is, or will be, Russia. She owns or holds the Island of Saghalien, in 51° N., 142°30' E., which covers the mouth of the Amour river, the only port of any importance in the dominion of the Czar, but it is open only six months each season, and his subjects have a coast frontage on the Euxine and Baltic, which an English squadron could render serious sources of annoyance at once by closing the Bosphorus. And the Baltic is navigable only for six months in the year. To close all these and hermetically seal the Russian commerce would be a work of little time indeed, and as far as British North America is concerned the closing of Russia's ports in the North Pacific could be effected without the slightest disturbance of our *statu quo ante bellum*. A very light duty would then involve on the home fleet, and that would be to watch the Russian squadrons at anchor till they grounded on their own beef bones. Under these circumstances it is passing strange that any effort should be made to decri the only route to India on which every advantage is in favour of the British Empire. Coal and provisions abound in Canada, and when the mineral kingdom is laid under tribute every kind of manufactures and industry, from gold finding to phosphate mining, will be developed with the startling rapidity for which this new world is famous.

There is no novelty in this. The men who have seen the North-West Metis in a state of starvation in 1860 have been blessed by Providence to see over nine hundred thousand tons of cereals produced in the wilderness at and beyond Fort Garry in 1887, and the city of Winnipeg with its 25,000 inhabitants in less than twenty years overshadowing the fortification no longer necessary to protect the trader from the Indian. With respect to this question, involving as it does the federation and integrity of the Empire, the people of Canada may say to the people of Great Britain, we have set you the example, now follow it out to its logical conclusion—in the same spirit of patriotism and humanity in which it was inaugurated.

The value of the 1st line of communication and defence having been established, let us see what the second may be. It is to the West Indies, fifty years ago the El Dorado of British Commerce and the great training school for naval heroes. There are here Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Antigua and St. Thomas, of little value now, except for strategical purposes in case our neighbours of the United States should take a fancy to quarrel with us. As on all the lines provisions and coal are the chief requisites in establishing a complete system of Imperial defence, Antigua will most probably be the station for coaling on this line. The Island of Antigua is in 17°9' N., 61°50' W.; Bermuda is in 32°26' N. and 64°37' W.; Jamaica is in 18°0' N. and 77°0' W.; Bahama 27°0' N. and 77°0' W.; and St. Thomas 18°20' N., 64°56' W. This line masques the ports of the United States, the Gulf of Mexico and South America. Jamaica is 4,270 miles from Southampton, St. Thomas, 3,570, Panama 4,860. The value of this line would be made evident in case of war.

The third line to India, is via Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Bombay and Cape Comorin. This is the shortest as measured by distance—by time it is about equal to the great Pacific or first and main line. Its value as an auxiliary to the first line is very great but it is fatally weak at the Suez Canal, and although Providence threw not only the control of the canal but the occupation of Egypt into the hands of the British Government there still hangs a shade of uncertainty about its future which has an evil effect on its traffic and general interests. It is a powerful factor in the hands of statesmen, but a perilous and mischievous weapon in the hands of mere political empirics.

The difference is that three-fourths of the voyage is under a tropical sun, with delays prolonging the voyage to the great detriment of the health of invalids. Now that is one of the evils of our present system which suggests the creation of a great military depot at Winnipeg—in addition that it could not be taken by surprise or have its garrison locked out or in. Such a case Capt. Colomb deals with in a paper read before the Royal Colonial Institute as far back as 1875. At page 15 he says:

"To attempt to determine the exact site for such a reserve naval arsenal for the eastern portion of the empire would be beyond the scope of this paper, but considerations respecting climate and effect on stores, etc., point to some port of Australia as best adapted for the purpose."

The military value of this third line is very small; there is hardly any interest it can subserve beyond being a transport line.

The fourth line to India and the east and Australasia, is round the Cape. Here the ports would be Sierra Leone in 8°29' W., N 13.14; Ascension Island 7°55' S., 14°25' W.; St. Helena, 15°55' S. and 5°44' W.; Mauritius, 20°9' S., and 57°31' W., and King George's Sound, in 35°0' N., 135°0' W. This latter is on Cape Lecuwin, the most southerly point of Western Australia. This is a direct line to India from the Cape of Good Hope.

The fifth line is from Australia via Cape Horn and Vancouver's Island. The points to be defended on this line are Sierra Leone, Ascension, the Falkland Islands, and Sydney.

They are secured by our possession of the Fiji Islands and New Zealand and overlap each other as it were. The maintenance and development of the system of defence afforded by the great Canadian Pacific line in the North and South Pacific will reduce them to the condition of local lines for home defence, but as they help to bind together the system depending on the first line their importance remains.

Now, having shewn as far as possible what has been done in colonial defensive measures, it is time to ask how is all this to be put in working order.

First, there is wanting a fleet of small ironclads of good speed and carrying heavy ordnance, for cruisers in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Second, arsenals and docks for building and repairs at Vancouver, Bombay and whatever other point in the North Pacific required—the same for the South Atlantic.

Third, the large ironclads to be kept for service at home as the Channel and Atlantic fleet.

Fourth, the creation of a home and foreign army, to be kept up to full strength, the expense to be borne by the colonies and Great Britain.

Following all this a Federation of the Empire is a desideratum—a practical problem which must be solved without delay.

[CONCLUDED.]

"She."

IMPROBABILITIES SOMETIMES BECOME REALITIES—A TRUE WOMAN'S FIDELITY.

SEVERAL works bearing unique titles, written in fascinating style, and giving evidence of wonderful imaginative power have lately been received by the reading public with much popularity and pleasure.

Perhaps the most striking of them is the book bearing the odd title of "She." In this the author has fairly outdone himself in his popular line. Ayesha and her beloved Kallikrates are unique characters in fiction. Ayesha, the heroine, is a beautiful creature who tasted of the essence of nature's forces at the fountain head, and became immortal.

Her patient waiting for the coming of Kallikrates, the beloved of her youth, whose individuality was maintained through centuries, though the change called death regularly occurred, only to be followed by re-birth, is a fine illustration of woman's fidelity.

The closing scene, when she conducts Kallikrates to the very center of the earth, the birthplace of all life, in order that he may taste of immortality, is a fit climax to the fine creation.

The question naturally suggested by this strikingly original story is whether there is not somewhere in nature, a potent force whereby life may at least be temporarily prolonged.

Mrs. Annie Jenness Miller, editor of "Dress" says: "In every instance Warner's Safe Cure has the effect to give new energy and vitality to all my powers." Mme. Gray, teacher of Oratory and Physical Culture at Syracuse, declares: "Before I tried physical culture and Warner's safe cure, I was a confirmed invalid. I owe much to that excellent remedy, and do not hesitate to acknowledge it."

Human life seems too short, though men in former ages lived longer than those of the present. History tells us that they lived more in accordance with nature's laws—their mode of living was extremely simple, and in their daily life they followed the dictates of human intelligence.

If sickness comes, we of to-day, seek the remedy among the artificial forces instead of resorting to the field of nature.

If when disease comes, we would consult nature, the chances are that we would fare better, for we would then treat the cause of such disorders. Modern research has shown that most of the commonly known diseases owe their origin to the unhealthy state of the kidneys, the blood purifiers of the system, and if they are kept in a healthy state by the use of Warner's safe cure, a vegetable compound and simple production of nature, much of the prevailing sickness would be happily averted.

It is probable that the author of "She" derived many of his beautiful imaginings from close communings with nature, for we are all agreed that whatever is of or from nature, is more beautiful and wholesome, than that which is artificially constructed.