

as any intervention of another nation in such an arrangement would be regarded as an impertinent intrusion, not to be tolerated. Were the country in which such swaps of territory are being made any other than Africa, all the modern traditions of British diplomacy would be regarded as violated, and the conscience of the nation would be shocked. As it is, the most that can be said is that whatever the motive, the natives stand to be benefitted by every extension of British influence. The morality of the means employed must be judged on the merits, when the facts are more fully known.

The truth of the old adage, "When wine is in wit is out," was but too well illustrated for the ten-thousandth time in the tearing down of the United States flag from before the consulate at St. Thomas, on the Queen's birthday. Whether the act of childish folly was committed by one wearing the uniform of the Queen's Own, or by another, it was evidently the act of a youth either too much crazed with liquor, or too hopelessly ignorant, to be worthy of serious notice beyond what is required to teach the culprit a lesson, and convince our neighbours that Canadians know what is due to international courtesy and good feeling. But the incident should, perhaps, be used to point a moral. If there is at least a modicum of truth in another saw which we used to read in our Latin primers, *In vino veritas*, there must have been some very unneighbourly as well as unsoldierly feeling in the breast of the man or boy who was capable, even in his cups, of venting his spite upon the flag of a neighbouring country in that dastardly fashion. The readiness of the Washington authorities to take the thing at its true value, as they might well do in view of the courtesies which were almost at the same time being shown their flag in England, and by British Marines in Boston harbour, shows that Governments of both countries—for how often have similar or worse insults been offered to Great Britain, by hoodlums in the States—know well how to distinguish clearly between the deliberate sentiment and acts of the nation and the foolish prejudices of irresponsible and unregulated individuals.

The lesson suggested is the responsibility of parents, teachers, pulpit and platform orators, and all other persons in positions of authority or leadership, for the use of their influence in implanting in the breasts of young patriots those feelings of respect and toleration for people of other nations which alone are worthy of intelligent and broad-minded Canadians. Probably more wars and more of those race hatreds which are second only to actual war in their evil effects, are derived from seed sown in the minds of children than from any other source. This remark has a bearing upon the sectarian jealousies which are just now threatening mischief to the

peace and goodwill which should prevail among the citizens of different races and creeds in Canada. A little incident which came to the knowledge of the writer a few weeks since may serve to illustrate the manner in which unworthy prejudices may be implanted and grow strong even in the very homes of those who are themselves tolerant and broadminded. Certain parents in the city were shocked to discover that a bitter childish feud had sprung up between their own boys and those of a family in the vicinity, with whom they were unacquainted. On inquiring the cause of the ill-feeling against the neighbour's boys, it was found to have its origin in the fact that they were "Catholics." Children who had no clear idea even of the meaning of the term were learning to cherish an unreasoning hatred of the boys in question because they were called Catholics. The parents became convinced that the boys thus designated were really suffering a petty persecution in the school, in which they were in a small minority, because of the alleged creed of their parents. So deep-rooted had the prejudice become that the first-named parents had no little difficulty in convincing their children that their feeling of animosity was not well-grounded or even praiseworthy. We know not how common such sentiments may be in other city schools, but when the incident was told, we could not but feel that the hint it conveyed was well worth the attention of all who would deplore having their children grow up narrow-minded bigots.

THE RACES.

Considering the amount of space daily devoted by our quotidian contemporaries for the past ten days at least to the subject of the races, it would be superfluous on our part to augment their voluminous reports at this late date. After the manner of a grave hebdomadal critic, accordingly, it is THE WEEK's function merely to generalize and to moralize on the events of which the daily newspapers duly inform our readers.

It is difficult to refrain from commenting *en passant*, however, on the character of these daily reports. The enormous amount of space occupied in discussing the weather, or describing the attendance, compared with the meagre information concerning the breed, appearance, and achievements of the horses, was strikingly noticeable. However, this perhaps is none of our business, and certainly descriptions of horseflesh may be left to other columns than ours.

Perhaps the most memorable feature of the meeting of the Ontario Jockey Club which has just closed was the large number of spectators it drew, despite the extreme inclemency of the weather. Wherein consists this fascination of a horse-race? For that it is exhilarating and stimulating to a degree is undeniable: the crowds that throng to it prove this, as do the temper

and humour of the crowd when there. Probably the factors are numerous and complex. To begin with, it is fashionable to go: Royalty and vice-Royalty go, and Tom, Dick and Harry go; and nowhere perhaps have these several representatives of the "classes" and the "masses" more in common. Since it is fashionable to go, grace is done the grand stand by the fair companionship of dames and damsels in becoming attire—all of which are causes of geniality and good humour. Naturally, too, as in every throng of human beings, the sentiment which brought them together is enhanced and heightened by numbers; and when to these elements are added pleasant intercourse with friends and acquaintances on green lawns or sunny roofs, a mild spring air, and a recognition that one and all are there for a few hours' release from care and toil, an exuberance of joviality and good spirits is the result.

But this, perhaps, after all, is the superficial aspect of the philosophy of the fascination of the turf. The true object of the sight-seeing is, of course, the emulation between beautiful, powerful, and high spirited horses. Power in action is always an inspiring sight, and when the power in action is exhibited by that most beautiful of creatures, the horse, the inspiration is great indeed. Then there is the courage, the endurance, the judgment, the skill, on the part both of the racer and his rider—all potent factors of excitement.

Lastly, and perhaps chiefly, is that curiously strong fascination which anything in the shape of chance seems to have for the human mind. It is inherent, it is indelible, whether psychologists can explain it or not. The ragged street Arabs playing pitch-and-toss at the corner are evidence of it; so is progressive euchre in stately Mrs. So-and-So's drawing-room; so are fair ladies drawing crumpled and numbered scraps of paper on the badge stand. Well, at a horse-race perhaps this element of chance is seen in its acutest form; certainly nowhere else does it attain such magnitude.

In this tripartite division of causes perhaps we can begin to discover some of the principal sources of the fascination of the turf. And the three well-marked divisions of the race-ground—the stand, the track itself, and the betting-ring—seem to show that this three-fold generalization is not far wrong.

He who has never witnessed a horse-race (lives there the man?) has missed one of the most stimulating sights in life. That it is one of the best possible opportunities for the study of human nature the multitude of writers in all literatures who have at one time or another made it their theme attests. There is something unique about it; it differs from all other gatherings of men and women.

It has its admirable side too, though this is not often enough noticed. It encourages, as nothing else encourages,