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[FOR THE CRITIC.]

APATHY.

I do not care to look upon the snow,
Too white it glitters in the sun—I know
Such thoughts are wrong, and yet they seem to stay
Altho' the world's so beautiful to-day,
But I am tired.

I wonder if 'twere easier in the rain
And storm to still this restless, weary pain;
Since all the cold white glory makes me sad—
And yet, the wind's fierce shriek would drive me mad,
I am so tired.

Oh there, you little child! If I were you
I'd lay my troubles down, as children do
On mother-shoulders, dear. How best of all
I think, 'twould seem to be so young and small
When one is tired.

Since then fond arms will lift you up, and fold
You soft from winds that blow too cold,
And gentle voice will soothe away all fear
While eyes will look an added blessing, dear,
Because you're tired.

But, being small, you cannot understand
How, one day, you may long, too, for a hand
To guide as mother's did, nor dream of how
Hearts drift, in doubt, as mine is drifting now
When I'm so tired.

So tired I do not work, or ever heed
The hours as they go by—where is the need?
I cannot think, or cry, or even pray—
'Twere best to sleep—but it must last always
Since I'm so tired.

Jan. 8th, '93.

MIGNON.

IN THE LOBBY.

(From our own correspondent.)

Master, Master! nows, old nows and such nows
As you never heard of.

—Taming of the Shrew.

The big guns on Nepean Point have again spilt the wolkin with a royal salute, the little bald-headed Usher of the Black Rod has once more made his three silly bows to mock Sovereignty, the 'Oi polloi' have had another opportunity to gird at the markedness of the *dames de qualite*, and the Right Honorable Sir Frederick Arthur Stanley, Baron Stanley of Preston, etc., etc., has delivered his last alleged 'Speech from the Throne' at the opening of the Dominion Parliament.

And what is there in the "speech,"—a deliverance which is so often termed a "bill of fare," but which ought rather to be regarded as an "apple of discord," over which the Premier, Mr. Laurier, and Mr. McCarthy will vex themselves much as Minerva, Venus and Juno did over the golden apple in classic legend? (I might explain that the position of the names here is purely accidental, and is not intended to express my belief that these statesmen respectively possess the characteristics of the deities in the order given.) I repeat, what is there in the "speech" of moment to the country? *Imprimis*, His Excellency says:—"The increase in trade, as illustrated by the exports and imports during the period for which the official returns have been prepared, has been most gratifying, and that increase has continued down to the present time." And then he is made to prophecy, poor man, "That the volume of trade during the current year will exceed that of any year in the history of the Dominion." Whether this augury is founded upon any justifiable basis is no more known to me than to Lord Stanley, but if the pious Mr. Foster has knowingly caused those in authority over him to sin the punishment will be his. In the next place the country is congratulated upon the fact that the operation of the government railways has become less burdensome. There is no doubt about this being the case, and, notwithstanding the unpleasant feature in the achievement of this satisfactory state of things,—the necessary dismissal of employees whose services it was possible to dispense with,—Canadians ought to feel grateful to Mr. Haggart, who has had the ability and the courage to effect the change. Perennial deficits in the management of the Intercolonial were damping the zeal of even the most ardent well-wisher of the road, and if the service is maintained effectively under the new conditions every one must recognize their expediency. We are also told that there has been an encouraging increase in immigration so far as Manitoba and the territories are concerned, and I am personally aware that such is the case to a very marked degree. During the past summer I visited several farming districts in the Northwest where settlers, most of them Germans, had come in from the United States. They had originally settled in the Dakotas or Nebraska, and, not being satisfied with the country there, came over to see the great Canadian Northwest and were conquered by its abundant promise and immediately moved their families there. Some of them even came from Kansas, and were most enthusiastic about their prospects in their new homes.

To return to the "speech." Nothing at all hopeful is announced in the way of bringing about a mitigation of the present unsatisfactory trade relations existing between this country and the United States. We are told, on the contrary, that "With regard to reciprocity in wrecking and towing, a correspondence has taken place which indicates that privileges are demanded for United States vessels in Canadian canals, which were not anticipated;" and, although it is predicted that "a satisfactory conclusion of the discussion may yet be reached," yet, looking at the announcement in another part of the speech that the government have caused efforts to be made to hasten the completion of the Canadian canal works, which will afford to the

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EMULSION