

MEN OF TO-DAY

ANGLO-SAXONISM AT ALBANY

THE Anglo-Saxon confederacy idea seems just now to be getting a large boost—at Albany, N.Y. President Taft, Earl Grey and Hon. Mr. Fielding seem to be the chief figures in expounding the dominant idea, which arose not from the flag but from the tariff. Two of the most eloquent speeches in favour of Anglo-Saxonism were delivered at the luncheon of the University Club at Albany on Saturday, March 19th. Earl Grey, who has said a great many wise and statesmanlike things in Canada since he became Governor-General, went himself decidedly one better in Albany. He said, for instance, quoting from the "Stein Song"—felicitous augury!—

"It's always fair weather when good fellows get together"; adding in true diplomatic fashion: "So long as the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack get together, then it is always fair weather."

President Taft replied. He is less of an orator than bluff Earl Grey, trained in the English school; and he spoke with patches of American vernacular; but he got as near saying the thing he wanted to say as he could and still be President Taft theoretically possessed of the "big stick" in this tariff controversy which has been threatening to erect "Haman's gallows" in the shape of boosted tariffs along the Canadian-United States frontier. He said: "With three thousand miles of border between us we must study to avoid conflict, trade or otherwise; and we must be as close friends as possible for the mutual benefit of both."

THE FINANCE MINISTER'S ROLE

NO doubt the applause at this point was quite as loud as when Earl Grey pulled out the full organ stops in his Anglo-Saxon-Imperial speech. No doubt Hon. Mr. Fielding led in the applause. The Canadian Minister of Finance was the silent one of the trio. He let the other two sing the international solos; because it is some days now since Messrs. Emory and Pepper, tariff experts from Washington, began to buttonhole Mr. Fielding and Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Ottawa for the purpose of settling the tariff tangle; and Mr. Fielding had more up his sleeve than either of the others spoke—as, for instance, the automatic surtax and other technicalities of which he is the abstruse master in tactics and in public speech.

"Oh, it was not so in the olden days!"—quoting from another convivial song (apologies to Earl Grey and the "Stein Song")—for it is not many years since all the tariff delegations went from Ottawa to Washington and they came back with just what Uncle Sam had a desire to hand out to them: whence higher Canadian tariffs on United States goods and United States factories in Canada. Ottawa has begun to be a second centre of international influence on the American continent and it was well designated that way when Ambassador Rt. Hon. James Bryce went to Ottawa before he officially visited Washington.

AN ARCH-BOOSTER FOR CANADA

THE economic side of this memorable controversy has been expounded in news articles and in editorials. The personal side came into full spot light at Albany last week. Earl Grey has accepted a challenge from President Taft to play golf next summer. Odds on the Governor-General! He will play for the whole of Canada; just as the other night he spoke on behalf of Canada and the Empire and the United States.

We have never had a more outspoken Governor-General than Earl Grey. He is an arch-booster for Canada. Once he went so far as to say that he believed the time was coming when the economic centre of the Empire would be somewhere in Canada; that was in private conversation with an eminent Canadian financier. He is not

going back on that. At Albany he drew the full bow and double-stopped in three-part harmony on the big international fiddle. Canadians like to hear a Governor talk that way. This is an age of international talk. The United States impersonated in President Taft liked to hear him talk that way. It was the speech of an Imperial Englishman.

* * *

GOOD-HUMOURED "BIG BILL" TAFT

ANYWAY, President Taft took no exception to a word said by the Governor-General. He is a much more pleasant *entente-cordialeist* than ex-President Roosevelt. Over in Canada we extremely like this big, good-natured President who endorsed most of Earl Grey's speech—in a more or less guarded way, because tariffs are the special business of Presidents over there, just as they are of Finance Ministers in Canada.

Mr. Taft has every reason to think well of Canada. When he came into office Canada was buying from the United States a couple of hundred million dollars' worth of goods in a year. That is no negligible item in the programme of a President. Blood may be thicker than water; but in the case of Canada and the United States a good deal of the real blood goes through tariff arteries. We may have our picayune differences over warships on the lakes; and we may do a deal of theorising about the ultimate boundaries between the Yukon and Alaska; but when it comes to the problem of f.o.b. across the border we're a good deal of one people, each willing to sell the other as much as possible that the other wants more than he does. President Taft knows quite as well as either Mr. Goldwin Smith or Earl Grey that nature and history never conspired to have each of these countries supply precisely what the other wants in the shape of raw material or in goods unmanufacturable by themselves.

The speeches of these two men ought to go a long way towards settling the dispute. In the matter of oratory we believe that Earl Grey's was the better speech. In what was left out—we must give the palm to President Taft. It may be a long while before two such men orate on so practical a question of international politics again; and on what other continent could you find two supreme chiefs so agreeable and convivial as these two—President Taft and Earl Grey? Now if Theodore Roosevelt comes back and starts in to make trouble, we shall naturally trot out our biggest trump card in international oratory, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. That will be an even more momentous episode than the Taft-Grey golf game next summer.

* * *

THE SHAMROCK AND THISTLE

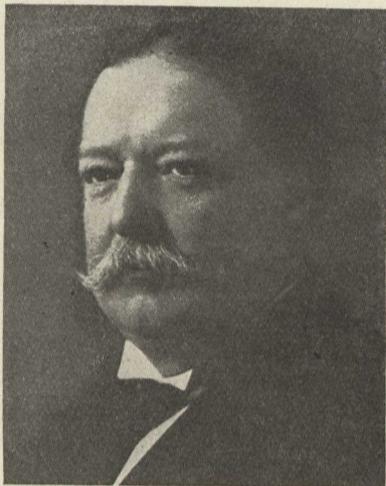
HERE follows a letter from a gentleman who objects to his brother being called Scotch when he is Irish. A few years ago the writer of this page fell into the bad graces of a clergyman by writing him up as a big Irishman—when he was nothing but an overgrown Scotchman of the Scotchest kind.

"Thorold, Mar. 15, '10.
"Editor Canadian Courier:

"Dear Sir,—In your late issue I find that in 'Another from Bruce,' Chief Justice Mathers is dubbed a Scotch-Canadian. We freely accord to the Scotch people in Bruce as elsewhere all that is their due but to call the Justice a Scotch-Canadian is to make a mistake. He is an Irish-Canadian and deservedly proud of his lineage as are all his brothers. The Mathers family crest is recorded in the Registry Office in Dublin and is a bared arm issuing out of a cloud with an arrow in the clinched hand—the heraldic significance of which is *Fortiter et Celeriter*. The name is Irish and they who bear it are glad to know that it is borne without a stain in the three provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and British Columbia.

"F. M. MATHERS, B.D., Thorold."

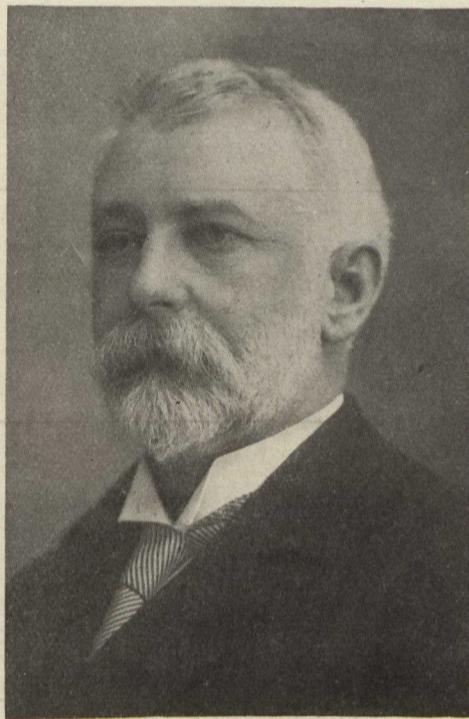
This correction is cheerfully made. No man should be called a Scotchman unless he is one. It's bad enough to be a Scotchman—let alone an Irishman. Now if some one will write the history of the Irish in Bruce County it will furnish a chapter of incongruities worth binding in one volume with the Scotch from Tipperary and the Laplanders from Timbuctoo. We are all familiar with the Irishman from Ulster—who is really a transplanted Scotchman. We are also acquainted with several varieties of Scotch who go to Scotch picnics.



President Taft,
Minus the Taft smile which he must have worn when talking back to Earl Grey at Albany.



Earl Grey
May have been lost in the Yukon last summer, but he certainly found himself at Albany last Saturday.



Hon. W. S. Fielding
Never smiles in public—except when he is ravelling out the complications of a bewildering Tariff