

up to for guidance by their poorer or less educated neighbors, to be reminded that as Democracy—into which we have plunged so suddenly that some hardly yet realize what Democracy means—is, of all forms of government, that which needs the largest measure of intelligence and public spirit, so of all democracies ours is that which has been content to surround itself with the fewest checks and safeguards. The venerable Throne remains, and serves to conceal the greatness of the transformation that these twenty-five years have worked. But which among the institutions of the country could withstand any general demand proceeding from the masses of the people, or even delay the accomplishment of any purpose on which they were ardently set, seeing that they possess in the popular

House a weapon whose vote, given however hastily, can effect the most revolutionary change? I do not say this to alarm any timid mind, believing that our British masses are not set upon such changes, and are still disposed to listen to the voices of those whom they respect, to whatever class such persons may belong. The mutual good will of classes is still among the most hopeful features in our political condition. But it is well to remember that it is upon the wisdom, good sense, and self-restraint of the masses of the people that this vast and splendid edifice of British power and prosperity rests, and to feel that everything we can do to bring political knowledge and judgment within their reach is now more than ever called for.”—*The Contemporary Review*.

## THE COMMERCE OF THE ARCTIC REGIONS.

BY LIEUT. FREDERICK SCHWATKA.

WHEN the United States joined a great conclave of nations—about a dozen or so—to establish meteorological stations in the polar regions, and it was turned over to the Signal Service weather department that used to issue those jaundiced looking sheets headed “For the benefit of Commerce and Agriculture,” there was the usual “guying” of newspapers as to finding any commerce on agriculture in that region to investigate, either scientifically or otherwise, and as to the propriety in general of sending army officers (Lieutenants Ray and Greeley) to look into such matters so foreign to military art. One paper merely mentioned that a cavalry officer knew how to charge, and so did most people engaged in

commerce, and here was a common ground, etc., etc.

But it is not our place to review all the witticisms called up by the subject at the time, but only that part which shows a generally prevailing idea that the Arctic is as devoid of agriculture and commerce as the moon itself, and that any jokes or jibes founded on such absence of these features could not be better supported for a display of wit.

As to agriculture but little can be said, it is true, but in regard to commerce the Arctic, in proportion to its population, holds no unenviable field, and one that will constantly increase in importance as the world's population becomes denser, and certain fields, now common to the temperate