

everything of Wordsworth, I think, except 'Vaudracour and Julia.' And while we may not be able to go quite so far as this we are compelled to think that Wordsworth, through his "healing power," stands on a plain by himself, beneath the two or three great mountain peaks of song that seem to penetrate into the very heaven of heavens, but far above the lesser hills that appear still shrouded in the clouds of earth.

T. G. MARQUIS.

Stratford, Ont.

A NEW ZEALAND REVERIE.

WITHIN a far-off isle I see again
A quiet city nestling on a plain,
A languid river flowing to the main;
And sunburnt children playing by the sea,
Their happy voices ringing merrily
With shouts of laughter in their childish glee.

Again outspreads above me, phantomwise,
The deep unclouded blue of southern skies.—
Once more adown sweet Avon's winding stream,*
The pleasant scene of many a musing dream,
I slowly glide, beneath the willow's shade,
By many a bridge rough hewn, and sunny glade;
By pastures green, where browse the rich fleeced sheep,
And yellow fields, where sunbrowned workmen reap
The golden grain; by hills and meadowland,
To where the breakers kiss the rocky strand.
'Twas often thus in days gone by I spent
The passing hour, in sport and merriment.

How oft on mettled steed I gallop'd o'er
The breezy downs, the smooth and level shore;
Or haply sought—I love to seek it still—
The soothing silence of some lofty hill,
Where, stretched at length upon the grassy heath,
I gazed upon the prospect far beneath;
Or revelled else in some engrossing page,
That glassed the mind of poet or of sage.

Oft in that time of dreamful careless ease
(How sad, yet passing sweet, are memories
Of years long dead) I loved to watch, beside
The palm-fringed beach, the ever restless tide;
Or wandering in the fields and meadows sweet,
On many a morn with light and errant feet,
To hear the lark that, soaring in the sky,
Poured its full heart in rapturous melody;
And, when light vanished with the tired day,
To hail the nightingale's surpassing lay.

How often did I sail with merry friends
Beyond the harbour-bar (where distance lends
No pleasure to the view, but rather tells
To hapless landmen, that the ocean's swells
Must long be borne, ere yet the shore is reach'd,
Ere yet their tossing craft is safely beach'd.)
How often, as the twilight fell, I walked
With one I loved upon the sands, and talked
Of home and kindred, dear to her and me,
Far o'er the weary wilderness of sea;
And often—but I may no longer dwell,
Amid those scenes my spirit loves so well.

O'er many a mountain-side, o'er many a plain,
And many a league across the trackless main,
I see the city and the stream again;
And still (how sweet the dream) in memory,
I watch the children playing merrily,
Beside the waters of the summer sea.

ERNEST C. MACKENZIE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—I read in your issue of July 22nd an article in which you say that I am an *anarchist*, and in the eyes of the law, a *ward*. I wish to say that I am neither *anarchist* nor *ward*, and hope you will publish this rectification in your earliest issue.

MARQUIS DE MORES.

38 Rue du Mont-Thabor,
Paris, Aug 22, 1892.

A NEW CANADIAN HISTORY.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—You were kind enough in a recent issue to notice my proposal to devote myself to the preparation of a commercial and financial series of Canadian histories, and your notice has already brought me into communication with several gentlemen who possess information of value to the undertaking. I thank you most sincerely for your kindness, but hope you will allow me to explain to your readers that I am not so egotistical or so ambitious as to contemplate supplying the much-desired "satisfactory history of Canada," of which aim a slip of your pen makes me guilty. The great reason why we have so far no satisfactory history is not that we lack gifted historians, but that we lack

* A river that flows through the City of Christchurch, N. Z.

much information which is requisite and necessary for the accomplishment of the work.

My object is to attempt to add my contribution to the bibliography, which will be consulted by the future historian, to rescue from oblivion the commercial lore which is now to be had for the seeking from the lips of the pioneers of our industries, and to gather together into a connected narrative the history of business in this country now hidden among the records of the Hudson's Bay Company and in the columns of the daily press, as well as in numerous pamphlets more or less reliable. Being at present best versed in banking, I shall most likely devote my first volume to the currency system and banking history of the Dominion, and proceed, as my leisure and studies permit, to the consideration of other leading businesses. There will not be lacking those who will deem the task too Herculean for my abilities, nor are there lacking those who think there will not be sufficient material for a volume on any topic. Among the latter class is one of our leading historians, with whom I have had a conversation, but I have only to say that if I fail I shall at least have the pleasure of failing in a good cause, and of directing the attention of Canadian historians to a gap which must be filled up before our history can be said to be anything like complete.

ARTHUR WEIR.

INTEREST AND LOYALTY IN CANADA.

THE recent assemblage in London of representatives from numerous commercial organizations throughout the British Empire gave an opportunity for the expression of views of great practical value. The exchange of sentiments, especially among the delegates from the colonies, and again between these and the representatives of British interests, was important, because hardly by any other means could it be ascertained whether or not a common ground of action could be secured. The result was to reveal the widest divergence of opinion on questions of trade policy, specially between the two greatest colonies, Australia and Canada, while among the British delegates there was a division of opinion almost as marked. Perfect unanimity was apparent in many details of commercial reform, but so far as indicating the possibility of a closer commercial union between the colonies themselves, and between them and Great Britain, the convention had no practical result. It had one effect, however, and that was to reveal an intense loyalty to the Motherland, which, in view of the enormous areas represented, the widespread and varied interests concerned, and the vast population interested, numbering 350,000,000, was a testimony of the highest character to the wisdom and success with which the Government of the British Empire is administered.

The importance to civilization that this Government should be maintained the world over wherever it now existed appeared more impressive than ever, for upon its maintenance in one quarter of the globe seemed dependent its existence in another. Although there was no common ground discovered for a union of commercial interests, there was an abounding evidence of the closest and most perfect political and moral union of which it is possible to conceive. This was intensely interesting to the students of affairs in North America, where a possible disintegration of the British Empire is not uncommonly accepted as possible, especially in that vast stretch of territory between the Atlantic and Pacific, over which Great Britain still mildly rules. It is needless to say that, of all the delegates present, those from British North America were the most intensely loyal, and that there was the slightest tendency towards a separation in that colony was most truthfully represented to be utterly improbable.

Nevertheless in the discussion of the relations hereafter to exist between Great Britain and her colonies, there seemed no realizing sense whatever of the tremendous sacrifices which Canada is called upon to make in order to maintain the line of demarcation, which completely cuts her off from the great growth in the other half of the continent. Before the world the comparison is always inevitably between the retardation within the Northern and greater half of the continent, isolated by its British connection, and the progress of the Southern half, freed from that connection, wherein a material wealth has been created, at which all the world wonders. Compelled as Canada is to confine her trade to the products of narrow latitudes everywhere the same, or with Great Britain, 3,000 miles away, she is growing so slowly as to excite surprise and apprehension; while within actual sight a commerce exists, the greatest on earth, in which she has neither part nor lot. This commerce breaks like a huge wave along a border line of unparalleled length, and rolls back upon itself, the literal example of which is found in the shipping of the Detroit River, flowing in front of a small portion of Canada, bearing upon its bosom a tonnage exceeding that of London and Liverpool combined, in which Canada has hardly a dollar's interest.

The material advantage to Canada from an obliteration of the barrier between herself and the nation of forty nations directly alongside, and the resulting development which within her borders would equal that which has already taken place within the Southern half of the continent, is the measure of the sacrifice that Canada makes to maintain her connection with Great Britain. It is fair to say that up to this time these sacrifices have been cheerfully borne on one side, and equably on the other, for with the utmost liberality on the part of the Imperial Government, Canada has been left to work out her own destiny.

Yet there was a consciousness sufficiently apparent in the congress that in the continuous struggle between the sentiment of loyalty on the one hand, and material advantage, nature and geography on the other, the latter might in time prevail. This consciousness found its expression in the effort made to compel the congress to recommend a change in British policy so desperate as to threaten its vast foreign trade in order that the colonies should have a preference. This recommendation was, however, voted down two to one. Another evidence that the contest in Canada between sentiment and interest has already begun is found in the exodus of her people to the United States. This exodus includes one or more representatives from almost every family in the Dominion, and implies a proportionate personal annexation to the United States of male adults to which there is no parallel, except that which depopulated portions of Ireland in her worst days. Should an equal desire for material advantage be found to exist—and does it not exist?—among farmers, fishermen, lumbermen, miners, and shippers, whose interests are all menaced by continual isolation from the natural market which the United States afford, it will be admitted that the sentiment of loyalty to Britain will be under a strain too tremendous to contemplate with contentment in view of its possible failure. For the result of that failure would be the loss to Great Britain of her nearest and largest colony, comprising in area no less a proportion than forty per cent. of her empire! Such a loss is viewed with dismay in England, for it might realize the fear expressed by Dalton McCarthy, the wisest of Canadian Tories, that it would reduce Great Britain to a second class power and initiate a disintegration that would seriously set back civilization.

To obviate such a dire possibility there is, however, one way which the recent congress did not permit to be discussed, and that is to make such a commercial bargain between the United States and Canada as will completely obliterate the barrier between them commercially, leaving both to occupy their present political status. That this can be done with the United States there is no doubt, for it exactly fulfils both the new reciprocity policy of the Republicans, and is in exact accord with the Free Trade doctrines of the Democrats. When Canada is ready to accept an offer of a market with 65,000,000 in exchange for a market of 5,000,000, a business arrangement can be made between the two countries that will completely prevent a desire for a change in her political condition, because there is no argument on behalf of that change except the commercial or material advantage to be gained. When all the material advantages possible to political union are secured by the simpler and earlier commercial union, which is immediately possible, Canada will be secure for all time to Great Britain.

The argument that the allegiance of Canada to Great Britain must be lessened by an intimate commercial relation with the United States finds its complete refutation in the condition that prevailed at the cessation of the reciprocity treaty in natural products between the two countries for ten years up to 1866, on the termination of which Canada was far more loyal under the high degree of prosperity which that treaty rendered possible than she is now with the barrier between the two countries gradually getting so high as to threaten almost a total cessation of intercourse. Prosperity, contentment, and rapid development, which in Canada would follow the obliteration of the McKinley Bill along the whole northern border of the United States, is not likely to lessen the loyalty of Canadians; and, if their loyalty is likely to be affected by such a condition, the sooner England ceases to rely upon it the better.

What was to be hoped from the congress recently held in London was some expression of opinion by the British representatives as to the consequences of a discrimination against British manufacturers, and the real loss to them should exclusive Free Trade between the United States and Canada be attained. This loss at best must be excessively small, for the total exports to Canada do not exceed three per cent. of the total exports of the United Kingdom. Even if it were much greater it would be but a mere bagatelle compared, first, with what Canada suffers from isolation and loss of population; and, second, it would be turned immediately into profit should the development of Canada be at all proportionate with that of the United States. This is proved by the following table, showing the increase in trade between the two countries in fourteen years preceding 1889, a comparison which makes the vociferations of loyalty from Canada seem almost ludicrous if that loyalty is sufficiently sincere to find expression in the shape of profit to Great Britain:—

Great Britain's Trade	1875.	1889.	Increase.
With Canada	£20,000,000	£ 21,500,000	£ 1,500,000
With United States	94,000,000	144,000,000	50,000,000

Five millions of loyal British subjects in Canada increased their trade with Great Britain in fourteen years a paltry million and a-half, while sixty millions of supposed commercial enemies in the United States increased it fifty millions sterling, indicating that each Canadian increased the trade six shillings, while each American increased it sixteen shillings!

The gain to Great Britain by the closest possible relation between the English-speaking people that together hold the continent of North America in common is beyond estimate. Her investments, the profit from which immensely exceeds the profits of her trade, yield now a net return from Canada of £7,000,000, and from the United States of £40,000,000. These would be immeasurably improved,