

at once forbade all hope of escape, and intimated that his life was for the present spared. Then, collecting in a group beyond earshot of Shingoes, they conversed together gravely for some minutes, during which a strange and stern resolution was adopted with respect to the unfortunate youth. Assignack was charged with the duty of revealing it, and kneeling on the grass beside Shirgoos, he told him, gently and tenderly as it could be done, that, as between them and their home was a long land journey, to which in his disabled condition he was unequal, they were about to abandon him to the mercy of the white men. All the tortures which a hostile tribe could have inflicted would have caused Shirgoos far less agony than this announcement. It was kinder, he thought, more like those who had ever seemed to love him well, to leave him in the forest to the bear and to the wolf. But he had been trained to Indian stoicism of demeanor, and a dozen curious eyes were intently fixed upon his face, watching how he bore the tidings; and, weak as he was, he heard his doom with unaltered countenance, yet with a bitterness of heart which seemed to have in that moment bade farewell to all the light and gladness of his life, which, until then, had but one dream of happiness, favored and guarded from all sorrow and suffering as he had ever been by Assignack and his father.

[To be continued.]

From Hogg's Instructor.

THE PRESENT AGE.

ITS CHARACTERISTICS AND REACTIVE TENDENCIES.

III. An age of widely-diffused knowledge. No illustration of this is needed except a reference to the popular and cheap literature with which the press teems in the present day, bringing within the reach and down to the comprehension of all the elements of every department of science, with the discoveries which time after time are made, and creating a taste for literary acquirement and research. Popular libraries afford opportunity to all who desire mental improvement; this inducing, among other advantages, increased liberty of thought. Men are not content with thinking just as their fathers thought before them; they are reviewing, and in some cases reversing, the verdicts of history; and, while disinterfering from heaps of calumny and reproach some noble names, are demolishing the idols of centuries, investigating motives, and fearlessly exposing the intrigues and machinations of those who, having had power on their side, had also historical flatterers who lived in court favor and basked in royal smiles. We hail the diffusion of knowledge as one of the best and most hopeful features of the present age. That much error is diffused we are aware; that many writers pander to the vitiated tastes of the unworthy is but too evident. But we have a fearless confidence in the indestructibility of truth, and are well assured that, when it fairly enters the lists against error, it must be successful in the combat, and remain master of the field. Some of the incidental evils of this characteristic will be glanced at hereafter. The superficiality which is caused, and which is in a great measure fostered, by reviews, lectures, &c., is to be regretted; but it devotes on all who value knowledge, both for its own sake and its efficacy, to see that it shall be with them not only extensive but deep, not only superficial but correct. Let it be not the gilt wash or coating, which will not bear friction, and which, if handled firmly, will rub off; but rather sterling metal, which will shine the more brightly when it is in common use, and applied to the practical purposes of life. While we would not hold by the line of the poet in its full meaning, yet it does contain a grave truth after all—"A little knowledge is a dangerous thing;" still ignorance is vastly more dangerous, and better is the dusky twilight, in which objects are seen but indistinctly, than the murkiness of night, in which they are not recognized at all. It is

IV. An age in which the great principles of social and international well-being are studied, are beginning to be understood, and are exerting power. Too long the Cain-like spirit has prompted the inquiry, "Am I my brother's keeper?"—too long have the accidents of birth, kindred, or nation Sundered those who sprung originally from the same parent, and whose interests must be necessarily the same. Too long has an arm of the sea, a range of mountains, a different coloured skin, or another language, caused men to look on each other as aliens, if not as foes. Some races possessing power have used others as mere drudges, and the possession of a little wealth has been sufficient to enable a man to look down upon others who, in that particular, have not been so fortunate or so richly endowed. But in these matters light is dawning upon men; they are beginning to understand in part those expansive and benevolent principles communicated eighteen centuries since by Him who, on a mountain-top, taught the fishermen of Galilee, and laid down a code of morals so unearthly in its loveliness, so universal in its application, and so divine in its spirit, that, when it is recognised and acted on by all, most of the evils which afflict our race will be removed. It is no little matter, not of boasting but of thankfulness, to live in an age in which slavery has been abolished by her who has ever taken the lead among the nations, striking off at once and for ever the fetters of the negro, paying with willingness a ransom of £20,000,000, and annually expending large sums with the aim of preventing the traffic in human flesh. The development of the same principle is leading to many other benevolent efforts at the present time. Man is no longer

looked upon as a mere machine. To work from morn to night unceasingly in a coal-pit or a factory; to stand 12 or 14 hours behind a counter; to sit for even a longer time serving to minister to the vanity of the gay; these, it is beginning to be suspected, are not the sole objects for which whole classes of the community are sent into this world. Hence the early closing movement.—hence legislative protection to factory children,—hence the weekly half-holiday which many are seeking to obtain. All these efforts prove that man, as man, is rising in value, and that, while there must ever be in the body politic, as in the human body, different members, having different functions to perform, yet the knowledge of the fact is gaining ground, that "God has made of one blood all the nations of the earth."

Closely allied to these principles is that of the vital importance of education—education for every one, if society is to be safe or the individual happy. Who is to educate? is a difficult and vexatious question, not to the purpose now, but oh! is it not monstrous to be quarrelling about this, until another generation have been educated for vice and trained for the prison, the hulks, or the scaffold. Men are finding out that a prison costs more than a school, and that, viewed merely as a matter of political economy, a jailer is a very expensive and very inefficient schoolmaster.

"Were half the power that fills the world with terror— Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts Given to redeem the human mind from error, There were no need of prisons or of forts."

Another movement, reference to which is naturally suggested by the last remark, is that in favor of mitigation of criminal punishments, its advocates affirming the sacredness of human life, and denying the right of any man, or any set of men, judicially to put another, however guilty he may be, to put another to death. Upon this as an open question, one respecting which much may be said on both sides, we do not enter. With equal brevity do we notice the peace principle, this being carried out so as to denounce defensive as well as offensive war. The principle is beautiful, and all honor to those who maintain it, even though they may be regarded by many as men before their age. The question, so far as it is a question, is only one of time. The peace principle is part of Christianity, and those who cannot go as far as their neighbors in that direction are doubtless restrained in a great measure by the doubt whether man can be made peaceable, and recognise this principle to its full extent, until they be christianised. It is a move in the right direction; the principle is gaining ground; nations are not so ready as formerly to engage in warfare, otherwise we should have been embroiled with America respecting the Oregon; and the events of the present year, had they occurred twenty or thirty years since, would have engendered a general European war.

Another principle, the spread of which has already been proved to be a powerful ally to peace, a principle of social and international importance, is that of free trade. The impolicy of any legislative barriers to human industry or exchange of commodities, is acknowledged by many who, a few years since, regarded the idea as visionary; and we may confidently predict that it will continue to gain ground until the custom houses at our ports are appropriated to some better purposes; and our children will wonder that we were so slow in learning what then will appear self-evidently plain.

There are social movements affecting the happiness of millions, and which will influence generations yet unborn, at which we can but barely hint. The necessity for colonization, a necessity caused by an ever increasing population, and leading to the spread of European civilization and refinement throughout the world. Countries, the resources of which are yet untouched, will ere long rival those of the old world. Commerce will again change her marts, and great nations occupy districts where now there are impenetrable jungles and untrodden wilds. Nor must Christian missionary enterprise, as involving a great principle, and one which has but of late years been practically developed, be overlooked, recognising all as the members of one family, and seeking to spread among them the highest principles of truth.

A YARN IN THE HALF DECK.

"Did you say you served your apprenticeship in the Arethusa?" "Yes, I served my time in the Arethusa." "What age were you when you went to sea?" "I was sixteen." "Put down sixteen, Bill." The scene of the present dialogue was the fore-castle of a collier brig at anchor in the Thames: the speakers, an old seaman, and three others scarcely arrived at middle-age, one of whom, behind the old man, acted as clerk, with a piece of chalk, on the lid of his own chest. "Put down sixteen, Bill," whispered one; and the number was put down. "Then how long were you in the Arethusa?" "I served five years," said the old man; "then I stopped by her other three; I was eight years in her altogether. I liked the ship very well, but I did not like the owner." Bill, who was all attention, put down an eight below the sixteen. "But you would be a young fellow then; I should think you would not be long out of ship?" "I got a ship directly, and sailed for North America. Well, as it happened, we were water-logged as we were on our passage home: three hands took the rigging, where we were three days without a bite of any thing, or as

much as a drink. On the fourth day, we got hold of a dead bird of some kind that was floating past—ate it, feathers and all. Well, I did not yet tell you that all hands died but myself, and the only way I could keep myself alive was by sucking the grease out of the ropes. I knocked about upon the rigging for a month. At last I was picked up by an American vessel, and taken to America. The Americans used me very well; so I traded back and forward among the American ports for a long time."

"How long do you suppose you were in America, altogether?" "I was away ten years from leaving home."

"Didn't you go into the Greenland trade after that?" "No; it was not till some time after, I was on board of a man-of-war before I was in the Greenland trade. Somehow or other the press-gang got scent of me; a good run we had; I was limble on my feet then; if I had not slipped and fallen souce into an ash-midden, I believe they never would have taken me; but take me they did. Well, I was seven years in his Majesty's service, and I liked the service very well; but one day the captain and I had a few words, and said I to myself, 'The sooner we part company the better, old fellow.' So I ran away; it was in the West Indies I knew they would be after me; so I got myself stowed into a hog-head of sugar, and sent aboard of a merchantman, and got clear off that way."

Bill, who was listening in silence, put down, 'on board of man-of-war seven years' "Then did you get home all right?" "Yes; and then I went to Greenland. My eyes I what sport we had here the first ten years I was in the trade! I was there that year when there wasn't a whale to be seen, and we loaded the ship with seals. A weary job we had; the ice was short and hummocky, and the seals as shy as foxes. Somehow we always found one or two fellows, who'd been fuddled maybe the night before, that forgot the way into the water. When the brutes make a dive, they are out of sight in a minute."

"How long were you in the Greenland trade?" "I was nineteen years altogether. Then I fancied I would like to be in a warmer climate; so I got into an East Indiaman, and traded to the East Indies for a long time."

"How long do you suppose?" "About thirteen years. At last the ship was taken by the pirates, and the most of the crew had to walk the plank; only three of us saved our lives by consenting to be pirates with the rest. I never liked a pirate's life; so one day when we were ashore on a large island watching, I took leg-bail and ran away. I'd been with them three years, which was quite enough. Well, I got among the natives of the place, who were mighty kind in their way; and as I was a brisk young fellow, I wasn't long in finding a wife among them; so I lived there just like a savage for sixteen years, for there was no chance of getting away, and it was just as well to make myself happy. But at last an English ship put in for water, and the longing came over me to go back to my native land; so I smuggled myself on board just as she was ready for sea, and glad I was that my wife didn't follow me."

"Did you get home all right and tight?" "All right and tight, both!" "Then I suppose you would not lie up any time at home?" "I didn't lie up at all. When I got home I found my brother had gone to America, so nothing would serve me but I would go seek him, as I had not seen him for a long time. So I got a ship, and off I went; but I never saw him from that day to this, although I wandered through America for five years seeking him. I got tired of wandering, and got into a little vessel trading between Prince Edward Island and the mainland, and I traded in her for ten long years—ten long years, I can assure you."

"Hav'n't you been a long time in the coal trade?" "I was thirty years in the coal trade before I went to China."

"How did you like the China trade?" "I liked it very well. I was only in it about five years. After that I got into the Baltic trade. I was seven years in it; but I tired of it, so I got a ship and went off to the West Indies, where I was put ashore sick, and lay in the hospital for three years. When I did get better, I was a better man than ever, so I started negro-driver in a plantation, where I whipped the poor fellows on for nine years, till at last the old fit came on me, and I would be off to sea again."

"Was that before you were captain of the Clinker?" "Yes; that was just before I got to be captain of the Clinker."

"Weren't you a long time captain of the Clinker?" "I was captain of the Clinker for nineteen years. I was captain of her till she was lost on the Gunfleet Sand; it was as much as we could do to save our lives that time."

"What ship was it you lost in the Swinver?" "That was the Peggy. I was a long time in her both mate and master. I was four years mate and eight years master."

"How long is it since the Peggy was lost?" "Let me see; it will be fourteen years this next month; just fourteen exactly."

"Then you must be a good old fellow now?" "Ay, I'm a good age now, you may depend on't."

"See what age he is there, Bill, will you?" Bill, who had been listening in the background, and taking notes on the lid of his chest, proceeded to read off the following items:—

Table with 2 columns: Item and Age. Items include: Went to sea in the Arethusa (16 years), In the Arethusa (8), In America (10), On board man of war (7), In Greenland trade (10), In East India trade (13), Among the pirates (3), Among the savages (16), Travelled in America (5), Traded to P. E. Island (10), In the coal trade (30), In the China trade (5), In the Baltic trade (7), In the hospital (2), Negro driver (9), Captain of the Clinker (19), In the Peggy (12), Since the Peggy was lost (14), Total (206 years).

"Then you'll be two hundred and six years old," said Bill, with a chuckle. "Bravo!" said Tom; "there's not a man in the fleet like him!"

Legislative Proceedings.

From the Saint John New Brunswick. THURSDAY, March 21.

The House has been engaged to-day on the further consideration of the Post Office Bill, on which a lengthy discussion took place. When I entered the gallery, Mr Wark was on his feet, contending that letters, &c., passing through this Province from Canada and Nova Scotia should pay something as transit postage. He thought such arrangements ought to be made as would give New Brunswick one penny on every letter passing through.

His honor the Speaker thought the principle suggested by the hon. member for Kent could not be adopted. For instance, letters written at Lake Huron to be sent to Nova Scotia, would have to pass a very large extent of Canadian ground, and it would not be a due proportion in the rate of postage to give a penny to New Brunswick in such cases.

Hon. Attorney General said the principle urged by the hon. member for Kent could not be sustained. If New Brunswick would be entitled to a charge for letters passing through it, that charge could only be in proportion to the extent of territory over which these letters travelled, which would give to New Brunswick but a small share when compared with the area of Canada.

Mr Barberie thought New Brunswick had got the worst of the bargain; but as the arrangement had been made, he could see no chance of bettering it at present. He considered it unjust to tax the local papers, and he would move a reconsideration of that section. He could not see with what justice or propriety English papers should traverse the Province free of postage, while the papers published in the Province are taxed. People in the rural districts did not get English papers. It was the merchants who received them, and such persons as were able to pay.

Mr End was satisfied that the half penny, small as it was, prevented the circulation of Newspapers. No enlightened mind ought to sanction this postage, which was a direct tax on knowledge. Men who read newspapers were better in every respect than those who did not. They became better members of society, and their minds were better prepared to act in any public capacity. In this Province we have no magazines or other literary periodicals, and the newspapers should be sent free of postage to every family in the Province who chose to subscribe to them.

Mr Ritchie was willing to let the local papers go free of postage to the country. Useful information ought to be sent to the farmers, and he believed the half-penny postage obstructed the circulation of newspapers.

Mr Street could not agree to loose the revenue arising from the postage on newspapers; but as soon as the post office department could afford it, no one could go more cheerfully than he would to free the newspapers from tax.

Mr Connell would not allow local papers to go free.

Dr Earle said that a Post Office revenue must be raised by some means. As for the local papers, many of them were disseminating principles that did no credit to the country, and he would be for taxing them with three-pence postage, to stop their circulation and prevent their bad effects.

Mr Carman said, if the consideration of the eleventh section (having reference to newspaper postage) would go to relieve publishers and editors of newspaper postage, he would go for it.

The House then divided on the reconsideration of the eleventh section. For the motion, 18, against it 17.

Mr Barberie then moved that all newspapers printed in the Province, and intended for circulation within the Province, be exempt from postage.

Hon. Mr Fisher said this postage was a tax on knowledge. People in the rural districts ought to get their papers free of postage.

After an enquiry from Messrs Ritchie and Tibbets, the attorney general felt himself bound to say, if we let our own papers go free, and negotiate for a transit tax on the other colonial papers, we will find ourselves compelled to pay postage on our own.

Mr Ritchie said if this was the case, he would protest against the arrangement of the convention. This was a one sided agreement, and justice had not been done to New Brunswick. It was to hard to deny us the privilege of arranging for the circulation of our own papers as we thought proper.

After a little further discussion, the House