

Kind Wishes for the New Year.

AS SEEN IN ENGLAND.

The Tour in Canada of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall.

Now that the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York have returned to England it may not be out of place to sum up from an English standpoint, the possible advantages that Canada has received from the visit of the royal party to Canada, writes the London correspondent of The Toronto Globe. This, you will remember, is a view expressed from the standpoint of a strong desire for the dissipation of much of the prejudice which has hitherto existed in Great Britain in respect to the climatic conditions of Canada. Unfortunately, the hope that so many Canadians in England had, that the result of the royal tour through Canada would be a fairer appreciation by the people here in respect to Canada, is not likely to be realized. It would have been well for Canada in many ways if, in the first place, some of the English newspaper correspondents had not been with the royal party, and in the second place, if some of those enthusiastic Canadians charged with preparing a program for the royal party had been less prominent. The receptions in Quebec and Montreal gave promise that there was going to be a policy adopted throughout the Dominion which would place Canada in a better light before the reading public of Great Britain. All these hopes, however, were blasted when the reports came from Ottawa of the reception there. The more largely circulating newspapers gave the greater space to the most exaggerated accounts of the royal party running the timber slides at the Chaudiere, to the reception of the royal party between the foot of the slides and the 'lumber camp' at Rockcliffe, and the timber cutting and shantymen's lunch at Rockcliffe. The first named was picturesque in its wildest possible aspect, something which can only be seen far beyond the pale of civilization. As to the second, the English public were told that the river was filled with canoes of Indians and shantymen dressed in their native costume, who sang lustily the 'Canadian Boat Song' as the royal canoes passed down the river. Then, as the third, the lumbermen camping on the outskirts of the grounds of Rideau Hall was given a typical incident to be seen any day within a mile or two of the Parliament buildings.

Canadians know that the timber slides, instead of being an evidence of backward civilization, are simply engineering contrivances for the passage of timber from one part of the river to the other. As to the river below the falls being crowded with Indians and shantymen in their native costumes. I shall not be amazed to learn that the so called Indians and shantymen were mostly the 'upper four thousand' of Ottawa's social circle, who chose to pass themselves off as natives and shantymen for the time being, in order to make the royal visit probably more interesting or more picturesque than it otherwise would have been. As to the lumber camp on the outskirts, or within the precincts of Rideau Hall, it is too ridiculous almost to need reference. Speak to an Englishman now about Ottawa, which, without exception, I think I will be pardoned for saying stands pre eminent in distinction as the most highly cultured social centre in Canada, and he will tell you judging from the accounts which he had read of the royal visit to Canada, that the capital of the Dominion is the central home of Indians and shantymen, and where there is neither culture nor society outside the vice regal residence. The people of Ottawa chose rather not to elevate themselves by their program in order to interest royalty, and he consequence is that the whole of Canada must suffer in British estimation on account of the rank stupidity of those who were in charge of that program.

Then, as to the journey westward, great prominence was given to the wonderful snowstorm with which the royal party met with immediately after leaving Winnipeg, and this, too, about the middle of Septem-

ber. That there was a flurry of snow there is no question, but in the British idea of newspaper work, and to suit the British idea for an exaggerated spectacle, this was magnified into a blizzard, out of which there was cause for devout thankfulness that the royal party succeeded in escaping with their lives.

Then farther westward, the Indian presentation took place, probably all right in its way, but it can again furnish the English correspondent with a magnificent opportunity for word-picture painting and exaggeration. No Englishman can read the accounts in the papers of the royal visit to the Indian reserves without being impressed with the idea that the greater part of the population of Canada is of that character. Looking at it from this standpoint, now that the glamor of royalty has passed away I think that you will readily see that an opportunity has been lost, in respect to removing much of the prejudice existing in Great Britain about Canada, by the criminal foolishness manifested in certain circles in furnishing picturesque amusements for the royal party, rather than on every occasion, as was done in Montreal, Quebec, Toronto and Winnipeg in trying to keep before them a true conception of Canadian life and character.

Mrs. McKeown's Death.

The death of Mrs. McKeown from small-pox has called forth much sympathy, for the bereaved husband. Words cannot express the feelings of the people under circumstances so unusual and sad. The wife of a few weeks stricken with a deadly disease and the husband, prevented by the law of which he is an able opponent, from seeing her in her illness, surely presents a spectacle from which all may be delivered. Mr. McKeown has the sympathy of everybody in his present affliction.

Smoker and Presentation.

In their cosy and comfortably arranged quarters in the Palmer building the non-commissioned officers' club of the 62nd Regiment gave a heartily enjoyable reception and smoking concert on Tuesday night. The officers of the regiment and several other guests outside the club were present.

Sergt. Dooe, on behalf of the officers non-coms, and men of D. Co., with other friends, presented Sergt. Major W. J. Lamb with a congratulatory address accompanied by a valuable gold-headed cane, for which the recipient heartily returned thanks. Sergt. Robt. O'Brien looked after the party's welfare in his usual courteous manner. A number of members of the Harmony Club contributed greatly to the enjoyment.

Presentation to Mr. T. Burke.

The staff of the Inland Revenue department in this city showed their esteem for Mr. T. Burke, Chief of the Inland service for the Lower Provinces. The present took the shape of a very handsomely mounted, gold-headed cane, suitably inscribed,

Gift to a St. John Man in Lynn.

John J. Murphy, formerly of this city, a member of the City Cornet Band and an employee of the Hurley Shoe establishment was the recipient of a very substantial gift from his fellow workers in the Cushman & Hebert, Lynn, Mass. Manufacturing Shoe Concern. The present was a check for \$25 on Christmas eve.

Late Literary News.

Are England, Scotland and Ireland destined, ultimately, to become a part of 'The United States of America and Great Britain' is the startling inquiry which William T. Stead makes in the January Cosmopolitan. He has been one of the prophets of Great Britain, and has, at all times, been able to see in advance of his contemporaries—as events have proven. He has been studying the new conditions brought about by the industrial combinations and reaches the conclusion that England and the United States are destined to be more closely united and that as soon as the English people wake up

to the absurdity and general uselessness, as has been shown in the Boer War, of a king and aristocracy, the trend will be immediate in the direction of a union with the people of the United States. However much one may differ from Mr. Stead, his speculations will be found vastly interesting. He is the first British subject who has had the courage to suggest such an outcome.

An article which will prove of the widest interest to all those engaged in teaching or who may be interested in education, is one in the January Cosmopolitan by Elisha Benjamin Andrews, ex-president of Brown University, who for the first time, in a leading magazine, has had the courage to show the great evils resulting from the private contract school-book system—educational officials corrupted, school-books often the poorest selected, and the prices paid by the children themselves of the highest—an annual tax going up into the millions which could be very easily avoided if the proper organization were brought into this effort.

If the old saying, 'All the world loves a lover,' is true, then the fiction in The Cosmopolitan for January should be popular, indeed. All the stories vary in treatment, plot and action, from Frances Courtenay Baylor's charming story, 'Cupid's Practical Joke,' to Maarten Maarten's strong domestic tragedy, 'Her Father's Wife,' but all have love for a central theme.

NEW YEAR'S RECEPTIONS.

Origin of the Annual Levees at the White House.

New Year's day has been, from the foundation of the nation, the occasion of a reception by the president of the United States. Before the seat of government was moved to Washington New Year's receptions were among the presidential levees of Washington and Adams, and these have been regularly held since. They have always been attended by the diplomatic corps, cabinet officers, members of congress and citizens. Sometimes much ceremony was observed and a others there has been no ceremony other than a simple presentation, this act being performed for many years by the incumbents of the office of superintendent of public buildings or the marshal of the District. The first reception in Washington, New Year's day of 1801, was held by President and Mrs. Adams, and, though the east room of the executive mansion was unfinished and another room was used, it is stated that all the formality and etiquette of royalty were observed. During the term of President Jefferson his daughters spent one season with him, and, putting aside the etiquette and formality of his predecessors, he abolished the levees, with the exception of those on New Year's day and the Fourth of July. Callers were shown to long tables, where Virginia hospitality was dispensed, and it is said the market bills made were 'over \$50 for each occasion.'

During the administration of Mr. Madison, though the country was in the throes of war, the New Year's receptions were held at which Mrs. Dolly Madison was the principal figure. Some of them, while the executive mansion was being rebuilt after the burning, were held at the Octagon House, Eighteenth street and New York avenue. Mr. Monroe went into a house rebuilt and newly furnished, and with Mrs. Monroe as the successor of 'Queen Dolly Madison' levees, especially on New Year's day, were the features of Washington life. The terms of Mr. Monroe were regarded as those of good feeling, and this fact had much to do with the success of the social entertainments.

During the following administration, that of John Quincy Adams [located by the house], much of the previous good feeling was absent, yet it was a social success due to the tact of Mrs. Adams, for she not only kept up the evening levees

and New Year's receptions, but attended to providing the refreshments served and presided over the frequent dinners. She tactfully avoided all subjects of controversy.

In the term of Andrew Jackson the old custom of holding New Year's receptions and levees was kept up, the wife of Andrew Jackson Donelson being the hostess, and the general, in order to keep up the hospitality to which he had been accustomed, had to draw heavily on his private means.—Washington Star.

The Memory of her Boy.

An American woman, a noted reader and elocutionist, relates a touching incident in which she had a part during her stay in England. The present queen, then Princess of Wales, gave a luncheon on board the royal yacht. The elocutionist received an invitation and accepted. Among the royal personages present was the sad-eyed, beautiful Eugenie, the dethroned Empress of the French, who still grieved for her son, killed by the Zulus of South Africa.

'After lunch, and during the idle hour before tea was served,' says the elocutionist, 'the princess asked me if I would recite something. I had often recited for her royal highness before, but on this occasion she wished me to do so especially for the Empress Eugenie.'

'I asked the princess if she had any choice as to what I should recite. She said no, but suggested one of the many characteristic little American poems she had heard me recite before. So I decided to give 'Kentucky Belle.'

'Most Americans know the poem, with its pathetic story of a thoroughbred horse which a woman gave to one of Morgan's riders, a sixteen-year-old boy whom she had nursed from death to life, to carry him back to his home.'

'The empress was close to me. I saw the tears gradually gather in her great, sad eyes, and fall silently down her pale cheeks. I had touched, and touched deeply, a chord. Her memory took her back to Africa, where her dead boy lay pierced to the heart by the spears of the savages.'

'When the poem ended the empress rose and, coming up to me, folded me to her heart, and with a voice trembling with emotion, said; 'God bless you, my child! You have made me feel as I never felt since my poor boy was killed—God bless you! I shall never forget this day! Then she kissed me, and drawing me to a seat by her and holding my hand in hers, she talked to me for a long time.'

Each Had His Troubles.

The man in Peru cares little whether or not there is a good blueberry crop in New England, and the peach crop in California fails. He has his own troubles.

'The country's in a dangerous condition, sir, when such things as this can occur, said the old gentleman who was passing the summer on Cape Cod. He had the morning paper in his hand, and addressed his remark to Capt. Eli Waters, who was sitting beside him on a wharf bench.

Captain Waters was also reading a paper. He looked up with a sober face.

'It does not appear,' he said slowly, 'but it's what I've looked forward to ever since they began to evade the laws and to catch 'em undersized.'

'Undersized!' puffed the summer visitor in amazement. 'What do you mean by that, sir? They don't catch 'em at all, big or little. That's the trouble!'

'What are you referring to?' said the captain, mildly.

'Why, the bank burglars, of course!' said the old gentleman, testily. 'It's a most serious matter, sir, a most serious matter.'

'I reckon 'tis,' admitted the captain, meekly, 'but you see I wasn't thinking about it just then. I was considering that the bottom seems to be falling out of the lobster fishery.'

NEW YEAR'S IN CANADA.

Interesting Customs of the Day Among Canadians.

New Year's is the one day of the year when every French Canadian woman is supposed to be at home to receive visitors. More social calls and ceremonious visits are generally paid by French Canadian men on New Year's than on any other day of the year. In the country parts of the province of Quebec this visiting often begins as early as 8 o'clock in the morning. In the cities more than a hundred visits are often made on New Year's day, and there are always some callers who continue their visits on the two following days, though women are not required to remain in to receive callers on the days following New Year's day. Up to a few years ago it was the invariable custom to offer refreshments, including wine, at every house where visitors were received. Though the old custom is still observed in many instances there has been a large falling off in recent years in the number of hostesses who offer intoxicating liquors to visitors.

Among rival village belles and even young leaders of French-Canadian city life there is much rivalry as to the number of calls received by each of them on New Year's day. The popularity of this visiting is no doubt largely contributed to by the rule which permits the callers to kiss all the young women to whom they are related in even the most distant manner. Inter-marriage is a marked characteristic of French-Canadian society and the close of relationship is usually very extended therefore.

Among other New Year's day customs perpetuated in parts of French Canada is that known as la benediction paternelle—the blessing of the children of the household by their father. Sometimes this ceremony is performed after the return home of the family from the mass of the day in the parish church. In other households, it is made the first experience of the new year.

Do not Worry.

Some of our subscribers and, we think friends are in spite of our explanations worrying over the decreased size of PROGRESS. Do not worry. What cannot be cured must be endured. Compositors are not trained or made in a day and subscribers must be lenient when they realize this fact.

An Unfortunate Example.

The present King of Italy has a sharp tongue, which he is not slow to use if he thinks the occasion demands it. Not long ago he was bewailing the fact that it was almost impossible for him to know the real sentiments of his people toward him. 'That,' said one of the courtiers, obsequiously, 'would be easy if your majesty would disguise himself as a student, and visit the cafes and gathering-places of the populace. That is what Peter the Great did.'

'I know,' replied the king, 'but apparently you forget that Peter the Great used to hang all those whom he overheard speaking ill of him. Don't you think you'd better choose another example?'

Lifted up Forever.

Mazzini, whose name is associated with the liberation of Italy, was once asked what he would have taught in school.

'One thing at any rate in all,' replied Mazzini, 'and that is some knowledge of astronomy. A man learns nothing, if he has not learned to wonder, and astronomy, better than any science, teaches him something of the mystery and grandeur of the universe.'

'Now, a man who feels this will so feel something of his own greatness and mystery, and then for the first time he is man.'

Board of Works, St. J., N.B.