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REV. E. D. VERY,

"BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."—ST. PAUL.

EDITOR.

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NEW POEM BY WHITTIER.

"Send forth thy light and thy truth, that they may shine upon the Earth; for I am on earth that is empty and void until thou enlightenest it."—THOMAS A'KEMPIS.

Through thy clear spaces, Lord, of old
Formless and void the dead earth rolled;
Deaf to thy heaven's sweet music, blind
To thy great lights which round it shined;
No sound, no ray, no warmth, no breath—
A dumb despair, a wandering death!

To that dark, weltering horror came
Thy spirit like a subtle flame—
A breath, a life electrical,
Awakening and transforming all,
Till beat and thrilled in every part
The pulses of a living heart.

Then knew their bounds the land and sea,
Then smiled the bloom of mead and tree;
From dust to flower, from moth to man,
The quick creative impulse ran,
And Earth, with life of thine endued,
Was in thy holy eyesight good.

As lost and dark, as dead and cold
And formless as that earth of old,
A wandering waste of storm and night
Midst spheres of song and realms of light,
A blot upon thy holy sky,
Untouched, unwarmed of thee, am I!

O, Thou who movest on the deep
Of spirits, wake my own from sleep;
Its darkness light, its coldness warm,
The lost redeem, the ill transform,
That flower and fruit henceforth may be
Its grateful offering meet for thee!

(From the United Service Magazine.)

THE LEGION OF HONOUR.

This order was first instituted by Napoleon, when First Consul, in 1802, and was continued with very little alteration by Louis XVIII. on his return to the throne. The palace belonging to it stands on the quay d'Orsay, in Paris, and is one of the principal ornaments of the south banks of the Seine; the Grand Chancellor of the Order resides in part of it, and the rest is occupied by the offices of the secretaries and clerks. The gradations of rank in the order are five, namely *chevaliers*, or knights, which is the lowest grade, then *officers*, *commanders*, *grand-officers*, and *grand-croix*.

The last official publication of the numbers in each rank, that I have been able to meet with, bears date about two years ago; there were then 84 grand crosses, 212 grand-officers, 891 commanders, 4969 officers, and 43,230 chevaliers, making the whole order to consist of about 50,000 members—about one-half being military men. It is equally open to all ranks and professions, the first article of its laws being, "The Legion of Honour is instituted to reward all services, civil and military." Half of the appointments and promotions are in the gift of the Minister-of-War; the Minister of the Marine has one eighth; and the remaining three-eighths are divided among the Ministers of Justice, Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Finance, and general Police; a small portion being also in the gift of the Grand Chancellor of the order.

All military men belonging to the order under the rank of commissioned officers, and all members indiscriminately, who were appointed to it before the year 1814, receive a pension of £10 a-year, the other members receive no pecuniary benefit personally. There is a magnificent establishment at St. Denis, about six miles from Paris, called the *Maison Nationale d'Education de la Legion d'honneur*, it occupies the

immense buildings of a monastery, formerly belonging to the Benedictines, and is solely for the education of daughters, sisters, and nieces of the members of the order: it consists of a lady superintendent, about eighty ladies, and six hundred pupils, of whom four hundred are brought up gratuitously. There are also two other schools, one at Paris, and one at St. Germain, where about four hundred pupils are educated in the same way—the presentations to all three being exclusively in the gift of the Chancellor of the order.—They say at these schools the education is first rate, employing none but the very first rate professors for foreign languages, music, and every other branch of female instruction; and that although the rules are strict, the greatest attention is paid to the health and comfort of the pupils. The whole expense of the Legion of Honour, including pensions and schools, is between £300,000 and £400,000, which is entirely defrayed by government.

Foreigners, occasionally, have the order conferred on them, but they are not considered as forming part of it, they cannot receive the pension, nor take the oath of admission; the words of the Law, are *Les etrangers sont admis et non recus*, Art 9. There are eight or nine English Naval and Marine officers who have received the decoration, who have almost all permission from our Sovereign to wear it. I am not aware how many officers in the Army have it, but I believe Lord Howden is the only one who has received permission to wear it.

The regulations require officers and men to have served twenty years before they can be decorated, time counting in the same way as it does for pensions, and pupils from the Polytechnic have the same privilege of counting four years extra; but in case of distinguished services, or any single extraordinary act, the Government may set this regulation aside altogether, and decorate the individual, without reference to the time he has served. In looking over the French Army List for the present year, it will be perceived that every General officer, both on active service or retired, is in one of the four superior ranks of the Order, there being 41 Grand Crosses and 117 Grand Officers, the rest being either Commanders or Officers. Every full Colonel in the whole army is decorated, and there are only five Lieutenant-Colonels without it. Of the *Chefs de Bataillon* of Infantry, only 46 undecorated. Of the 3,080 Captains of Infantry, about 1,230 have received it, few Subalterns however have it, and those few are generally men who having served a long time in the ranks, have been promoted from them.—The proportions in the other corps of the army are as nearly as possible the same as the Infantry. It may be supposed that the honour would be lightly esteemed, from so many men having obtained it, but I do not think practically, that that is at all the case; from all I have seen or heard, a French Soldier is as proud of his red ribbon, as if there were only a dozen wearing it in the whole of France.

The decoration for the lowest ranks consists of a Maltese Cross of five arms, the outer end of each arm being notched, and having a very small knob at each corner, the material is white enamel; the centre is gilt, and has an embossed head of Henry the Fourth, and the words HENRI QUATRE round it in gold letters on a blue ground; on the reverse, are two tricoloured flags on a gold ground, and the words HONNEUR ET PATRIE, also in gold on a blue ground. The Cross is suspended to a small silver crown, through the top of which passes the ring which fastens it to the ribbon. These Crosses are made of all sizes from half an inch in diameter upwards, and are worn, attached to the left but-

ton-hole by a watered red ribbon, in plain clothes, or in the usual way in uniform.

The *Officers* wear the same white enamel cross, but the points, the crown and ring are of gold, they wear it in the same way as the *Chevaliers*, but the ribbon is distinguished by having a rosette fastened on it.

The *Commandeurs* have the same cross as the *Officers*, but wear it hung to a broader red ribbon, round the neck.

The *Grand Officers* wear an embroidered silver star of five points, two inches and three quarters in diameter, on the right side of the coat. In the centre is a medallion with the head of Henry IV. and the motto *Honneur et patrie*; between the points of the star, are gold lances with enamelled tricoloured flags. I believe the decoration of this grade of the Order is the only European mark of distinction worn on the right side.

The *Grand Croix* have a star similar to the preceding, but four inches in diameter, which is worn on the left side, they are further distinguished by a broad red watered ribbon worn over the right shoulder, like our G. C. B., to the bottom of which is fastened a large star in gold. These distinctions are always worn in full dress, but in common the *Chevaliers* wear a piece of red ribbon, and the *Officers* a red rosette at the left button-hole.—*Grand Officers* are allowed to wear the plain gold cross in common, but not the *Commandeurs* or the *Grand-Croix*, which seems rather an anomaly. When the piece of ribbon is worn alone, sentries take no notice of it, but when it has the cross attached to it, they carry arms to it, whether worn by a civilian or a soldier; to the *Grand Cross* they present arms. It is very fine, on a fete day, to see the air with which an old pensioner of the Invalides, probably an old Imperial Guard, pulls off his cocked hat to the sentries at the Tuileries as they slap the butts of their muskets to him.

I was glad to see a suggestion that appeared in this magazine a short time back, advocating the establishment of a similar Order in this country. From all I have heard in France of the good effect produced by the Legion of Honour, I quite agree with the writer that a similar Order would be highly advantageous to the morale of the army.

(From the Puritan Recorder.)

The Revenues of India.

The Friend of India, for October 3, 1850, presents a statement of the Revenues of British India, for 1848-9, compiled from official documents. The gross amount of receipts on account of revenue, was nearly £25,000,000 sterling, or \$120,000,000. This was derived from the different Presidencies, in the following proportion:—

Bengal Presidency, \$48,000,000; Madras Presidency, 25,000,000 sterling; N. W. Provinces, 28,000,000; Bombay Presidency, 19,000,000. Total, \$120,000,000.

More than half of the whole amount, was derived from taxes on the land. The land revenue in the different Provinces, is as follows: Bengal Presidency, \$16,900,000; Madras Presidency, 17,500,000; Northwest Provinces, 22,700,000; Bombay Presidency, 10,900,000. Total land revenue, \$68,000,000.

A considerable amount of revenue is derived from the sale of opium, which is a government monopoly. The whole gross receipts for opium manufactured by the government and for the sale of passes for 15,255 chests of opium exported via Bombay, was about \$17,000,000. The cost and charges of this opium, amounted to \$5,270,000; leaving the nett amount derived from the opium trade by the East India Company, \$11,730,000. The nett amount received from opium, in 1849-50, after deducting all expenses, was estimated at

\$16,890,000; about half a million dollars more than in the preceding year. This is by far too large a sum to be spared by the East India Company in the present circumstances, even though the voice of the whole civilized world is loudly raised against their participation in this traffic, so disastrous in its effects upon the poor Chinese.

Salt is another government monopoly.—The amount of revenue derived from this source by the East India Company in 1848-49, after deducting all charges, was, \$9,750,000. The Friend of India remarks that "the revenue derived from taxation, that is from the land, and from the salt and opium monopolies, in 1845-6, was £19,579,300; and in 1848-9, £20,193,700, being greater by half a million sterling than in the former year; and as all our permanent sources of revenue would thus appear to be increasingly productive, we may naturally conclude that taxation has not yet reached its limit, and that it will still bear another *gentle pressure*, before it becomes unproductive."

He also remarks:—
"It is usual to say, that the Company administers a revenue of twenty millions sterling; but these documents show that in the year 1848-9, the revenues which the government of India derived from the four Presidencies and from Scinde, amounted to within a trifle of twenty-five millions sterling. To this has now to be added the returns obtained from the Punjab, (a newly conquered province,) and when we combine with it also the improvement in some of the sources of revenue which has lately taken place, the income of the East India Company will in the present year, (1849-50,) amount to nearly twenty-seven millions sterling; thus making this Company the third financial power in the world."

From these facts the Friend concludes that the excess of expenditure over receipts, which had gradually risen from £971,000 in 1846-7, to £2,324,000 in 1848-9, furnished no serious ground for alarm. He thinks there would be a surplus, in the present year, (1849-50,) against the enormous deficit in the past.—He concludes thus:—

"The future is still more promising. None of our permanent sources of revenue, none of the great staples of Indian finance have been in any measure impaired, and the cost of collection and the charges of administration have not increased. Some of the items of receipt have already been improved. The Customs in 1848-9, yielded only £744,300; in 1849-50 they gave a return of £880,200. The Punjab has not yet been brought to account, but there can be no doubt that it will very shortly give the most substantial relief to the finances of the empire. Though there may be no surplus of income the present year, those who are best able to judge are clearly of opinion that in the course of two or three years more, the surplus, after defraying all the expenses of government, civil and military, will amount to £400,000, or nearly \$2,000,000."

The Forests of England.

In this country our timber forests have been esteemed of small value, and an incalculable amount of timber trees have been wasted in years back. Gradually, however, timber of all descriptions is growing scarcer and more valuable, and before many years, the man who wishes to leave a fortune for his children and grandchildren, can do it in no surer way than by planting suitable land, at easy accessible points, with good timber trees. Some of the largest fortunes of the English nobility have been realized from forests planted by their ancestors. A great deal has been written, by men who knew nothing about the matter, in relation to the parks and preserved forests of