

mainder with a substance that expands as it is perforated with shot, thus keeping the water out. She has also a protective deck sloping down the sides four and a half feet below the water line. In order to be able to return any civilities that a pursuing enemy may offer by way of salute, and also to argue disputed points with fleeing ocean racers, she will carry four six-inch guns, twelve four-inch guns, sixteen six-pounders, eight one-pounders and four Gatling guns.

AS TO THE TRAMP.

The tramp as a recognized social entity is the product of the last quarter of a century. Waiving the question as to the cause or combination of causes which brought him into existence and sent him meandering over the land, we find him an interesting study. Perhaps it is proper to say that some men are born tramps, others tramp because they prefer to do it and others still have tramping thrust upon them. Among those who have made this subject a study is Prof. J. J. McCook, who contributes a paper thereon to the August *Forum*, his efforts in this particular instance being to show where the "species" came from and what may be done with them. He questioned 1849 of them, all Americans, and half of them were found to have trades, employment or professions requiring more or less skill, and the remainder, 41.4 per cent, were unskilled laborers; 1187 could read and write and the astonishingly large number of 30 were total abstainers! While the additional information that only 113 had no religious convictions is almost astonishing. Surely the tramps as a class are not as bad as they have been painted.

The writer says they are "an army larger than Wellington's red-coats at Waterloo; eleven-twelfths of them are under 50; five-sixths of them are in perfect health; three-fifths of them have trades or occupations requiring skill; over nine-tenths of them can read and write. And these persons, constituting one-quarter of 1 per cent of our adult male population, are permanently withdrawn from productive work. That is not all; they bear no public burdens. In case of war the recruiting sergeant might be nimble enough to catch them, if bounties were high and bounty-jumping active; but the tax-gatherer never, in war or peace. The very roads which they wear they never repair. Nor is this all. They are steady consumers. To support them in the Open Hearth at Hartford costs \$2.80 per week; in the almshouse \$2.56. And since institutional life is adopted by them only as a last resort, we may be sure that what they get outside is worth at least as much as the smaller of these sums. Add a conservative ten cents a day for drink, levied upon the public by begging, and two cents for tobacco, and you have not far from \$3.50 per week, or about \$8,000,000 annually. This does not include police supervision or hospital and dispensary charges."

We then come to the solution of the problem, and find several suggestions to that end. The writer would cease

lodging them among criminals in police stations; they should have clean quarters and be themselves cleansed and disinfected. Then a careful system of registration should be adopted, by means of which there would not be too frequent repetitions of the call and the caller would be under constant inspection. They should be made to work for what they get (if able to do so, of course, but the professor does not say so), and labor stations should be provided; a uniform vagrancy law, the practice of giving to beggars stopped and a thorough dealing with the drink question are the concluding suggestions.

The points are well taken, but in most places they would be found impracticable because of the expense entailed and the difficulty of establishing work for all applicants. Still, a heroic effort should be made everywhere to induce those among the wanderers who are willing to forsake their present lives and do better to do it; certainly, in any event we can refrain from encouraging them to become worse than they are.

GREAT BRITAIN THE WINNER.

The grave and reverend arbitrators who sat in judgment in the case of the United States vs Great Britain have rendered a decision covering all the points, only one of which can be considered as altogether favorable to this country and it the least important in the controversy. The rule of international law which restricts territorial limits to three miles from shore is affirmed with as much gusto as though this were not a case in which that rule cannot be properly invoked. The opening of the great northern sea to the world is but the threshing out of old straw, so far as permitting ships to come and go without question is concerned, the closed sea doctrine having been practically abandoned years ago. The award of damages for seizures and for the suspension of sealing during the sitting of the commission was a matter of course, following the award in chief as naturally as costs follow a judgment in court.

There is one atom of decided comfort in the decision—a close season has been provided so that seal murdering can only take place during four months of the year and these the most unpropitious for Canadian sealers, and they must keep out of a zone defined by sixty miles in all directions from the Pribilof islands. As these stretch from Alaska proper in a regular semi-circle whose concavity fronts the Bering sea to within a few hundred miles of the Asiatic shore, the vastness of this concession is more than appears at a glance. Within the time named foreign seamen can fish and destroy outside of that limit to their hearts' content, but not with bullets or explosives; and when it is considered that the great herds are principally found near the islands and that such as are found elsewhere are more or less scattered, it will be seen that the power of the long-distance fur-hunter to do mischief is decidedly curtailed. Altogether we are disposed to concur in the conclusion reached by a dispatch, that it might have been worse, while realizing with just the

slightest twinge of distaste that it might have been better.

There is one feature of our English relatives' conduct anent the decision that deserves reprobation—the suggestion that we "take our medicine" and make no wry faces over it. This approaches more nearly to an insult than anything that has yet occurred on either side. The people over there, or those of them that do not seem to have acquired such information yet, are hereby informed that that is the Yankee way of doing things. The arbitrament of our differences was first suggested by the United States, it being a believer and practitioner of that method of settlement. Whether it was the first to advance the proposition or not it would still, having voluntarily entered the tribunal of peaceful adjudication, without hesitation or complaint and with no unnecessary delay comply with the award no matter how unfavorable, and this not only in accordance with the letter but the spirit thereof. We may not think it just, may believe—even know—that improper influences have prevailed; but we are too big to cry and too manly to complain. As to whether or not we would submit in like manner to a defeat by force of arms, this is a somewhat different matter; our cousins should remember that such a question is purely one of speculation, that we have never yet been placed in that position.

THE CITY'S PRIDE.

What a delicious lot of statesmen and official bigwigs this fair city of ours is blessed with! There is elegance and culture, too, in the debates characterizing their semi-weekly sessions! In the Council chamber as well as in the department bureau they are models of Chesterfieldian politeness and Roman integrity. Their lips glisten with honeyed compliments bestowed with mutual lavishness, and their slightly contracted souls well nigh burst with admiration for each other's honesty and public-spiritedness. The vulgar clamor of outside parties does not ruffle their imperturbability in the slightest degree. Placing their expanded palms upon their beaming bosoms, they roll their eyes piously and give way to the comforting consciousness that their serenity has no just cause to be disturbed, their sweet Christian charity is without a blot.

For instance: One of the high and mighty Council, who is the proud possessor of a father-in-law, was gratified last evening to learn from an appreciative colleague that said parent had been drawing full and fat pay from the municipality for doing nothing for five weeks, though wherein this employment was more profitable for the city than if he had actually worked was unkindly left unexplained. Another councilman listened with evident exultation to the information that by reason of his avocation as boarding house proprietor, an effort had been successfully made to continue the employment of one of his proteges, whether profitable or not was not stated, to the end that his weekly payment of board might not be suspended. Then the diplomatist who presented these pleasing bits of