

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN BOYS.

Rev. H. W. Bellows speaks as follows respecting some of the experiences of his voyage up the Nile:

I am delighted with our English boys (there are none over twenty-five), and think myself most fortunate in the opportunity of studying young men just out of college from the right little island. I cannot but compare them (not unfavorably or the reverse) with the three American young men; the differences are very marked. All the young men, both Americans and English, are, it so happens, college-bred, and all, on both sides, earnest and fine fellows. They are all, too, nearly of one age. The English are generally more considerate of the feelings of those about them, softer and more restrained. They are modest and less accustomed to the society of women; very sensitive, and a little awkward. They are deferential to the elders of the party, and never put themselves on the common footing of humanity without much regard to age or sex. They are up in the classics, in history, in antiquities, but not in the physical sciences, nor even in their own literature. They know a good deal about English politics, but not much about foreign or American affairs. They talk of each other, talk a deal of slang, are always good-natured, and have next to no self-assertion or national sensitiveness. They are very liberal in their religious notions, especially the Cambridge men. They are not good looking, considered as physical specimens, and, with one exception, have not a spark of grace or fascination in appearance.

The Americans are men better versed in general knowledge and in acquaintance with the world. They are more skilled in the sciences and general literature; know more about English authors than the Englishmen. They know much less of Latin and Greek and antiquities. They talk less, but are more self-possessed, and seem much older for their years. They are comparatively bluff fellows; handsome as men, and not very sensitive to the charms of the young ladies, whom they treat with an easy respect which is not very flattering. They look more like men who have a distinct and very serious business in life, over which they were brooding too deeply to have much taste for trifles. They have very little of the solicitude to please and very little of the gentleness of the English youth. They are less engaging from a domestic point of view, but more promising. In short, one represents a country where all hopes are bounded and where everybody must move step by step and with due regard to ten thousand competitors; the others a country where everybody has scope, where men have great hopes, and where their early notions are accommodated to a long and lofty goal. I must say I see nothing in the most candid comparison of these English and American young men to make me ashamed of being an American.

THE OPENING OF THE AMAZON.

With regard to the probable consequences of this measure, the Rev. J. C. Fletcher states as follows: "The opening of the Amazon, which occurred on the 7th of September, 1887, and by which the great river is free to the flags of all nations from the Atlantic to Peru, and the abrogation of the monopoly of the coast trade from the Amazon to the Rio Grande del Sul, where 4,000 miles of Brazilian sea coast are open to the vessels of all countries, cannot fail not only to develop the resources of Brazil, but will prove a great benefit to the bordering Hispanio-American republics and to the maritime nations of the earth. The opening of the Amazon is the most significant indication that the heaven of the old narrow monopolistic Portuguese conservatism has at last worked out. Portugal would not allow Humboldt to enter the Amazon valley in Brazil. The result of the new policy is beyond the most sanguine expectation. The exports and imports from Para for October and November, 1887, were double those in 1886. This is but the beginning. Soon it will be found that it is cheaper for all Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and New Grenada, east of the Andes, to receive their goods from and export their India-rubber, cinchona, etc., to the United States and Europe via this great water highway which discharges into the Atlantic, than by the long circuitous route of Cape Horn or the Trans-Isthmian route of Panama. The Purus and Madeira are hereafter to be navigated by steamers. The valley of the Amazon in Brazil is as large as the area of the United States east of the Colorado, while the whole is equal to all the United States east of California, Oregon and Washington Territory, and yet the population is not equal to that of the single city of Rio de Janeiro or the combined inhabitants of Boston and Chicago. It is estimated that a larger population can be sustained in the valley of the Amazon than elsewhere on the globe."

Country fair jugglers exhibit a little instrument which they persuade their dupes will enable them to see through a brick or a board, or any other equally opaque body, whereas the fact is that the magic contrivance consists merely of a number of hidden mirrors so arranged that the observer actually looks round the obstruction. Without any magic or jugglery, however, a method has lately been found for virtually looking into the interior of a mass of iron in order to detect cracks or flaws in its structure. A compass needle is the searching eye. It is well known that any mass of iron held at a certain inclination to the magnetic equator becomes temporarily a magnet. If the structure of the iron be perfect, i. e. without breaks of continuity, either external or internal, the mass will have just as an ordinary steel magnet, and will deflect a compass needle passing around it in a regular and orderly manner. But if there be breaks of continuity, there will be corresponding breaks of magnetism, and the needle will be vagabond in its behavior, always performing some anomalous movement just at the spot where the flaw is situated. Mr. Saxby, R. N., lately proposed to apply the principle to the testing of iron forgings and castings. His proposal was favorably reported on by the Astronomer Royal, and a series of experiments to determine the validity of

Chatham and Sherrin dockyard. These have been eminently successful as far as they have gone, and give great hopes that one of the greatest difficulties of naval engineering, the perfection of a weld or the soundness of a casting, will ultimately be removed. Once a

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