

MOTHER-HEART.

Dear Mother-eyes
That watched while other eyes were closed in sleep,
That o'er my sliding steps were wont to weep—

Are ye now looking from the starry skies,
With clearer spirit-vision, love more deep,
Undimmed by tears, while I my vigil keep—
Dear Mother-eyes?

Dear Mother-hands
That toiled when other hands inactive were,
That, clasping mine, constrained me oft to prayer

For grace to run the way of God's commands—
Are ye now resting, or in realms more fair
Still find ye some sweet mode to minister—
Dear Mother-hands?

Dear Mother-heart
That felt the good where others found the ill,
That loathed the sin, yet loved the sinner still,

And charmed his soul to choose the better part:
Farewell a moment's fleeting space until
God reunites us when it be His will—
Dear Mother-heart.

—John Henderson in Chambers' Journal.

TRADE WITH THE TROPICS.

BY GENERAL JAMES H. WILSON, U. S. A.
[From his address before the American Free Trade League, Nov. 9, 1901.]

I believe that the greatest benefit conferred on the American people by the Federal Constitution after creating the machinery of government for a more perfect union and providing for the common defense, arises from the inhibitions of the constitution, which forbid the sovereign states and the congress alike from levying or collecting any tax or export duty on goods, wares, and merchandise sent out of the states, or out of the country at large. I believe that the free trade between the states, which results from these inhibitions, has done more than any or all other influences combined to make not only the states themselves rich and powerful, but the United States, as a whole, the richest and most powerful nation on the earth. To this absolute freedom of trade between the states is primarily due the wonderful development of our steamboat and railroad system, which in turn enables the producer and merchant to lay down our natural and manufactured products at tide water at a lower cost than those of any other country. If I am correct in this generalization, it is this absolute freedom of interstate trade which, with equal ocean freight rates, is now giving us the markets of the world.

Inasmuch as under the Monroe Doctrine, which one of our most distinguished statesmen has declared to be as much if not more commercial than it is political, we have assumed the burden of protecting the neighboring states from foreign aggression, the question naturally arises, why should we not try to get some commercial advantage from them which, while it may make them richer and stronger, would, in a meas-

ure, compensate us for our trouble and expense? They are clearly under the American hegemony, and, if the Monroe Doctrine is to be maintained, they are clearly within the American system of public law.

Under this aspect of our relations with them, why should the United States not say frankly to all the states of North America, at least, we will agree to absolute and reciprocal free trade in natural and manufactured products, between our country and all its dependencies, wherever situated, on the one hand, and all the immediately neighboring countries on the other, under a uniform tariff to be agreed upon by the parties to the arrangement, and to be carried into effect as against all other countries? It would doubtless be rejected at first by one or more of the countries interested, and would certainly meet with the opposition of the protected interests everywhere. Much discussion would necessarily follow before the public mind could be brought to understand and accept it, but I do not doubt that the time will come when this measure, or some modification of it, will be adopted by every North American state and dependency. I do not venture to suggest its extension to the South American republics for the present. Obviously, its immediate effect would be to unite the countries acceding to it into a commercial union or zollverein, with an aggregate population of something like 100,000,000 of people, about 35,000,000 of whom, now living outside of the United States, would henceforth sell their raw materials and natural productions to us and buy most of their manufactured goods and provisions from us. If this arrangement were at the same time connected with a stipulation on our part that the United States would respect the political independence and the territorial integrity of the states entering into commercial union with us, would it not also end their apprehension of conquest and benevolent assimilation, and to mankind at large amount to a solemn dedication of the entire continent forever to the cause of peace? Would it not greatly enrich us as well as our commercial allies, and at the same time become a better common defense against the European coalition with which we are now so frequently threatened, than any number of battleships we could build or any army we could raise and put in the field?

Speaking from my own observation and somewhat extended study of the question, I have not the slightest doubt that the white man can and does maintain his social efficiency unimpaired, at least in all insular tropical countries, and especially in the Greater and Lesser Antilles. He is just as prolific, vigorous and industrious, class for class, in these islands as he is in the country from

which he comes, and there is absolutely no reason why he shouldn't be. In the first place the climate and temperature of Cuba and Porto Rico are at all times better and more equable than in any of our States in the Mississippi Valley south of the Ohio and Missouri rivers. It is warmer and more balmy in winter and cooler and more agreeable in summer in those islands than it is in Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, or South Carolina, and no one can properly claim, since the War of the Rebellion and the economic reconstruction that followed the abolition of slavery, that the white man has physically degenerated in any of our Southern States.

Cuba is the best country in the world for the production of sugar as well as of high class tobacco. Its lands lie better and are more fertile, while there are more of them adapted to that industry than can be found in any other island or country, yet to be brought under cultivation. The area of Cuba is about forty-three thousand square miles, or twenty-seven million five hundred thousand acres, the most of which is suitable for either sugar, tobacco, coffee, fruits or cattle raising. It is one of the most beautiful and fertile countries of the world; and I do not hesitate to give it as my opinion that, with its varied resources developed, it is worth more to us than any equal area in the United States except New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, and more than any other country in the world except Canada. It is, indeed, one of the most beautiful, healthful and inviting islands under the sun; and, while it lies just within the tropics, it can hardly be called tropical. Thrust out into the ocean for seven hundred miles, its climate is everywhere mitigated by the trade winds and the balmy air of the surrounding seas. It is commonly believed that it can supply the whole world with sugar, but this is undoubtedly an extravagant exaggeration. While the land is generally fertile, it would be far from the truth to assert that it is all good for sugar. From the best evidence I can gather, its capacity in that direction with the product fetching two cents net is probably not to exceed three million tons, and even with the free entry of sugar into the United States, it would be many years before the limit could be reached. Its tobacco, however, is the best in the world for cigars and cigarettes, and while there are several extensive and widely separated regions adapted to its cultivation, there is but one Vuelta Abajo. Coffee flourishes in nearly every part of the island, especially in the hilly and mountainous sections, and should it sell at or above twenty cents a pound it would become a profitable crop. The pasture and grass lands are the best I have ever seen and will easily