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W. H. THURSTON,
 Editor and Proprietor.

ENGLISH BOY IMMIGRANTS.

"English Boy" hauls the Advance over the coals for printing an editorial note which appeared in this column last week, referring to one Possi, who had committed a murder in Michigan, and asserting that "these criminal importations are bobbing up rather frequently now." The item referred to also used the phrase, "riff-raff boy importations." To these two expressions he takes warm exception, and in his zeal to defend a poor cause draws inferences which are very far from the truth. When we said "these criminal importations are bobbing up rather frequently," we did not include the whole body of boys who have immigrated to this country, but only the criminals among them. With regard to the expression "riff-raff" we are curious to learn what "English Boy" himself would call them? If they are not the sweepings, the refuse of British population, we are at a loss to place them. Of course after arriving in this country they "have as good a right to earn a living as any white man," and nobody in our acquaintance ever said they had not. Many have a better right than some of the so-called "white" Canadians; many of them are "honestly striving to become worthy citizens of our Dominion," but as a whole the fact remains that they do not become worthy citizens in every respect. They are many of them drawn from the criminal classes of Great Britain and inherit the criminal instinct. Others are poor unfortunates who have never known and never will know their parents; and still others there are, the orphans of drunkards and gamblers (and some of the respectable class of boys belong to these latter) who have no doubt transmitted to their offspring the very germs of these pestilences. Are all these a desirable class of immigrants, Mr. English Boy? Are they a class (the majority, remember) which we would desire to assimilate with our native element and become a part of us? To put it still more pointedly, would you unhesitatingly give one of your daughters (if you have been so blessed) as partner to a nameless English boy who may even be eminently respectable in himself? And if you would not, why insist that such are suitable immigrants for this country? We imagine that it is more patriotic fire than parental wisdom which has conceived and borne "English Boys" protest.

We did not refer to "numerous outrages," but said they were becoming frequent. The criminal act of Possi was the immediate cause of this assertion. He was a menace to justice in the county of Cornwall and left for Michigan under a cloud, according to the daily papers. With regard to Possi's name, we might say that we have heard of an Englishman named Disraeli; another Paul B. Du Chalieu; and an Irishman called Dion Boucault. Do these names prove that the bearers were not English or Irishmen?

The Owen Sound Times of a late date gave another instance where an English immigrant boy had committed a criminal act, and not many weeks ago The Advance had occasion to show up the doings of one of them in anything but a savory light. We

think an impartial critic will uphold us when we say these cases are "bobbing up rather frequently now," notwithstanding English Boy's attempt to "call us down."
 This paper believes it may be a benevolent act to send these children out—benevolent to the children themselves and also to those who may wish them out of the way—but it is far from charity to the people of Canada. In the language of the old fable, "it may be fun for the boys, but it is death to the frogs."

The O. S. Times does not give a very accurate report of the East Grey Conservative convention held at Markdale on Friday last. It says: "Dr. Sproule, M. P., delivered a stirring address on the political situation, which was listened to for two hours with intense interest and greeted with hearty cheers at each telling point." The fact is, Dr. Sproule did not speak over twenty minutes. Perhaps, though, the Times meant to say that the Dr. made a two-hour speech inside of twenty minutes. If that is the case we admit its truth.

Boy Immigrants.

To the Editor of The Advance.

In last week's edition you make some comments on a crime committed in Michigan on New Year's day by a boy said to have been brought out by the Marchmont home from England. By the way, the boy's name, Possi, is Italian not English. You speak of the boys brought out by the various homes as English riff raff and as criminals, thus defaming hundreds of youths who are honestly striving to become worthy citizens of our Dominion and whose only crime has been that of orphanage or poverty in childhood. The circumstances under which they have come here gives them as good right to earn a livelihood here as any other white man. What are the numerous outrages you refer to, out of the thousands of English boys thus brought out? Where is there one in your goals, reformatories or penitentiaries? Is it not a remarkable fact that considering the peculiarly trying circumstances in which scores of them have been placed sometimes, the subjects of cruel neglect such as would have shamed a respectable slaveholder, that so few should have been up in our courts charged with any crime? Is it not a fact that in intelligence, manners and morals, they compare favorably with any of our population born in humble circumstances?

The advisability of continuing the emigration of those children to the colonies is still an open question, but our legislators believe that they are a better class of emigrants than the thousands of penniless, shiftless old or middle aged people who having spent the best of life's energies and too often wasted them, were helped out to Canada and the States in former years. If our country requires emigrants the younger they come the better for our future nationality. I feel sure you would not willingly do an injustice to any class or individual, and perhaps the short article referred to conveys impressions not intended and inconsistent with your character and benevolent disposition.
 ENGLISH BOY.

A Reply to E. K.

To the Editor of The Advance.

DEAR SIR,—Your Inistioje correspondent seems to be troubled with *cacoethes scribendi* as well as the hallucinations emanating from a disordered imagination, or why should he institute a tirade against the writer of a local item referring to the opening of the new school house there on the 19th ult.

The article in question does not contain a single word intended to reflect discreditably upon the tea, the people, or the character of the entertainment, yet this repository of wisdom, this modern Solomon, this intellectual monstrosity of the nineteenth century, sees nothing but disrespectful reference to the whole affair.

The sentence referring to the presentation, that troubles the poor creature so much and which shows a lack of "grammatical education," is grammatically correct. To make it more plain, however, two commas might be inserted to aid readers of such mental calibre as your correspondent. Nevertheless, it would take a great many commas to compensate for a lack of common sense.

With reference to the "dialogue entitled Fortune Hunter" that was so "impetuously enjoyed," no objection was made and even the "ignominious plebeian" believes it to have been one of the best things of the evening, yet there can surely be no crime in calling the production by a

different name. Your correspondent should be advised to look up the meaning of the word "farce" before showing his compound ignorance to an intelligent public. "The volunteered foreign vocal aid that had to be endured" has appeared before audiences in places equally as large as Inistioje, and have invariably been well received and appreciated, but believing the sentiment expressed, to be that of your pretentious, critical correspondent only, and knowing the exceeding difficulty of singing in a cloud of smoke after the exhibition of a tableau, no attention should be paid to such nonsense. Now, Mr. Editor, in conclusion, I may say that the only courtesy shown by your correspondent is in his expression of thanks to you for "the space in your columns." I presume, however, that even this was more formal than real, as it is the orthodox manner of closing. Feeling that the public see no wrong in the report given in your issue of the 25th ult., I remain yours, etc.
 IGNOMINIOUS PLEBEIAN.

"FOND OF DANCING?" You would reply "Yes" to this question, of course, if you had already mastered that delightful art. No reason why you should not. Every detail of dancing the "Modern Society Dances" is so clearly described in the article on that subject by Mr. Dodworth, New York's greatest dancing teacher, and all the steps and motions of the newest dances so fully illustrated in Demorest's Family Magazine for February, that a child can learn to dance without a master. A course at dancing-school is expensive, but you can become a proficient dancer, with no outlay, by practicing as directed in these illustrated instructions. It was while dancing that Juliet won the love of her Romeo, although they later parted in sorrow, as shown in the exquisite full-page engraving of "Romeo and Juliet."

"A Dream of Love," the second full-page picture, is a dainty Valentine offering; and charming counterparts of many beautiful and noble women illustrate the leading article, "Ladies of High Degree," including portraits of the Princess of Wales and her daughters, and the American beauties who have married into the English aristocracy. "Molding as Related to Art Industry" is artistically and profusely illustrated. The "Portrait Gallery" shows the handsome features of the now world-famous consumption-cure discoverer, Dr. Robert Koch; and "A Violet Luncheon" tells how to prepare and serve such an entertainment so as to have it in "good form." All the departments, as usual, are crowded with subjects of timely interest; and in fact the subscribers of Demorest's Family Magazine are always sure of getting several times their money's worth, for it combines a number of Magazines in one, and every family needs it. Published by W. Jennings Demorest, 15 East 14th street, New York.



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