

or less depression of trade." Seize an Englishman by his pocket, and you can convince his mind.

The flow of the rural population to the cities is pointed out as one of the causes of the great distress in the centres of population, because of the vastly greater competition for employment. Together with this movement he instances the fact that "from 1873 to 1884 the quantity of arable land in the country has decreased by considerably more than a million acres." These seem to be local causes, and have little effect on other nations; for they are probably the evidences of a re-adjustment of industries to new conditions, such, for example, as the great produce of American wheat districts. The ownership of land by great millionnaires, he argues, also works injury. In 1863-72 the fortunes above a quarter of a million were 162, but in 1873-82 they had increased to 208,—an increase of more than 30 per cent. But we do not regard these causes of general importance.

The book, in fact, only in its description of the evil effects consequent on speculation, and the mania for foreign loans, gets close at the real cause. But when he gets to his remedies, he does not hit very near the mark. As foreign loans, he thinks, are made chiefly for the glory of monarchs, and to aid in wars for the personal aggrandizement of ruling families, he would have England stand ready to aid the tax-payers in these borrowing countries whenever they revolt against the heavy taxation caused by the loans which they have had no share in spending. Speculative transactions he would discourage by high stampduties; and large fortunes should be prevented by a graduated income-tax. If our author were to extract the ever-springing sanguineness of human nature from the business-man, he would best prevent over-trading and the recurrence of periodic panics, but in scarcely any other way.

#### NIMROD IN THE NORTH.

In this book Lieutenant Schwatka has given a most entertaining story of hunting and fishing in the north polar regions. Seven chapters of the book have been devoted to stories of adventure with animals whose homes are within the arctic circle. Many of the stories told in the volume are similar to some found in the writings of Gerard de Veer, of the Barentz expedition; in the writings of Parry, Beechey, Hearne, Rink, Richardson, Rae, Kane, McClintock, and Hall; so that they are not entirely new; but Lieutenant Schwatka has added to them many interesting observations of

his own, upon the haunts and habits of the land and water game of the regions he explored, which modify ideas derived from other writers.

The volume is illustrated with numerous faithful and lifelike pictures of the animals, birds, and scenery of the regions beyond the parallel of 66° 30' north. This feature of the book will make it most attractive to the reader, but more especially to the younger generation, who will find much pleasure in having before them such excellent representations of the bear, reindeer, musk ox, walrus, etc., with which Lieutenant Schwatka's party had so many exciting and perilous adventures during their stay in the country between Depot Island and King William's Land.

The story of the sledge-journey to King William's Land, as told in this book by Lieutenant Schwatka, is unparalleled in arctic exploration. The vicissitudes of storm and intense cold encountered and overcome are most interesting and instructive. To one of less determination or of less hardihood, the journey must have failed; but the indomitable will and inexhaustible self-reliance set forth in the story made success certain where failure would have likely occurred to any one less gifted.

It is almost inconceivable that travel could have been practicable in a temperature of 83° below the freezing-point, or that no discomfort was felt at such times. But the credence of arctic explorers will be tested almost to its elastic limit, to believe that Lieutenant Schwatka's party, when in chase of musk ox, travelled at 'a good round dog-trot from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon,' making about forty miles in a temperature of 97° below the freezing-point, without suffering from the cold, but, on the contrary, that he felt at times uncomfortably warm!

The last two chapters describe the beginning and ending of a rather remarkable raft-journey of thirteen hundred miles down the Yukon River, in Alaska. This trip led to the discovery of several rapids, the passage of which was full of innocent adventure; otherwise there is but little in it to excite interest.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

**Explorations in central Asia.**—A letter has been received from Prjevalski, from which it appears that the Altine chain extends about 360 kilometres westward from Lobnor, then gradually declines, and terminates at the Cherchën River. Westward from this point the principal range of the Kuenlun looms over the plains of eastern Turkestan. This intrepid explorer, after having explored all of the Kuenlun between the Yellow

*Nimrod in the north.* By Lieut. FREDERICK SCHWATKA. New York, Cassell, 1885. 8°.