

THE WEEK.

Vol. XIII.

Toronto, Friday, January 3rd, 1896.

No. 6.

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Current Topics.

The New Year.

Eheu! fugaces labuntur anni. 1895 is ended, 1896 is begun. The century is on the home stretch. What a difference be-

tween the condition of the world now and as it was a hundred years ago. Will there be a similar difference between what we are and what will be a hundred years hence? Doubtless the men of 1796 thought they were a long way ahead of the old fogies of 1696. What will the inhabitants of the earth in 1996 think of us who live in 1896? It is rather a curious speculation. With each century a new predominating influence seems forth-coming. The printing press signalized the fifteenth century. Discovery of new continents the sixteenth, religious wars the seventeenth. General exhaustion and torpidity marked the eighteenth century. Steam is the great event of the nineteenth and probably electricity will be the motive power of the twentieth. Besides that, we have to look forward to the "new woman." Can she be more lovable or more charming than the one we know and love so well? We doubt it. One thing we may be sure of, human nature will not change. What Shakespeare wrote will remain true to the end of time. One touch of nature will always make the whole world kin. Old recollections, old hopes, old fancies will always come back with each New Year. With each recurring anniversary the wish with which we greet our readers a very Happy New Year will be echoed and re-echoed, no matter how changed our material surroundings may be.

External Politics.

On the 1st inst. the London Times, in an editorial on the present political outlook, says: "The new year opens with mingled

omens. At home the auguries are in every way favourable. The outlook of external politics is most serious, even alarming. The revival of the war spirit in the United States, or what stimulates it, and the prolonging of the uncertain position in the East are almost equally disquieting. The long impending crisis in South Africa has become acute. We are bound, therefore, to be prepared for contingencies, which may call for a vigorous exertion of power, that last resort

that must be relied upon to hold the British Empire together. Happily it is certain that the nation is fully capable of meeting the probable demands on its resources." We trust that the Empire's strength will not be put to the test, but it is abundantly obvious that every preparation must be made to prepare for a test. Canada has its part to do, and should do it promptly.

The African War, Cloud.

It appears that Dr. Jameson's invasion of the Transvaal last Sunday at the head of seven hundred men was in response to a

long appeal from the Uitlanders on which were the names of many leading citizens of Johannesburg. But as Mr. Chamberlain at once sent a cable message to the venturesome Administrator ordering him to return without delay to the territory of the British South African Company we may rest assured that no adequate justification exists for Dr. Jameson's apparent breach of the law of nations. The dispute between the Boers and the Uitlanders is a serious one, and is made all the more serious by the fact that it may embroil Great Britain and Germany. Portugal is also interested. The rich gold mines of the South African Republic have for years been an attraction to foreigners, and the foreign population now demand equal rights with the Boers. The Boers are not disposed to submit to these demands—though the demands are well justified—and contemplate expelling the foreigners. Mr. Chamberlain is believed to have addressed himself to President Kruger as clearly and as firmly as to Dr. Jameson. Both Governor Robinson and Cecil Rhodes, Prime Minister of Cape Colony, have repudiated the acts of Dr. Jameson. The Governor has issued a proclamation which has been published in the newspapers of Praetoria and Johannesburg calling upon Her Majesty's subjects to obey the law and observe order. Under these circumstances it is rather foolish for Berlin to get excited over the matter and denounce Great Britain for something Great Britain never authorized or even expected. The South African Company holds the charter of the Queen, but the individual acts of its servants are not the acts of the Company let alone those of Great Britain. Neither the Company nor the the British Government knew anything of Dr. Jameson's intentions, and everything has been done that can be done to counteract and frustrate his schemes.

The Venezuelan Commission.

On Wednesday night the President of the United States announced the composition of the Venezuelan Commission.

Of the five men who compose it two are judges and one is a university president. The others, Messrs. Andrew White and Frederick Condert, of New York, are, no doubt, eminently fitted for their delicate task. It is reported that Mr. Bowman, the President of the Manoa Company which obtained from the Government of Venezuela a valuable tract of land which the Government did not own, has been asked to take the lead in showing the party of Commissioners over the disputed territory. This Mr. Bowman has played no small part in stirring up the American Republic to take the stand it has on the Venezuela boundary question. If he has anything to do with the Commission the Commissioners will be discredited before they have a chance to begin operations.