

The Week,

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptionable in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4 per line per annum; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per insertion for a shorter period.

Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage pre. aid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. stg.; half-year, 6s. stg. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.

All advertisements will be set up in such style as to insure THE WEEK's tasteful typographical appearance, and enhance the value of the advertising in its columns. No advertisement charged less than FIVE lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGH, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto. C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

Notice to Canadian Writers.

A prize of

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS

will be given for the best

POEM on the QUEEN'S JUBILEE,

To be competed for by Canadian writers, under the following conditions:

- (1) The poem not to exceed one hundred lines.
- (2) To be delivered at THE WEEK office not later than May 1st next.

A similar prize of

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS

Will be given for the best

ORATION on the QUEEN'S JUBILEE,

To be competed for similarly by Canadian writers, under the following conditions:

- (1) The oration not to exceed three thousand words.
- (2) To be delivered at THE WEEK office not later than May 1st next.

The right of publication of both poem and oration to be reserved to THE WEEK.

The competing poems and orations must bear on them a motto, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked with this motto and enclosing the name and address of the writer.

THE WEEK will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfilment of the conditions.

As the faction fight advances, its moral fruits, as might have been expected, do not improve. To protest against letter-stealing has become hopeless, though surely a community cannot inflict a deeper stain on its own honour than by proclaiming that it sanctions such a practice, nor does the standard of character rise. Messrs. Boulton and Rykert are accepted by the Conservatives if "The Boy" is not; while the hero of the Silver Islet affair, having turned his coat for the tenth time, finds a Liberal constituency morally accommodating to embrace any enemy of Sir John Macdonald.

In Ontario, and in the Old Provinces generally, the nominations are still being made by the Machines, though Independence is in the air, and men are heard saying that they find it difficult to choose between Sir John Macdonald's corruption and Mr. Blake's alliance with the Rielites. But in Winnipeg there is a "straight Independent candidate" in the person of Mr. Duncan Macarthur. The two great obstacles to the prosperous development of the North-West have been party Government from Ottawa and monopoly in the hands of the C. P. R. Party Government from Ottawa has made the North-West its back-yard and treated it much as Ireland was treated in the days before the Union, when a place on the Irish pension-list was the provision for hangers-on of the Ministry, who could not, with decency, be quartered on the pension-list of England. It has regarded the last addition to the Confederacy rather as an outlying estate of the Dominion than as a group of Provinces with rights and interests of their own. In this it has been aided by the disloyalty of the Manitoban representation. In a new settlement there are few men of the right sort who can afford to leave their farms or their business, and the constituencies are apt to be compelled to take up with mere casuals, and even with adventurers who are little better than political tramps. Manitoba, in fact, has hitherto been a low element in the politics of Ottawa. However, in Mr. Macarthur, the head of the Bank of Commerce at Winnipeg, a resident, who will at the same time be a powerful and trustworthy champion of North-Western right, seems to have been found. He will, no doubt, if he goes to Ottawa make the voice of his Province heard on the subject of the Tariff, with regard to which her interest has hitherto been entirely set at naught.

THAT the C. P. R. does not interfere with politics may, in a certain sense, be true; its chiefs, no doubt, are scrupulous. But its vast influence cannot fail to be felt and its fortunes are bound up with those of the Government. Its support is given, in the elections, to men who will serve the turn of both. With regard to its utility as a national enterprise we have always claimed the right of exercising our own judgment, while we pay unstinted homage to the ability and energy with which it has been constructed. But it is at all events, in its main object, political and military, not commercial. It is the offspring of a political treaty. That fact is only emphasized when such strenuous efforts are made to give the road a commercial character, one day by telling us that it is to carry torpedoes for the Russian war, and another day by telling us that it is to carry tea from China to England. It was still more distinctly emphasized by the Disallowance Clauses which a road, constructed on the best commercial line, could not have required. A commercial road would never, we conceive, have been carried round the North Shore of Lake Superior. It is not by that route that the harvests of the North-West will ultimately find their way to market. To the North-West in general, and Manitoba in particular, the road has economically been a questionable boon. What is desirable in a new country is close settlement, with the advantages of neighbourhood, and of proximity to markets and to centres of distribution. Instead of this, the Government road has strung out the population along a line of eight hundred miles, leaving an empty space round Winnipeg itself. A line to British Columbia, where, as yet, there is no commerce of any consequence was, economically, not needed; what was needed, was a system of commercial railways advancing from the East and opening up the country just in advance of immigration. The North-West will gain nothing by having cars of tea whisked through it on their way to Europe. We pay once more the full meed of praise to the constructors of the road, who, as contractors are in no way responsible for the policy of a public work. But we refuse to let our judgment be overawed by such phrases as "great national enterprise," which have already lost some of their effect by their application to the Intercolonial. Whether the C. P. R. is a glorious achievement or an enormous waste of public money, experience, not declamation, must determine. What is certain is, that Disallowance would strangle the North-West, and that the North-West must get its neck out of that noose, though, of course, without breach of national faith to the C. P. R., to which, as all admit, the Disallowance clauses were a concession necessitated by the uncommercial direction given for political purposes to the Government line. The election of Mr. Macarthur for Winnipeg would be the death warrant of Disallowance and the proclamation of Provincial Rights for the North-West.

THE final triumph of the Liberals in Quebec cannot fail to be a serious blow to Sir John Macdonald. Not only does it throw all the patronage and influence into the hands of his opponents, but it presents him as beaten where he had hitherto commanded success, and where to be believed to command success is everything. A defeated party in the French Province is not like the Old Guard on the evening of Waterloo. It seems also as if the ship of Dominion Conservatism is likely to suffer more than was supposed from the wash of the storm in which the barque of Ontario Conservatism was wrecked. The Roman Catholic hierarchy has nimbly transferred its support from the winning side in the Province to what it deems to be the winning side in the Dominion; but the notice, it appears, is too short for some of the laity, who are likely to vote now as they voted six weeks ago. A sense of increased peril has certainly been creeping over the Conservatives within the last few days, and the admission that the contest will be close is now heard from Conservative lips. Sir John appeals to his phalanx of protected manufacturers, and in them probably he may confide. True, the Liberals have accepted the N. P.; but it is with a wry face, and on the somewhat hollow pretext that the increased expenditure has rendered the tariff necessary for revenue purposes, whereas Protection is a sacrifice of revenue. The manufacturers, and all whom they may influence, will prefer to adhere to the author of their tariff, unless it should appear to them that victory has left his standard, in which case they may think it wisest to conciliate the coming powers. Protectionism has its political as well as its economical consequences. It calls into existence a powerful and compact body of capitalists, dependent on state support, and ready to maintain in power any Government which will continue that support without reference to other questions or to the general welfare of the nation. There can be no shadow of doubt that political purity, at all events, is on the side of a revenue tariff.

THERE is a paragraph in Mr. George's paper which confirms us in the belief that his wild and rancorous speculations about the origin of private