

# THE WEEK.

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## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

	PAGE.
TOPICS OF THE WEEK .....	129
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES .....	130
Current Events and Opinions .....	<i>A Bystander.</i>
Miscellaneous .....	
England's Oldest Colony.—II .....	<i>T. B. Browning.</i>
Two of a Trade .....	<i>John MacLean.</i>
Matthew Arnold on Emerson .....	<i>Pendleton King.</i>
Alpheus Todd .....	
LITERATURE .....	137
A Day and a Friend .....	<i>O. C. Auringer.</i>
The Adventures of a Widow .....	<i>Edgar Fawcett.</i>
Poppy Dreams .....	<i>Frederick A. Dixon.</i>
EVENINGS AT HOME .....	139
THE PERIODICALS .....	140
BOOK NOTICES .....	141
Locker's Poems.—Bret Harte's "In the Carquinez Woods."	
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA .....	141
LITERARY GOSSIP .....	142

## The Week,

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## TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

NEITHER in the Dominion nor the Provincial Parliaments has the legislative machine yet been got thoroughly to work. A few tentative turns have been given to the wheel previous to full pressure of steam—or wind—being turned on. But the serious manufacture or repair of statutes has not yet commenced. There is every probability of a considerable amount of friction being developed in the Commons on the proposed additional railway grant, but Sir John Macdonald can afford to view the approaching difficulties with a childlike and bland smile, well knowing that he commands an obedient following, and that Mr. Blake's record on the question will not permit of his attacking the most vulnerable point—the original construction of the line. The appointment of Sir Charles Tupper as High Commissioner in England will doubtless form the ground for a very pretty quarrel, in which the Opposition may surely score a point. But for the moment all is flat, stale, and unprofitable.

In the Ontario House the opening formalities and sessional hand-shaking were followed by a desultory debate upon a commonplace address. No better proof of the generally satisfactory state of the initial proceedings could be found than in the fact that Mr. Meredith saw nothing to complain of but the customary ceremonies and the mode of election returns. Mr. McIntyre's speech in moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne, though halting in delivery, covered the more salient points, and his reference to "the surrender by the Dominion Government through its servants in Manitoba," on the boundary question evidently went home. The Government are sanguine that South Oxford and Muskoka will send representatives to the Speaker's right hand, in which case their majority would be increased to sixteen.

MR. TILLEY's admission in the Senate on Wednesday, in reply to Mr. Cartwright, that the Government loaned the Exchange Bank \$300,000 when they knew that concern to be insolvent, will probably cause some

loss of prestige to the party in office. The *tu quoque*, that the Mackenzie Government similarly accommodated the Ontario Bank, will not satisfy those who have to pay the piper.

SOME American journals having spoken in glowing terms of the Montreal Winter Carnival, and further testified to the more philosophical way in which Canadians prepare for and extract all possible pleasure from the cold season, an Ottawa contemporary goes into ecstasies on the whole subject, and sings pæans to snow-shoeing, skating, tobogganing, sleighing, and curling. It would, indeed, be strange if such sport did not form the recreations of a people whose forbears, for generations, were keen hunters, sailors, cricketers, foot-ball players, and all-round athletes. The *raison d'être* of Canada, as of all other British colonies, and English-speaking settlements, is the hardy physique and indomitable pluck fostered by the out-door sports which made the Englishman of the past, as of the present, the best colonist in the world.

"A GENTLEMAN lately returned from England" may be right in stating that "systematic fraud is practised under the policy of assisted passages to Canada." But he was misinformed when told "men who are sent from Canada to England in charge of cattle regularly return on assisted passage tickets as emigrants." There is no necessity for such fraud. The great steamship companies who carry cattle provide free return tickets for the drovers whom dealers on this side send out to look after beasts destined for the English shambles.

THE commercial barometer shows a slight improvement during the last few days, but is still stormy as compared with this period the last two years. There were thirty-eight failures in Canada reported to Bradstreet's the past week, being four less than the preceding week, twelve more than the corresponding week of 1883, and thirty more than in the corresponding week of 1882. In the United States there were 289 failures last week, as against 383 during the week preceding.

"WHAT are we to do with our sons" who are educated emigrants? asks the Vicar of Clerkenwell, England. Whilst acknowledging that farming offers the best field for such, Mr. Herring reminds his readers that "to send out on the wide world a young man unaccustomed to dig or delve is a suicidal policy." He draws attention to the facilities offered for learning farming at the Agricultural College, Guelph, and also to the fact that many Manitoban farmers are prepared to give the necessary instruction for \$16 a month with \$100 premium. Two years is considered a sufficient period to learn all necessary to fit a young man to take up an allotment of land, though Mr. Herring thinks it is a great mistake for a man to take up land by himself. "Let two to five go partners, to cheer and stimulate each other, and relieve their solitariness—which an old 'Varsity oar said was the only drawback." Lady Hardy, in her "Down South," recommends Florida and the south generally for this class of emigration. As each young man has special capabilities, so parents ought to study the advantages and drawbacks of each colony. A Bishop, and other church dignitaries, speak in glowing terms to Mr. Herring of "ranches," "farms," and "mercantile" positions now occupied by sons who were, they considered, not suited to cope with the ever increasing requirements made upon our educated young men.

The Shaftesbury Institute for Destitute Boys and Girls, of London, England, has hit upon a capital scheme for preparing such of their boys as desire to learn farming for that pursuit. So many as it is thought may be able to obtain employment in Britain are taught in an Institution Home Farm; but the committee, recognizing that the systems of farming in England and Canada are almost totally dis-similar, and having regard to the increasing desire of boys to emigrate, during the past three years sent out some hundred youths to various farms in Ontario to learn Canadian farming, and so satisfied are they with the experiment that it has been decided to acquire a training farm in this Province, to which a proportion of the boys they save may be regularly drafted. A meeting in aid of this object was held the other week in Hamilton, when Mr. Ward, late Superintendent of Great Queen Street Home, gave a sketch of the Institution's scheme, and at which a large number of their proteges were present.