

THE WEEK.

Fifth Year.
Vol. V. No. 24.

Toronto, Thursday, May 10th, 1888.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

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 paid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. 6d. 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. CLOUGHER, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS—	PAGE.
The Dominion Franchise Act.....	375
The Behring Sea Question.....	375
American Senate and Canadian Commons.....	375
President Cleveland and Civil Service Reform.....	375
The Issue in the Presidential Contest.....	376
The United States Vessel-Registration Policy.....	376
Objections to the English Local Government Bill.....	376
Our Representative Systems Philosophically Defective.....	376
The Uncertainties of the European Situation.....	376
A Unique War Vessel.....	376
The Dangerous Wires of the Electric Lights.....	376
Inter-Collegiate Athletic Contests.....	377
Sir William Grove's Law of Antagonism.....	377
Manumission of Slaves in Brazil.....	377
Mr. Gladstone and Col. Ingersoll.....	377
The Duke of Argyll and Mr. Herbert Spencer.....	377
IRELAND AND THE VATICAN.....	Sara J. Duncan. 378
OTTAWA LETTER.....	Louis Lloyd. 379
MONTREAL LETTER.....	M. A. B. 380
PARIS LETTER.....	Eva Rose Yorke. 381
LINES (Poem).....	D. Fowler. 381
PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER OF DARWIN.....	D. B. Read, Q.C. 382
PROMINENT CANADIANS—HON. SIR WILLIAM BUELL RICHARDS.....	Seranus. 383
VILLANELLE.....	383
ART AND MUSIC.....	383
OUR LIBRARY TABLE.....	384
CRIBS.....	385

THE Dominion Franchise Act is either a sad reflection upon the political genius of Canadians, or a stinging reproach to the party spirit which dominates them. That a young country, not abounding in wealth, having scarcely five millions of inhabitants, and carrying a very heavy public debt, should have found it necessary to adopt an electoral system under which it costs about half a million of dollars to prepare the lists of voters, is simply preposterous. There must be some better way. If Sir John A. Macdonald and his colleagues could not trust to the lists prepared by the local officials, why could not they and the Local Governments have agreed upon some common system or agency upon the fairness and neutrality of which both could rely? It seems absurd to suppose that such could not have been found or devised, or failing that, and considering by how narrow a margin the present Dominion franchise is separated from simple manhood suffrage; considering, too, how certain it is that the method now adopted of having the lists printed and revised at Ottawa will lead to endless errors and disputes, what justification can there be for preserving a set of machinery so costly and complicated? The people must be patient tax-payers indeed to be content with paying so much for so unmusical a whistle.

It is now said that the Maritime nations are conferring with a view to the adoption of some uniform policy for preserving the fur seal from extermination, and that this in part accounts for the delay in the settlement of the Behring Sea Question. It is not easy to see any necessary connection between the two things. It is possible that the perpetuation of the seal fishery is a matter of sufficient importance to be made the subject of international agreement, and that the danger of the extermination of these helpless fur-bearers by the rapacious hunters is so great as to demand immediate action. But this fact surely would not warrant any one nation in usurping for an hour an unwarranted jurisdiction over a portion of the high seas, and taking it upon herself to capture and confiscate the vessels of other nations. Conduct so arbitrary cannot fail to retard rather than help a mutual understanding, and in the end the question of jurisdiction will have to be settled, before a basis can be had for agreement and

concerted action, if such be found necessary. The real cause of the delay is probably the Fabian tactics of the United States diplomatists,—tactics dictated, no doubt, by the exigencies of the political situation, as affected by the nearness of the Presidential election and the terms of the bargain with the Alaskan Fur Company.

WHEN two prominent United States Senators explore the darkest depths of their respective vocabularies for offensive epithets to hurl at each other's heads across the Senate Chamber at Washington Canadians are inclined to feel thankful that such scenes are not enacted in their own more dignified Parliament. But when two of the most prominent of Canadian statesmen, the venerable Premier and an ex-Minister of Finance, give the lie to each other in shockingly plain Anglo-Saxon on the floor of our own House of Commons, a sense of shame and danger compels us to quickly drop the stone we had taken up to throw at our neighbours. Such scenes are surely not the legitimate outcome of democratic institutions, but they reflect not a little discredit upon such institutions.

IF the facts be as stated by Mr. Foulke, of Indiana, in a letter to the *New York Nation*, President Cleveland has fallen off sadly from his early record in the matter of Civil Service reform. Mr. Foulke states that he sent 193 letters to suspended postmasters and 102 to Presidential postmasters elsewhere, asking in each case what was the cause of suspension, whether any charge had been made, and whether any opportunity for investigation had been given. He received 158 answers, containing in 136 cases categorical replies to the questions. In only two instances, according to these replies, had there been any investigation of charges. In every other of the cases there had been neither notice of charges nor opportunity for explanation or defence. The President's defence to Mr. Foulke seems, as given by the latter, surprisingly weak. The President considered it impracticable to inform the postmasters of the charges against them, as the effect would be to make removals a series of judicial investigations. He is further represented as saying that the department had done the best it could, that he had great difficulty in bringing many of his party friends up to his ideas of Civil Service reform, and that Indiana was a particularly bad State. If all this be so, Mr. Foulke may well declare that this method of receiving charges against a man, and removing him without letting him know what the charges are, is worse than the open application of the spoils system itself. To declare that an official shall be removed only for cause, and then deny him an opportunity to know the charges or defend himself, is worse than a farce. It is gross injustice, inasmuch as, instead of simply dismissing the man for his political opinions, it sends him adrift under a shadow of suspicion, from which he cannot free himself, because he does not know its nature or source. If the President has really no better defence, it will hardly be safe for him to count on the allegiance of his old friends the Independents.

BUT we do not accept the statements in Mr. Foulke's letter as trustworthy; and we have a strong suspicion that they are exaggerated and distorted to damage the President's chances of re-election. Mr. Cleveland has made an exceptionally good President. He was the heir to a bad system, and he has, doubtless, been often obliged to yield against his better judgment to the clamour of his party friends. That he will be nominated for a second term is certain; that he will be re-elected all the signs of the times seem to indicate. Even Independents will prefer to put their trust in his past record, and his well-known honesty of purpose, than in the choice of a party that so long existed on the spoils system, and is still wedded to it. If the condition of his health is not an insuperable obstacle to his candidature Mr. Blaine is certain to be the unanimous nominee of the Republicans. The others who are mentioned are in the field only for a purpose, and without any hope of securing the nomination of their party. Even Mr. Chauncey Depew, notwithstanding his disclaimer, has possibly some high office, if not the Presidency, in view. The Presidential contest will undoubtedly be fought almost exclusively on the question of Tariff Reform, and the result of it cannot fail to be of the greatest moment not only to the citizens of the United States but to Canada also.