

## The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE.

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AFTER the experience of last year, it may be expected the Government are watchful of any unusual movement among the Indians; and will be alert to prevent a rising if threatened. That a rising is likely to take place is scarcely credible; yet, according to the *Guelph Mercury*, letters have lately been received in that city from three different points in the North-West—Fort McLeod, Calgary, and Prince Arthur—each speaking of the agitation and turbulent bearing of the Indians. Without concert between the writers, these letters all tell the same tale, and exhibit apprehension of an outbreak in the spring. A clergyman, too, writing to the *Manitoba*, says that within a hundred miles of Fort McLeod there are 70,000 American and Canadian Indians, 27,000 of whom are warriors. They are daily becoming more insolent; and in his opinion also an outbreak is imminent. The presence of so many American Indians on Canadian soil is a danger. The American Government has lately been turning them back into Canada; but however hospitable Canada may be, she has hardly hunting ground for her own Indians, much less for her neighbour's. These Indians must live; and it behooves our Government to see to it at once that every precaution for the safety of the settlers in that part of the country be taken. Although Canada has not behaved too well toward Poundmaker and some other Indians concerned in the late rebellion, we do not believe there is much to fear from the Canadian Indians: the danger lies in the presence among them of so many American. Nor do we think it likely there will be any great rising: there may, perhaps, be isolated outrages by bands—which will be bad enough—but nothing worse.

THE text of the judgment on the Dominion License Act, received last week, leaves little doubt that the power to prohibit the sale of liquor does not belong to the Dominion Parliament. The whole Act, save only the part relating to adulteration, is declared by the judgment to be *ultra vires* of that authority; and the former judgment, in the case of the Queen against Russell, which declared the Scott Act to be within it, is virtually set aside by the present, which gives to the Provinces the sole power to concede the privilege of local option, or, in other words, of adopting local prohibition. It is true the former decision is not *formally* set aside, but yet it is so emasculated by the latter that it must cease to be efficiently operative; and that this is taken to be the effect appears to be the opinion of the *Globe*, which in late issues, while stating that until otherwise decided the Dominion has power to prohibit, adds that "from the unwillingness of the Dominion Government to enforce the Scott Act, that measure has proved disappointing, and from the absolute and proved impossibility of getting any really serviceable amendment through the Senate, the Scott Act is likely for years to come to prove more or less inefficient; and it then, in answer to a supposed question as to what had best be done in the interests of temperance, advises to "make the most that can be made of the Crooks Act, for those places where the Scott Act has not been carried. Make the Crooks Act—already the best licensing act in the world—a perfect measure." Without entering, however, at present into the merits of the Crooks Act, we should like to know what is to be done with the Scott Act in places where it has been adopted. It evidently cannot be enforced—not so much from the causes alleged, or from any fault in the machinery of the Act, but because public sentiment is against it. The arguments against attempting to do more by legislation than to *regulate* the sale of an article in almost universal use are so weighty and have been so often advanced that to restate them is to re-thresh straw. More and more is it growing evident that the Scott Act has been allowed to pass in so many places, not from any merit it may possess, but solely through the persistency of its advocates and the apathy of the mass of voters. In county after county it had an unbroken career of victory, while unopposed by any other organization; but the moment a principle able to cope with it appeared in the field it began to recoil. The institution of the Liberal Temperance Union gave it its death blow. From the moment the Union took the field and drew public attention to its lack of right principle it reeled under diminishing majorities—ending in a series of defeats of which the latest is the postponed contest in Toronto. A year ago its friends felt sure of carrying it here, but to-day they are unwilling to face a contest.

Only last week the Act met with its fourth successive defeat; and before many months elapse, if it be not expressly rescinded, it will be as obsolete an Act as there is on the Statute Book. Already it is obsolete in practice; and no licenses being in force where it has been adopted, the illicit sale of liquor goes on unchecked and without fear of penalties.

THE dictatorial attitude assumed by the Irish leaders is fast producing the desirable result of drawing together the Moderate Liberals and Conservatives. Parnell overshot the mark when some months before the elections he formulated the Irish demands, and promulgated his plan of obtaining their concession; and his ingratitude to the Liberals has further injured his cause by the unexpected result of making the weight of his votes overwhelming only when cast on the side he fought against. The elections have not turned out as favourable to him as might have been; and the little advantage they give him is being thrown away by his lieutenants. Once more it is seen that the very worst enemies of Ireland are the Irish themselves. The manifesto lately issued by the President of the Irish National League of America is causing such irritation in England that Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule project has gone flying loose in the air; and though the subsequent editorial in the *Times* to the effect that perhaps the best thing to do with Ireland would be to place it under martial law, and to expel all the Nationalists from the British Parliament—though this may be somewhat exaggerative, it is still a sufficient indication of a growing feeling among Englishmen—a feeling which, if Mr. Gladstone should fatuously persist in using Home Rule as a stepping-stone to power, will burst with full force on his head, notwithstanding the real respect and admiration the country in general have for him. For ourselves, we look upon the Home Rule demanded by the Nationalists as already gone quite out of their reach. It has eluded their too greedy grasp, and they must now be content with a much more moderate concession—such only, perhaps, as may be granted also to England and Scotland. This cannot in the nature of things go beyond mere local government; for the granting of anything more—of separate legislatures for the Three Kingdoms, for instance—would be a breaking-up of the Imperial Government into a federal system similar to that of the United States. Such a radical change in the institutions is what the Home Rule demanded by the Irish means; but the English people are not yet prepared for this dismemberment of the Empire—nor will they be till the pacification of Ireland by the sword has been tried without effect.

THE list of barkeepers and shopkeepers whom Celtic Ireland has chosen to represent her national aspirations at Westminster is a convincing proof, if any were still needed, of how little fit this people are for self-government. These men are presumably the best that could be found by the leaders, yet the highest intellect among them is under the hats of a sprinkling of gutter journalists. It may reasonably be doubted whether even the barest local government is not beyond their capability; much less does their capacity for agitation and destruction imply an ability for the work of rearrangement and organization that the acquisition of Home Rule would impose on the country. This is a task entirely beyond the capacity of any man at present discernible in the movement, and the simple truth is it is beyond the capacity of Irishmen in general. This is not, however, their fault; it is rather a fault of nature, though with true Irish logic it is usually charged against English misgovernment. Owing to the peculiar formation of Ireland—the absence of mountain ranges and great river valleys which tend to weld tribes into nations; and to the character of the climate—a moist atmosphere and ceaseless rain, which, by spreading the richest pasture before the herdsman and preventing the profitable growth of wheat, hinders the evolution of the shepherd into the skilled farmer—owing mainly to these causes the people of Ireland have in truth hardly yet emerged from the tribal state. In the science of government the Irish of to-day are about abreast with the English under the Heptarchy. The hundreds of bishops that then roamed the island, "with a pet cow at their heels," have been displaced by the Romish hierarchy; but the sceptres of the swarm of independent princes that then held sway in the magnificent indigence of their 'mud huts are among us yet in the shape of the familiar shillelagh. There is, in fact, no principle of cohesion which might form the groundwork of political life among the Irish people. This is clearly shown by the example of the Irish in America. The Continental emigrant there readily becomes an American, but rarely does the Irishman do so. While living under a government which gives him all the rights and privileges of an American, his first and sole thought appears to be to endeavour to subvert that government by domestic treason or to embroil it with foreign nations by his plotting abroad. He has no conception of loyalty to America—will he have to an independent Ireland? The Irish