

# THE WEEK.

Vol. XII.

Toronto, Friday, October 18th, 1895.

No. 47.

## Contents.

	PAGE.
CURRENT TOPICS.....	1107
LEADERS—	
Good Municipal Government.....	1109
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
Canadian Poets..... <i>Prof. William Clark, D.C.L.</i>	1110
Can the State Afford to Support a Purely Secular Education?..... <i>F. J. Kelly</i>	1110
John Burns as I Knew Him..... <i>Wm. Trant</i>	1113
Parisian Affairs..... <i>Z.</i>	1115
Pew and Pulpit in Toronto.—XVIII..... <i>J. R. N.</i>	1116
Art Notes..... <i>E. Wylie Grier</i>	1117
Music..... <i>W. O. Forsyth—C. E. Saunders</i>	1117
POETRY—	
A Song of Triumph..... <i>Rev. Frederick George Scott, M.A.</i>	1112
BOOKS—	
Recent Fiction.....	1118
Bishop Hefele's History of the Councils of the Church..... <i>Principal G. M. Grant, D.D.</i>	1119
The Wild Flowers.....	1120
Briefer Notices.....	1121
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—	
The French Population..... <i>Alchemist</i>	1121
Sir Charles and Mr. Goldwin Smith..... <i>K.</i>	1121

## Current Topics.

National  
Solidarity.

Principal Grant said many good and true things in the lecture he gave in Toronto recently on "Canadian Development." He put his finger on the weak point in Canadian national life when he said that everywhere but in the Dominion national solidarity is assumed, and the sooner it is assumed here the better. "Everywhere else it is believed that the past has settled something and that society evolves in accordance with the laws of continuity." In the fact that national solidarity is not assumed in Canada the Principal finds the explanation of the constant expectation on the part of the people that something extraordinary is about to happen and that the country is always on the eve of some crisis. It is clear that this idea has a stultifying influence on the political development of the Dominion. The possibility of secession from the great Empire, of which Canada is no mean part, should never be entertained. Such discussions can only weaken and impair our sense of national solidarity. Any change but that arising from a gradual strengthening of the ties uniting us to the Mother Country and the enlarging of our privileges and responsibilities in that direction, would be but to the everlasting hurt and injury of the Canadian people and the British Empire.

The River in the  
North.

Another great river has been discovered in Canada, and Dr. Bell, of the Geological Survey, is the discoverer. It is five hundred miles long, its average width is considerably more than a mile, it is very deep and is said to be, by Dr. Bell, the sixth of the great rivers of the world, five of which are to be found in Canada. This great river, which runs into James Bay, has three large branches, one of which has its source north of Three Rivers, another near Lake St. John, and the third near Lake Mistassini. The region through which this new-found river runs is altogether unexplored, and Dr. Bell and his companions were the first white men to traverse it. The banks are very heavily wooded with pine, spruce, tamarac, balsam, and white birch. The land appears to be of a rich clay loam, well adapted to agricultural purposes. Great stretches of the river would be navigable for steamers,

but towards James Bay there are successions of extensive rapids that cannot be ascended except with much difficulty. The importance of Dr. Bell's discovery it is difficult to estimate, but that it is one that may be of great value to our country cannot be doubted.

The Government  
and Newfoundland.

In its treatment of Manitoba, the Ottawa Government made the mistake of cutting before the point. Old To-morrow would never have done that, nor even Sir John Thompson. It made a mistake of the same kind in dealing with Newfoundland. Probably the terms it offered were adequate, and the delegates from the ancient colony demanded too much. But, in a case of difference of opinion, there is surely a wiser way than to break off negotiations abruptly, and to send the delegates home, with their overtures rejected. That was to make a break which is not likely to be closed soon. Newfoundlanders believe that Canada tried to take advantage of their necessities to drive a hard bargain, and until their sore heals no further overtures will be made to Ottawa. The occasion called for a commission to inquire into the undeveloped sources of the Island's wealth and the prospects of development consequent on Confederation. That would have given time, and confidential negotiations could also have been opened with Britain to ascertain what she would do in view of the French shore difficulty and the desirability of including Newfoundland in the Confederated Dominion. The present Imperial Government would have considered such a question more favourably than its predecessor, and Mr. Chamberlain is a bigger man than Lord Ripon. At any rate, there would have been no breach. The matter at the worst would only have been hung up, and it could have been taken down at the first convenient season. Twenty years ago ordinary men stood aghast at the price paid to induce British Columbia to unite with Canada. Who regrets it now? Well, Newfoundland, at any rate, did not demand a Pacific Railway. In dealing with large questions, statesmanship, and not corner-grocery cleverness, is required. But the giants have departed, and there is no one left to bend the bow of Ulysses. Relief will come in due time, for Canada abounds with virile men, and these—in spite of the difficulties interposed by party—will come to the front.

Lord Sackville's  
Disclosures.

Lord Sackville, who, as Sir Lionel Sackville-West was the English Minister at Washington during the years 1881-1889, has recently issued a little book. This little book was intended for private circulation only, but it has fallen into the hands of the newspaper people and its contents are now common property. It has set Uncle Sam by the ears, and, according to cable messages, John Bull is not too well pleased. The trouble is that the little book contains unpleasant truths. It gives an inside view of United States politics which is a very ugly view indeed; it shows the enormous power of the Irish vote and how completely the politicians are controlled by it; and it relates the chief facts