

fortune of the weakling and the evil-doer. "Shakespeare is always, and pre-eminently, and exclusively, the dramatist; but as a dramatist he is distinguished from all the contemporary dramatists, in his working more strictly than any of them under the condition of moral proportion (and by moral proportion I mean that which is in harmony with the permanent constitution, with the eternal fitness of things), and this he did because, as must be inferred, he felt more than did any other of the contemporary dramatists the constitution of things, and knew that the constitution of things could not be violated with impunity. To unite moral proportion with a more or less unrestrained play of the passions is the great artistic achievement of Shakespeare, in his tragic masterpieces. And when a critic looks into his plays with an eye for the doctrinal, he can easily find it there, because the best results of human philosophy in its several departments have been induced and deduced from careful observations of the permanent constitution of things, and therefore correspond more or less with the philosophy concretely embodied in the plays. The concrete philosophy and the abstract philosophy are based on, or derived from, the same permanent constitution of things.

—THE BYSTANDER has already explained that the object of the series which this number closes was to fill, as well as we could, a dangerous gap in the advocacy of a commercial policy which we hold to be essential to the interests of the whole Dominion and absolutely vital to these of the North-West. For the general objects which THE BYSTANDER was originally intended to promote, independence in the discussion of public affairs and interest in literary questions, provision is now happily made on a larger scale by the growth of an independent press and by the establishment of a literary journal. We are glad to hear that *The Week* is likely to be re-stocked and sent forth on its course with renewed vigour. The effort to give Canadian intellect an organ in the shape of a magazine or a