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## THE WEEK :

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## CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS—	PAGE
Are we to have a Race-and-Creed War?.....	515
The Minister of Militia.....	515
The Kaye Farming Experiment.....	515
Prevention versus Cure.....	515
The Newfoundland <i>Modus Vivendi</i> .....	516
Behring Sea Negotiations.....	516
Professional Athletics in Colleges.....	516
Parnell the Inscrutable.....	516
Bismarck as a Private Citizen.....	516
Politics in Spain.....	517
LESSING'S "NATHAN THE WISE".....	Thomas Cross. 517
"THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD".....	W. D. LaSueur. 518
THE BROKEN CHORD (Poem).....	Basil Tempest. 518
LITERARY DEFICIENCY.....	Cognoscente. 518
THE RAMBLER.....	519
THE EVOLUTION OF SENSIBILITY.....	Katherine B. Coultis. 519
TOPEKA.....	Cosmos. 520
A GLIMPSE OF A LONDON STUDIO.....	Frank Yeigh. 520
"SAINT" JOAN OF ARC.....	D. Kinmount Roy. 520
ANACREON'S PICTURE OF HIS MISTRESS (Poem).....	X. 521
CORRESPONDENCE—	
The Modern Mystic and Mr. Davin, M.P.....	H. W. Monk. 521
The Grand Purpose of the Universe.....	H. W. Monk. 521
Gladstone and the American Civil War—III.....	Fairplay Radical. 521
DE QUINCEY.....	522
ART NOTES.....	Templar. 523
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.....	523
PARISIAN LITERARY NOTES.....	524
OUR LIBRARY TABLE.....	524
LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.....	525
READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.....	526
CHESS.....	527

All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

"LA PATRIE," an influential Quebec journal, predicts in the near future a complete upbreak of the present political parties in Canada and a reconstruction of the entire fabric into two great factions, divided on the lines of race and religion. Every Canadian patriot will pray that such a forecast may never be realized. Pernicious as is the party system at present in vogue, that would be infinitely worse. Amidst all the prejudice, cajolery and corruption that mar the politics of the day, there is, no doubt, a substratum of genuine conviction underlying each of the old parties, and the new as well. If old issues are dead or dying, new ones of real importance are coming to the front. The great question of the true fiscal policy for the Dominion is one that is likely to array in opposite camps, to a much greater extent than it has yet done, the best minds and the best men in Canada. The determination of our national destiny, as it will be decided by the choice which must some day be definitely made between Imperial Federation and National Independence, is another true political issue demanding the best thought and effort of the whole people. Both these involve principles which are worthy to become the battle-ground of our coming statesmen and citizens. Conscientious and earnest men will be found in thousands on both sides of each question. But to divide on double lines of race and religion, lines which, by the way, are not even parallel or coincident, and which are not political questions at all, would be unworthy alike of the intelligence and the Christianity of our people. Such a division once made, there would be an end to all wholesome and educative discussion. A free-trader may honestly try to convince a protectionist of the error of his opinions, and vice versa, but of what use would argument be between a British and a French-Canadian, seeing that the question had already been decided for each, and that no possible cogency of argument could transform the one into the other. Discussion of the differences between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism would be almost as useless and quite as mischievous. Citizens may differ on questions of politics proper and yet sincerely respect each other and work together in a hundred ways for the common weal. But let them once

become divided into hostile camps on the question of race and creed, French Catholics against Anglo-Saxon Protestants, and we may at once say farewell to all hope of national unity, or progress. It would, in fact, be but a question of time, when either wiser counsels would prevail, or civil war drench the soil with blood. Surely every true Canadian, whether he speak French or English, will exert all his influence to avert such a catastrophe. All that is needed to avert it is a proper respect for each other's rights and a large toleration for each other's creed.

THE *Ottawa Citizen* has come to the defence of Sir Adolphe Caron, the Minister of Militia, in a vigorous and manly fashion. Its demand for particulars and proofs of the charges sometimes insinuated, often recklessly hurled, against the Minister, is reasonable and fair. The record which the *Citizen* gives of progress made, especially in the establishment of military schools, under Sir Adolphe Caron's régime, certainly looks very creditable. It is, nevertheless, true that, in English-speaking circles, at least, the name of the Minister of Militia is, in the minds of many, a synonym for snobbishness, favouritism and incompetence, nor has this view been confined to political opponents. It must, we think, be confessed that the impression he has made in the House of Commons, and before its committees, has not always been such as to dispel the popular notion, if it did not actually originate it. It is also true that the difficulties and delays met with in one or more instances in obtaining simple justice for Ontario volunteers has afforded excuse if not cause for his unpopularity in that quarter. The *Citizen's* plea that "although in 1885 and 1886 between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 were expended, not one charge of corruption or favouritism was sustained," is not very convincing. The sum named was certainly a very large one for a campaign of the dimensions of the one referred to, and we do not suppose that anyone doubts that extortionate charges were made and paid for services rendered. But much allowance must be made for the suddenness with which the unlooked-for exigency arose. The Government's difficulty is always the self-seeking citizen's opportunity. When the rebels had taken the field, rifle in hand, there was no time to compare prices and bring competition to bear in the commissariat. The certificates of character quoted from various high officials do not necessarily mean more than the formal and courteous acknowledgments, such as are usually forthcoming in all cases, where there has been no marked and disastrous failure, and such failure is well-nigh impossible where there is a capable and active staff of subordinates. The question which the *Citizen's* article brings to the fore is that of the Minister's personal merits or demerits. It is well that the challenge is openly made, and it is, as we have intimated, but fair that it should be directly taken up and answered, or that the tone of disparagement which is so often adopted in speaking of Sir Adolphe Caron should be changed. He himself is said to attribute this disparagement to prejudice on account of his nationality. Our impression is that the charge which he will find most difficult to refute, if pressed, is that he has not been able personally to rise above the racial prejudice, so as to mete out even-handed justice to English-speaking volunteers in matters of discipline, patronage and sympathy.

THE *Winnipeg Commercial* has an article predicting the early failure of the "Canadian Agricultural, Coal and Colonization Company," popularly known as the "Kaye Farming Company," of the Northwest. Indeed, if the facts be as stated, it would seem that failure is already imminent, and that nothing but rigid economy, under a radically reformed management, can avert the catastrophe. It will be greatly regretted, in the interests of the Northwest, should this widely known enterprise be added to the number of English organizations which have come to grief in Manitoba and the Territories. The injury wrought to the country, to say nothing of that to the stockholders, is none the less real that the failure was easily foreseen and predicted by everyone who had any practical knowledge of the conditions of successful farming in the Territories. The Company in question was organized with the intention of carrying on farming and stock-

raising on an immense scale. Large tracts of land were secured at points along the Canadian Pacific railway, between Regina and Calgary. Sir Lister Kaye, by whose influence and efforts the Company was organized, was appointed general manager. His first announcement, to the effect that he would conduct the concern on English principles and in a manner befitting an English enterprise, was, as the *Commercial* observes, sufficient to seal the fate of the Company. Experience has again and again demonstrated that farming in Canada, east or west, cannot be conducted on English principles and made to pay expenses. Knowledge of and conformity to Canadian conditions are indispensable to success in any enterprise of the kind. These conditions differ very widely from those that obtain in England in vital respects, as for, e. g., in rate of wages, facilities for marketing, and expenses of every kind. In this instance, the *Commercial* says that "most ridiculous moves were made and large expenditures incurred in experiments and undertakings which, to say the least, were of an eccentric nature," insomuch that "very soon the Company and its manager became the talk and then the laughing stock of all Western Canada." This simply means, we presume, that the shrewd pioneers, who had been taught by experience, quickly foresaw that the scale of expenditure was out of all proportion to any returns that could possibly be received. As a matter of fact it appears that the capital stock, raised at the outset and supposed to be sufficient for all necessary investments for a number of years, was all expended in less than twelve months; that the sum of £40,000, raised about a year ago on second mortgage, has gone with it, and that at the recent meeting of the Company in London the directors were obliged to put up £30,200 "in order to meet the pressing liabilities of the Company, and enable the present season's corn crop to be harvested." Sir Lister Kaye has resigned the management, and Mr. Richardson, one of the Directors, is now in the Territories, to assist in reorganizing "with a view to securing all possible economy." While we sincerely hope that it is not too late for successful retrenchment, we can but regret the disregard of new conditions and of the experience of practical men, which leads to such unwise management, and tends to bring a country of marvellous natural resources into unmerited disrepute.

REFERRING to the refusal of the Toronto civic authorities to grant badges to certain newsboys, on account of their bad characters, the *World* sagaciously asked the other day, how the characters of children were to be improved by denying them the means of earning an honest livelihood. The question is one which should be pressed home on the minds and consciences of those responsible for the measure, which we dare say may be in itself salutary, and for carrying it out. We do not know just what was done, or whether anything further was done in the cases of the boys referred to. If not, it is about as certain as any moral consequence can be, that their next public appearance will be in the police court. A little reflection must convince any one that if the refusal of the badges was not in each case accompanied with the offer of admission to an industrial school, or employment on a farm, or in some mechanical pursuit, a crime was committed against the boys, while one of the plainest laws of sociology and of morals was violated. We might safely go further and say that not only should a choice be offered in such a case, but the boy should be compelled, or his parents for him, to make a choice. To refuse a boy permission to continue to sell papers, on the ground of alleged bad character, is in effect to brand him as an outcast or a criminal, and send him forth with that badge to qualify himself for prison or penitentiary. It may be, however, that we are not fully informed in regard to these cases, and that some means was used to avert such results. Recurring to general principles it cannot be too often emphasized as a law of civic as well as of family discipline, that a régime of "don'ts" is the worst possible law for childhood. Whether the thing prohibited be an industry or an amusement, if it be innocent in itself, to forbid it without providing something to take its place is both cruelty and folly. Activity is the law of child-life. To attempt simple repression is to fight against nature. When will the