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THE WEEK.

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

CURRENT TOPICS.

Austria, as well as Great Britain, has a demand for Home Rule on her hands. The Emperor's policy of "resolute government" seems to be successful for the moment in curbing the turbulence of the Young Czechs, whose patriotism has led to the disturbances. Such severe measures as the suspension of the Bohemian Constitution, or rather of those sections of it which guarantee liberty of the press and of public assembly, and the right of trial by jury for political offences, together with the indictment for high treason of the ring-leaders in the demonstrations against the Emperor, may quell the disturbances for the time being. But the safety-valve cannot long be held down with impunity. The attempt to suppress by sheer force the national aspirations of a people who cherish national history and traditions, can scarcely prove permanently successful in these times.

The state of feeling, which manifested itself in mutilating the statue of the Emperor and trampling upon the flag of the Empire, bodes no good for the future integrity of the country. Hitherto the hostile demonstrations, as well as the extreme demands, have been confined to the Young Czechs, the Old Czechs having consented to accept the compromise offered by the Emperor last year, under which the Czech element of the nation was to be recognized almost equally with the other in the political organization of the country. The Young Czechs, who are said to be rapidly gaining in numbers and strength, rejected this compromise. Should the stern, repressive measures now taken have the not improbable effect of uniting the Old and the Young to make common cause, the situation may yet become decidedly a source of weakness if not of danger in the Empire.

We dare say that many of our readers, especially those who may have more or less to do with public affairs, or who may sometimes write on current topics, have been often placed at a disadvantage for the want of some reliable record of important events which have not yet receded far enough into the background to have become matters of history. The occurrences of ten or twenty or fifty years ago have probably been recorded in permanent form, and when he will he may refer to them. But concerning the events of a few weeks or months ago he may find it very difficult to gain any reliable details, unless he was careful to preserve cumbersome newspaper files, and to collect them from this source, even when the papers are within reach, is, for obvious reasons, a laborious task. For the relief and aid of such inquirers a class of magazines has lately come into existence which promise to be exceedingly helpful. The latest, and in many respects the best of these which we have seen, is "The Cycloædic Review of Current History," the second quarterly volume of which for 1893 has recently come to hand. In this review we have the leading events of the quarter presented in the order of their importance, as indicated by the attention given to them at the time of their occurrence in the newspapers. These are followed by well-written historical summaries of International Affairs, Affairs in America, Affairs in Europe, Affairs in Asia, and Affairs in Africa, the whole concluding with a chapter on Science, Literature and Miscellany. So far as a cursory inspection

enables us to form an opinion, the articles are carefully prepared and reliable. There may, perhaps, be a little lack of proportion in the amount of space given to American affairs, but, on the whole, the magazine is a great boon to all who have occasion to recall facts and incidents of recent history, and who may have neither the material nor the time necessary for the slow process of original inspection of documents.

The "filibustering" which still delays the passing of the Silver-Repeal Bill by the United States Senate is becoming a very serious matter. It has notably, almost disastrously, checked the return of industrial activity and business confidence which began to manifest themselves so promptly on the passage of the Repeal Bill by the House of Representatives. The Gordian Knot before Congress and before the American people is the same one, in a slightly different form, which was cut, not untied, by the ruthless application of the closure in the British Commons. If it is agreed that in a free country it is of the essence of a representative or democratic system of government that the majority rule, the time has evidently come when it is necessary to devise some new machinery for enabling it to do so. Just now it is very plainly the will of the minority that is ruling in the Senate Chamber at Washington and throughout the nation. The right of full and free discussion is one thing, the right of a parliamentary minority to compel the Parliament and the nation to stop and listen indefinitely to their speech-making, is another and very different thing. There are two radically different kinds of debate. When a qualified representative of a section of the people speaks from conviction and with a view to influencing the opinion and action of those who hear him, reason and right demand that the majority within and without the walls should listen. When, on the other hand, he speaks simply for the purpose of obstructing and delaying a measure approved by the majority, reason and right demand no less emphatically that he should not be heard. Two practical difficulties present themselves; first, how to determine the line at which the one kind of speaking ceases and the other begins; second, how to put a stop to the wrong kind of speaking. A ready but imperfect way of meeting, to a certain extent, both conditions, is to fix a generous limit or time at which the speaking must cease and the vote be taken. The method is harsh and defective, but no better has yet been proposed.