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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS—	PAGE.
The Late Hon. Thomas White	343
Reaction Against the Scott Act	343
Lord Lansdowne's Approaching Departure	343
Commercial Union of the British Empire	343
Indiscriminate Denunciation of Assisted Immigration	343
The Contract System for Convict Labour	344
Probable Postponement of the Fisheries Treaty by the Senate	344
The Old and the New Wimbledon	341
A Phase of the Great Social Problem	344
The Dearth of Occupation for Women	344
Mr. Lowell on Independence in Politics	344
The Bulgarian Government Still Arming	345
The Dying Emperor and His People	345
M. Boulanger and the French Chamber	345
A REMEDY FOR INTemperance	J. Gordon Brown. 345
OTTAWA LETTER	Sara J. Duncan. 346
MATTHEW ARNOLD	G. Mercer Adam. 347
SAPPHO: A VACATION STUDY	Nicholas Flood Davin, M.P. 348
A TRIP TO ENGLAND.—VIII.	Goldwin Smith. 349
A REPLY (POEM)	S. A. Wilde. 350
CORRESPONDENCE—	
"The Pulpit Admonished"	O. A. H. 350
PROMINENT CANADIANS—HON. PIERRE JOSEPH OLIVIER CHAUVEAU	J. Talon-Lesperance. 351
OUR LIBRARY TABLE	352
LITERARY GOSSIP	353
MUSIC	353
CHESS	353

THE 24th of May is officially named as the date of the Governor-General's departure from Canada. At Ottawa, a Citizens' Committee, with the Mayor at its head, has been formed to make arrangements for a farewell banquet and public reception, as a token of the estimation in which His Excellency is held at the capital. Parliament being in session, it is probable that the Senate and Commons will take some appropriate part in the demonstration, making it thereby in a degree representative of the Dominion. In regard to the manner in which Lord Lansdowne has discharged the duties of his high office there is, we believe, but one opinion in Canada. Not only has his course been eminently constitutional and discreet, but he has devoted himself to the interests of Canada with a zeal and assiduity betokening a genuine interest in her welfare and progress. Following the commendable example of Lord Dufferin and Lord Lorne, Lord Lansdowne has, during his term of office, visited all the provinces and territories of the Dominion, acquainting himself with the peculiar resources, circumstances, and wants of each. The general regret that the term of his administration is being cut short is tempered by the knowledge that his departure from our shores is hastened in order that he may assume the duties and responsibilities of the highest gubernatorial position in the gift of the British Crown. That his success and popularity in the viceroyalty of the great Indian Empire may be equal to his abilities and deserts will be the wish and hope of all loyal Canadians.

THE *Canadian Gazette* of April 5th contains an interesting résumé of a very important report which has been prepared and presented to the Commercial Sub-Committee of the Imperial Federation League, by its chairman, Sir Rawson W. Rawson, K.C.M.G., C.B. This document, the preparation of which must have involved an immense amount of labour and care, contains first a synopsis of the tariffs and trade of the Empire for 1885, the latest year for which full information was obtainable; second, a comparison of the rates of import duty upon the principal articles of commerce in 1887, and, third, some general conclusions which Sir Rawson W. Rawson deduces from the formidable medley. It would be impossible to present within the limits of a paragraph an epitome, even in barest outline, of the results reached under the various divisions. Suffice it to give the first conclusion reached, viz., that uniformity of tariffs as regards duties leviable in each country is hopeless at present, and to say in the words of the *Gazette*, that "the compilers of the work frankly admit that, in so far as such a union [Commercial Union of the Empire] would mean a common British tariff, it is at the present time nothing more than an enthusiast's dream. The tariffs of the United Kingdom and of the several British possessions are all at sixes and sevens—a very chaos, out of which it would be little less than a miracle to devise any practical scheme of fiscal unity which should satisfy at one and the same time so great a variety of economic and financial aims." "But," adds the *Gazette*, "while admitting these obstacles, the compilers of this synopsis have a hope for the future, and rightly enough recognize that the first step towards even the adequate discussion of a question of such magnitude—to say nothing of the actual removal and reduction of the present hindrances to uniformity—is to show in a clear and concise way exactly how the tariffs of the Empire now stand as compared with one another." Whether such a hope must be dim and remote the reader may judge.

Few will dispute the wisdom of the Government in determining to discontinue the policy of assisting immigration with public funds. Equally clear is the necessity for establishing some system of supervision, with a view to prevent the wholesale deportation of helpless, diseased, and worthless people from English houses of refuge to our shores. But it would be a great pity if, in our zeal to prevent Canada from becoming an asylum for paupers, imbeciles, and social outcasts, we should close the gates of this wide land against any who are really deserving of a share in the opportunities it offers to the industrious poor. There is some danger of this. The work carried on by such philanthropists as Dr. Barnardo seems to be the outcome of wise beneficence. To gather up the deserted and orphan children from the streets and byways of the Old Land or the New, to feed and clothe them and carefully train them to habits of industry and thrift, and then to find places for them in Canadian homes, is surely a work of the highest utility, as well as the broadest and most practical philanthropy.

THE somewhat sudden death of Hon. Thomas White, Minister of the Interior, has called forth expressions of sincere regret from men of all shades of political opinion throughout the Dominion. The deceased was but fifty-eight years of age, and, in the ordinary course of events, might have hoped to have many years of public service yet before him. Like many others who have attained to eminence in public life, Mr. White was a trained journalist, and for years before his entrance into Parliament stood in the highest rank of the profession. The extensive knowledge of the political history of the country and of its public affairs gained as editor and manager first of the *Hamilton Spectator*, and afterwards of the *Montreal Gazette*, stood him in good stead in his Parliamentary and official career. During his three years of office as a minister of the Crown, Mr. White proved himself eminently laborious and efficient. In fact, it is said to be the opinion of his physicians that to the physical exhaustion produced by overwork was mainly attributable his inability to rally from the effects of the disease which caused his death. In private and social life Mr. White was genial, amiable, and cultivated to a degree which won him general esteem and warm friendship. He was an active and useful member of the Anglican Church. His bereaved family will have sincere and widespread sympathy in their great sorrow.

THE success of the movement for the repeal of the Scott Act in every one of the counties in which a vote was taken on Thursday last will surprise no one who has observed the workings of that Act. The result in these cases may be taken as significant of a general revulsion of popular feeling, and is no doubt prophetic of the issue in other counties, as soon as the question is re-submitted to the voters. The most enthusiastic advocates of compulsory total abstinence, if not wholly given over to fanaticism, must have become convinced of two things, first that local prohibition—the attempt to prevent the sale and use of liquors within the bounds of a municipality, while these are freely permitted in other municipalities all around it—is a folly; and secondly that all prohibitory legislation, so long as it lacks that hearty support of an overwhelming majority of the people affected which alone can secure its enforcement, is not only doomed to failure, but is sure to multiply and intensify the evils it is designed to cure.