

THE WEEK.

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Current Topics.

A Notable Banquet.

The banquet given in honour of Lieutenant Governor Patterson at Ottawa on Monday night last by prominent citizens of the Capital was a notable event by reason of the representative men gathered together, and by the interest and importance of the speeches made on the occasion. It was a national tribute of respect and regard for the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba whose reception was marked by all that man counts of most value in his relationship with his fellows. In his speech he gave abundant evidence of his appreciation of the duties and responsibilities of his high office, and there was a distinct and general impression amongst the assembled guests that his appointment is one for national congratulation. An interesting feature of the banquet was the speech of Major-General Gascoigne who, we are informed, gave the impression that he was more in touch with things Canadian than has been the case with most of his predecessors. If we may judge from his remarks the General is not wanting in a sense of humour, nor does he lack the philosophical spirit. He said in effect that he would always give the best advice it was possible for him to give his Minister, but if that advice was not followed he did not intend to make a fuss about it. When he had delivered his soul he would rest in peace.

Mr. Laurier's Ontario Tour.

It is not only Liberals who will welcome the Honourable Mr. Laurier on his tour through the Province of Ontario: Conservatives will be quite as eager to attend his meetings and pay him respect as are his own followers. There are few indeed in the Party, we imagine, who are not ready to acknowledge his splendid abilities, his personal charm, and the devotion with which he serves his country. Some Conservative journalists amuse themselves by saying smart and cynical things about him and his speeches, but they know as well as we do that his presence tends to raise the tone of the national Parliament and that Canadian political life is the better and higher for his strong influence. His speech at Morrisburgh was wonderfully clever. It was too partizan and sometimes too severe. But no one can deny its value to his party. He maintains that he has taken a clear, definite, and consistent stand on the School Question and that he adheres to his position: An investigation should be made as to the facts of the case; he will support the Dominion Government if it should appoint a commission. Beyond that he will not go. The Conservatives will not succeed in drawing him from the lines of Torres Vedras.

The Return of Sir Oliver Mowat.

The return home of Sir Oliver Mowat after five months spent in Europe has awakened more than a passing interest in the man. There were rumours that Sir Oliver's health was not good

when he went away, and the report of his illness which came to us a few weeks ago was of an alarming nature. In all the Provinces of Canada anxious enquiries were made as to his condition, and there was much speculation on the political effect of his prospective retirement from the leadership of his party in Ontario. Happily the report turned out to be baseless in fact. The Premier comes back hale and vigorous, and seemingly as well fitted to resume his labours as he has been any time for the last twenty years. He comes of a strong and long-lived stock; and although few men have worked harder, with as little relaxation, for half a century or more, there is no sign that he may not be good for half of another generation. Sir Oliver has had a distinguished career. He was called to the bar early in life, and was not long in building up a practice. For two or three years he served this city of Toronto as an alderman. Nearly forty years ago he obtained a seat in Parliament, and came to be recognized as one of the leaders there. He is one of the four or five men now left alive who prepared the scheme of Confederation, and it is well known that a portion of that scheme was the product of his brain. The judicial habit of mind which has always characterized Sir Oliver—the industry with which facts are collected and the patience and accuracy with which they are weighed, collated, and generalized—naturally fitted him for a seat on the Bench, and the few years of service in that capacity qualified him all the better for a discharge of the functions in which he has been latterly employed. Sir Oliver Mowat is now in the twenty-fourth year of his Premiership, a longer period of unbroken rule, it has often been said, than has fallen to the lot of any other First Minister in Great Britain or her Colonies. Thousands of young men voted for and against Sir Oliver's Government at the last general elections who were not born when the seals of office were placed in his hands in 1872; and now in the seventy-sixth year of his age, with a long political record of deeds and possibly misdeeds behind him, for no man can be free from some measure of wrong-doing, he is to all human seeming as strong in the confidence of the people as at any period of his career. A public reception has been spoken of to mark the present home-coming, which men of all parties appear to favour. There is no reason why such an honour should not be paid, nor why men of all political parties might not unite in paying it. There are points of difference between politicians, of course, and sometimes they are so sharp as to make divisions along social lines. But even politicians agree more than they differ; and in the case of Sir Oliver Mowat politicians of every party and shade of party will agree that he is an honest man, a thorough-going Canadian, and a firm adherent of British connection.

Toronto University Senate Elections

The elections to the Senate of the University of Toronto are over and the results have been published in the daily papers. An examination of these shows that a large majority of the graduates disapprove of the conduct of a section of the undergraduates and their sympathizers in the then existing Senate. The results have shown that there is a remarkable difference in the mental perspective between the graduates in arts and those in law. In 1892 the Hon. W. R. Meredith was a candidate in the law section, but was defeated. In the election just completed the Chief Justice heads the poll in arts, receiving the votes of 84 per cent. of the graduates, while his colleague on the bench, Justice Street, is defeated as a candidate in the law section. Another noticeable fact is found in the election of the Hon. A. R. Dickey, the Minister of Militia, who occupies the third place in the list. It is safe to say that two years ago he was scarcely known to the graduates other than those who completed their undergraduate course with him, and during the election it was the opinion