

THE WEEK.

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Current Topics.

Unity of the Empire.

It is quite natural that there should be a great deal of rejoicing in Canada over the splendid achievements at Bisley of Private Hayhurst, and in that rejoicing THE WEEK is in thorough sympathy. The welcome accorded to the modest young soldier was virtually national in its extent, and sincere as it was wide. But it is not all jubilation. It is something more than this. The event and the enthusiasm which it has aroused shows plainly that the unity of the Empire is no mere empty phrase but a living reality. As the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario remarked in his excellent speech at the Armoury on Tuesday, the eyes of the whole British Empire are upon Canada owing to this victory, and it is pleasing to know that in Bisley, where the picked riflemen of the Empire were assembled, the greatest enthusiasm prevailed when they knew that the Queen's prize went to Canada. It makes our hearts go out toward the Mother Country, and shows that we are all kith and kin.

The Re-Election of Mr. Gully.

The re-election of Mr. Gully without opposition to the speakership of the British Commons is not more a tribute to the courtesy and impartiality which have won for him golden opinions during his short term of service under the previous administration, than a proof of the regard for the best traditions of Parliament which is still conspicuous when important occasions specially demand it. Had the leaders of the Government carried out the threats which were made at the time of Mr. Gully's election, and echoes of which have been heard since the battle, they would have gained a small party triumph, and conferred distinction and emolument upon a party adherent, at the cost of having created a precedent which would very likely have been followed by their opponents, on their next return to power, and would have made the highest dignity in the gift of Parliament henceforth one of the spoils of victory at the polls. Second thoughts were this time unquestionably better. Nor could anything more effectually strengthen a Speaker in his determination to strive after the strictest and most absolute impartiality than the fact that he is thus entrusted with the government of debates and the decision of the most delicate questions by

the choice and vote of those who were, until very recently, his political opponents. The soul would be small and base indeed which would not respond to the appeal to its assumed nobility involved in such a tribute.

England and Turkey.

A despatch from Sofia, in the London *Times* of Tuesday last, says that the Sultan of Turkey is firmly resolved not to admit the principal of foreign control in Armenian affairs. Probably there are very few friends of Armenia in England who are not as firmly convinced that nothing short of the principle and application of foreign control can avail to save the wretched Armenian Christians from periodical repetitions of the unspeakable horrors of outrage and massacre of which so many were recently the victims, or from what is perhaps still worse, the perpetual injustice, tyranny, and terror with which the very atmosphere in which they live seems charged. Which, then, shall it be, foreign control or abandonment of Armenians to their fate? This is, probably, the simple question which Lord Salisbury will have to answer in distinct tones before many days. The futility of reliance on Turkish promises has been more than sufficiently demonstrated. Mr. Gladstone's strong words have evidently found such a response in the heart of the nation as may be accepted by the new Government as warrant and pledge of support in any measures, however determined, they may find necessary to reach the end—the peace and security of the people who have been so long and so foully persecuted. As yet Lord Salisbury has made no sign, but however reluctant he may be to enter upon a course of active interference, whose end it is impossible to foresee, he can hardly ignore either the solemn treaty obligations which bind the Kingdom or the aroused and outspoken sentiment of the nation. If the Turk is to retain an ill-merited place among the civilized peoples of the world he must be taught to observe at least the external decencies of civilization. It should surely be proved to be in the best interests of all concerned, the Turk included—for Mr. Gladstone is undoubtedly right in declaring himself and those who agree with him Turkey's best friends—that events have placed Great Britain foremost among those whose duty it is to do the teaching.

Remedial Legislation Impracticable.

If the somewhat bumptious article which appeared in the *Winnipeg Tribune* a week or two ago, touching the new communication which the Dominion Government, in accordance with purpose expressed in Parliament, has had or is about to have with the Manitoba Government, touching the School Question, may be accepted as the voice of the Manitoba Government, it must have already dispelled any hope that Sir Mackenzie Bowell or any of his supporters or opponents may have cherished of an amicable settlement of this vexatious question. In making the unconditional withdrawal of the Remedial order the *sine qua non* of any negotiations looking to a peaceful arrangement, the Greenway Administration will be regarded on all hands as having shut the door in the face of the policy on the strength of which the Dominion Ministry prorogued Parliament, without attempting to carry out its avowed purpose of coercion. Having committed