

THE WEEK.

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Contents.

	PAGE.
CURRENT TOPICS.....	747
LEADERS—	
Canada's Natal Day.....	749
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
Marie Corelli.....	750
Death of Dr. Huxley.....	751
Criticism of Some Magazine Articles.....	752
Parisian Affairs.....	755
London Literary Affairs.....	757
Montreal Affairs.....	757
At Street Corners.....	757
BOOKS—	
A Youthful Canadian Poetess.....	758
The Book Daniel.....	759
Briefer Notices.....	759
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—	
A Proposed Canadian Flag.....	760
“.....	760
“.....	760
Upper Canada College.....	761
The Proposed Quadri-Centennial Celebration.....	761
Islamism.....	762
Canadian Bibliography: Some More Old Pamphlets.....	762
DEPARTMENTS—	
Music.....	763
Art Notes.....	764

Current Topics.

From news received late yesterday evening it is now abundantly evident that no Remedial Legislation, with respect to the Manitoba School Question, will be introduced during the present session of Parliament. A telegram from Ottawa advises us that the Honourable Mr. Foster will, to-day, announce in the House the decision of the Government. From private sources we learn that Mr. D'Alton McCarthy sails for England to-morrow, so it is quite clear that he is satisfied that the Government policy will leave him free to absent himself from the House without imperilling the cause he has so much at heart. It is reported that the Government whips privately polled the Conservative members and found thirty-nine or forty of them fully prepared to vote against Remedial Legislation. It was further reported yesterday evening that the French Conservatives are no longer confident of success, and that Honourable Mr. Ouimet has resigned. To-day's events will prove whether or not this is the case, but it is hard to see how Mr. Ouimet could act otherwise after all he has said on the matter—that is, if the decision of the Cabinet should not be according to his wishes, and there is not the slightest chance now that it will be. Mr. Foster's own constituency is strongly Protestant, and it is not likely that he would make an announcement in the House which would deprive him of his seat. We deeply regret that this unfortunate question should have arisen, and the Government has our sympathy in the matter. It is one of immense import in Canadian national affairs, and we appreciate the extraordinary difficulties which surround the Cabinet in dealing with it. To make political capital out of these differences is a very small and mean piece of business and will only react with disastrous results on the heads of those who delight in it. In its race and so-called religious difficulties, Canada has a problem to settle which will task the energies of her ablest men to the fullest extent. In the present case neither the Conservatives nor the Liberals could devise a scheme which would meet with the cordial and unanimous support of the Parties' respective followers. It is not a question for a Party to settle. Neither Party is a unit on the question.

The make-up of the new British Ministry, which was announced last week, will, by this time, have been carefully scrutinized in all quarters of the civilized world. That a cabinet composed of such men as Salisbury, Balfour, Chamberlain, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Sir Henry James, etc., is an exceptionally strong one, goes without saying. The appointment in which Canada is most directly interested is, of course, that of Colonial Secretary. The assignment of this portfolio to Mr. Chamberlain is somewhat of a surprise, but the improbability that it will satisfy his ambition for any considerable length of time is so small that it seems hardly worth while to speculate much as to what position he is likely to take in regard to such questions as that of the Canadian Copyright Act, the fate of which is becoming a matter of considerable interest to Canadians. In fact, so much of Mr. Chamberlain's attention has hitherto been directed to Ireland and its demands, and to questions of social and industrial reform in England, that we have not much material at hand from which to form a definite opinion as to his probable attitude towards the self-ruling Colonies, but it is generally believed that he is not wholly ignorant of the affairs with which the Colonial Office is supposed to be conversant, and that he is not quite indifferent to the expansion of Greater Britain. Nothing of importance as tending to reveal the special character and policy of the new Administration can, of course, be known until after the general election. Perhaps the question of greatest moment, and that which will have most to do with determining the history of Government and Parliament for the next few years, will depend upon the relations between the Administration and the Irish Parliamentary representatives after the election. For our own part, as we have often intimated, we have no idea that the Ministry has any intention of so conducting itself as to provoke a revival of the old system of obstruction in the House and disorder across the Channel, if it can possibly be avoided. Indeed we should be not at all surprised to find a liberal measure of Home-Rule holding a prominent place in the programme of the Government, when it returns, as no doubt it will, victorious from the polls.

England and
Turkey.

The Salisbury Administration is now fairly in the saddle. There is no reason to suppose that any serious obstruction to its proposal of an almost immediate dissolution will be offered either in the House or in the constituencies to which the members, whose seats have been made vacant by the acceptance of office, are returning for re-election. Some of the most prominent leaders have already been returned without opposition, and the same favour will, it is most probable, be accorded to all. While the Premier naturally refuses to announce a definite home policy till the general election shall have given him a majority in Parliament, it is likely that the pressing and critical condition caused by the embroilment with Turkey may compel him to show his hand, so far as his foreign policy is concerned, at any moment. Vigorous and energetic action is certainly needed in this matter, and to such action his predecessors were, it is be-