

THE WEEK.

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THE WEEK: C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

Current Topics.

Chinese in
Canada.

Mr. Maxwell, of British Columbia, strongly denounced the importation of Chinese labourers into that Province when he was moving the other day for papers in the House of Commons. There was a brief discussion on his motion, and in the course of the debate Sir Henri Joly asked permission to announce that when the full discussion comes off hereafter he will be prepared to give reasons against the proposed increase of the poll-tax on Chinese immigrants from \$50 to \$500. Sir Henri stated that he had given his promise to Li Hung Chang not to "abandon" the Celestials, and in view of his proverbial chivalry we may rest assured that the promise will be amply redeemed. Of course, this does not settle the question, for Mr. Laurier intimated that it was one of great difficulty, in dealing with which the Government would have to act with the utmost circumspection.

Queen's
Counsel.

Sir Oliver Mowat, as Minister of Justice, reported strongly against confirming the appointment of a large number of Queen's Counsel who had been nominated by his predecessor as worthy of that dignity, and his report has been acted on. From his memorandum on the subject some facts interesting to the general public as well as to the legal profession, may be gleaned. Since Confederation no fewer than 481 lawyers have been made Queen's Counsel in Canada, while in England only 254 have been so honoured during the past twenty-two years. There are only 217 Queen's Counsel in England at the present time, while the last batch recommended in Canada numbered 173. Sir Oliver, quite naturally, took exception to the right of the Dominion Government to appoint Queen's Counsel, for he has always declared that this should be a matter of Provincial prerogative. He objected to the "indiscriminate selection" made, and expressed the opinion that "some proper check should be devised to confine within proper bounds the recommenda-

tions made to the Governor-General," assuming that such appointments come within the latter's sphere, which is to be settled before any further nominations are made.

Professor
Child.

The death of Prof. Child, of Harvard, causes a vacancy which will not easily be filled in the ranks of English scholars in America. He belongs to the generation which includes Prof. March, the old English scholar of Lafayette University. Prof. Child has done much to make more modern scholars acquainted with the real character of the literature and language of the mediæval English writers. He was a great Chaucerian scholar—perhaps the greatest of all. It may be that his work was done, but there is the more reason why all who are interested in English scholarship should remember him with appreciation and gratitude. Since writing the foregoing we have received from a Canadian now at Harvard a paper on Prof. Child, which appears in another column.

Longfellow's
Handwriting.

Mr. W. D. Howells has been publishing in Harper's some interesting reminiscences of Longfellow, in the course of which he describes his handwriting as "smooth, regular, and scrupulously perfect." It was "quite vertical and rounded, with a slope neither to the right nor left, and at the time I knew him first he was fond of using a soft pencil on printing paper, though commonly he wrote with a quill. Each letter was distinct in shape, and between the verses was always the exact space of half-an-inch." Those acquainted with the so-called "vertical" writing, which is rapidly coming into vogue now, will notice that the above description exactly applies to it. Longfellow's manuscript, according to Howells, was quite perfect, but he admits that the poems he has in his possession were probably not first drafts.

Turkey and
Crete.

The insurrection against the Turkish government in Crete seems to have been terminated by the agreement of the great powers in an ultimatum to the Sultan. He has been urged, and has consented, to give the island a kind of local government which amounts virtually to autonomy. The Cretans will, under this system, have a Christian Governor appointed by the Porte with the approval of the foreign ambassadors. Their legislature will be continued with increased control over local affairs, and Turkey will have to content herself with a yearly tribute fixed in amount and levied by the Cretan Government. The tendency on the part of the Province will be to gravitate toward Greece, to which it will be annexed whenever the Turkish Empire breaks up.

Child Labour
in Britain.

The annual meeting of British Trades Union representatives has passed a series of strongly-worded resolutions, asking for further restrictions on child-labour in factories. The need for them is based on the general public interest no less than on the interest of the working-classes. It is extremely