

THE WEEK:

A CANADIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

Second Year.
Vol. II., No. 19.

Toronto, Thursday, April 9th, 1885.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 7 cents.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK—	PAGE.
The Riel Rebellion	289
The Conveyance of Canadian Troops through U. S. Territory	289
Halifax and Quebec demur to furnish Volunteers	289
Official Cupidity Partially Responsible for the North-West Troubles	289
The Political Position of the Ontario Government	290
The Montreal Herald, THE WEEK, and the C. P. R.	290
Impotence of the Scott Act	290
The Conspiracy Case	291
English Jingoism and Russophobism	291
Impacticability of Imperial Confederation	291
Conservatism in England	292
Re-appointment of the N.Y. Postmaster	292
George Eliot as a Teacher of Agnosticism	292
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
Riel's Second Rebellion	Cabibonica. 292
Discontent in Nova Scotia.—II.	Nova Scotian. 293
Mr. Edgar on Loyalty	294
English Letter	Thomas Hughes. 294
The Riel Outbreak	C. 295
HERE AND THERE	296
CORRESPONDENCE	297
POETRY—Heart's Diamond	Seranus. 298
SCRAP BOOK	298
THE RELATION OF DRESS TO ART (Selected)	299
MUSIC	299
PERIODICALS	300
BOOK NOTICES	300
LITERARY GOSSIP	300
CHESS	301

The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE
Edited by W. PHILIP ROBINSON.

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance.
ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptional in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4 per line per annum; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per insertion for a shorter period.
Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. stg.; half-year, 6s. stg. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.
All advertisements will be set up in such style as to insure THE WEEK's tasteful typographical appearance, and enhance the value of the advertising in its columns. No advertisement charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHER, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE rising among the Indians, which is the thing most to be feared, does not appear to spread, though the savages are naturally excited by the disturbance, and by the taste or sight of plunder. In spite of sinister rumours all remains quiet along the American frontier, and it is evident that the American authorities are resolved to do all that is required by international duty. The Fenians bluster and brag as usual; but there is at present no reason for apprehending anything worse from that quarter. Left to themselves, the Half-breeds of the Saskatchewan must come to terms. Though they are hunters and trappers, they are tillers of the soil as well: they have homesteads and families, for the sake of which they will be compelled to make peace. In the forest they might find shelter for a time from the invading force, but they could find nothing else, nor could they hold out there long. It is not unreasonable to hope that as soon as General Middleton reaches them they will lay down their arms, and that the insurrection will thus come to an end without further bloodshed. The General seems to have determined to march at once, with such of his troops as are best fitted for the service, upon the heart of the insurrection. The weather and the soil are likely to prove his most formidable enemies. It will be a relief to find that the young men of the city militia are not to be exposed to toils and hardships which many of them are by their age and habits totally unfitted to bear. As to their being set to fight the Half-breeds, first-rate marksmen, indefatigably swift in their movements, and thoroughly familiar with the prairie, the idea, as everybody sees, would be madness. General Middleton is clearly right, by the way, in refusing to employ Indians, for whose atrocities he would become responsible without being able to restrain them, and whose lust of war once kindled would not be easily allayed.

WE cannot help thinking that our Government did right in determining to send the troops over our own road, though many are disposed to blame it for that decision. Difficulties might have arisen at Washington, and the

result might have been complications and delay. Rebellion is a domestic affair which should as much as possible be dealt with at home, and not brought more than is absolutely necessary under the cognizance of foreign powers. Facilities for the transmission of troops were offered to England by the French Emperor at the time of the Indian Mutiny, but, though not unwelcome in themselves, were on principle declined. Nor is it easy to say when a rebellion reaches the proportions and dignity of a civil war, from interference in which, whether by direct assistance or by granting facilities, foreign Governments are bound to abstain. If the American Civil War had extended in this direction we certainly should not have allowed the Federal Government, though it regarded itself throughout as engaged in the suppression of a rebellion, to move troops over our roads. The Government at Washington at present happily is friendly, which it would not have been had the choice fallen on Blaine or Logan, the latter of whom especially is an Anti-British demagogue of the most pronounced and blatant kind. We can trust Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Bayard for the steadfast enforcement of international law against Fenians, or any one else who may attempt to violate it to our injury, as well as for the ready concession of everything which we have a right to claim. But we must beware that we do not presume too much on their good-will or place them in any equivocal situation. The Irish Vote is still strong, stronger even in the imagination of the politicians than it is in actual force. This alone, however, the Government might defy. But, if with the Irish were combined the bulk of the Republican Party acting in the interests of faction, and the Western Democrats who are incensed at the loss of their spoils, the position of Mr. Cleveland and his colleagues might become one of serious difficulty.

EVERY strain that is put upon Confederation makes us sensible of its heterogeneous composition and its want of territorial compactness. We do not wish to libel the martial character or the loyalty of Halifax: but it is clear that, to say the least, the call to arms was received by her with far less alacrity than by Toronto; not because she is less brave or has more sympathy with the rebellion, but because her relation to Canada is only one of semi-attachment, and she feels that, so far as she is concerned, Saskatchewan is in the moon. An appeal to the rural militia of Nova Scotia would probably meet with no response more ardent than did the appeal to the militia of Halifax, and the prediction may pretty safely be extended to the militia of New Brunswick. In the case of the French Militia the unwillingness to turn out is still more pronounced; but in Quebec there is not merely indifference to the cause of the Dominion but positive sympathy with Riel. The French Members at Ottawa are reported to be by no means heartily in favour of a vigorous prosecution of the war. To them or their predecessors we owe it that Riel lives to give us all this trouble, and they seem disposed, by insisting on a premature extension of the olive branch, which would have the effect of a surrender, to provide the incentive for a third insurrection in the future. Alone, or with only the British quarter of Montreal to assist her, Ontario will have to do it; and some day she will grow tired of doing it alone.

AMIDST the muttering thunder of war the voice of party altercation is still heard, each party, in Parliament and the press, striving to fix upon the other the responsibility for the disaster. It is difficult to see how a government which has been in power seven years and has appointed the principal officials in the North-West can succeed in saddling the responsibility for the delay in settling the Half-breeds' claims on other shoulders than its own. Yet the same thing might have happened whichever party had been in power. The places in the North-West would have been filled, under the inexorable law of party patronage, by the followers of the party camp, who would have thought first perhaps of making their own fortunes; secondly of setting up and working the party machine, and only in the last place of those administrative questions which are of the utmost importance to the young community, but upon which no votes depend. The appointments of Lieutenant-Governor Cauchon and Chief Justice Wood were not more conscientious than that of Governor Dewdney; nor did Lieutenant-Governor Cauchon refrain any more than Governor Dewdney has refrained