

## CORRESPONDENCE.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for the Editor must be addressed: EDITOR OF THE WEEK, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

Contributors who desire their MS. returned, if not accepted, must enclose stamp for that purpose.

By a typographical error, in one instance the initials "A. M." were substituted for "D. F." in a letter on "Coal in the North-West" which appeared in these columns last week.

The following remarks ought to have appeared at the foot of Mr. Alnatt's letter on "The Athanasian Creed" last week: As we have closed the correspondence, it appears only just to point out what appears to be a misapprehension on the part of Mr. Alnatt in regard to "D. F.'s" previous letter: He says that "D. F." wrote "sad and awful." That is not the fact. He wrote "sad" and "awful." He says that "D. F." wrote: "Wishing that Christian truth were other than it is." Nor is that the fact. The word Christian was expressly excluded from the quotation-marks, to show that it was not attributed to a former writer. The great offence is that "D. F." should prefer, as more strictly correct, to use the word "Christian" rather than the words "Holy Scripture" to describe what "fell from the lips of our Lord." The main part of the matter, the "wish that the truths of Holy Scripture were other than they are," is not questioned. The correspondent further says that "D. F." wrote "making an attack on Christianity." This is much less than the fact, shortening the sentence by more than half, and wholly altering its complexion.

SIR FRANCIS HINCKS AND MR. BALDWIN.

To the Editor of The Week:

SIR,—I trust that I shall be able to convince you that your remarks, imputing a difference of opinion between Mr. Baldwin and myself in regard to municipal aid to the Grand Trunk Railway, were made under a complete misconception of facts. In your comments on my letter of the 24th ult., requesting the grounds of your original statement, you have cited a resolution of the Committee of Ways and Means in 1851. The resolution in question was proposed by me, as a member of the Government, and had for its object to provide the means of giving effect to the bill entitled "An Act to make provision for the construction of a main trunk line of railway throughout the length of this Province." The bill in question was founded on resolutions introduced by me, as a member of the Government, in fulfilment of an intimation given in the Governor-General's speech on the opening of the Legislature. Mr. Baldwin was then a member of the Government. He resigned on the 30th June; but a reference to the Journals from page 272 to page 279 will prove that in no less than seven divisions on the resolutions Mr. Baldwin uniformly voted with me in favour of the resolutions, one of which declared that the one-half of the cost of the railroad should be raised on the credit of the Province, "provided the remaining half shall have been subscribed for by municipal corporations in this Province." As the measure was noticed in the speech from the throne, it must be obvious that it had the concurrence of all the members of the Government; and although Mr. Baldwin had resigned, he gave his cordial support to the resolutions. You will perceive that it was a mistake to convey the impression that I introduced a measure regarding municipal aid to railroads which "was not accorded the honour of being made a Government measure," and likewise that it was opposed by Mr. Baldwin, who could scarcely have exhibited "poignant signs of regret" at the success by a large majority of a measure which had met his own approbation.

F. HINCKS.

Montreal, Feb. 6th, 1885.

## THE RELATIONS OF THE PROVINCES OF THE DOMINION TO ONE ANOTHER.

To the Editor of The Week:

SIR,—Is it true, as your correspondent "G. E. M." asserted last week, that the Provinces of the Dominion know and care little about one another? Does Ontario care nothing about Nova Scotia? The relation of the Provinces one to another, and the feelings with which their various inhabitants regard one another, are matters of practical importance, and it is undesirable that exaggerated statements or mistaken apprehensions should find currency through the mediums of such an influential organ of opinion as THE WEEK. I have had some opportunity of forming a judgment with regard to such matters, and my reply to such questions as form the heading to this letter would be exactly in the opposite direction to that of your correspondent. I have no manner of doubt that Ontario does care for Nova Scotia, and that the various Provinces care as much for one another as the various States of the Union do. Let us examine the matter in detail.

The relations between the Provinces of the Dominion are three-fold, viz.: political, commercial and ecclesiastical. The last being by no means the least important, though often overlooked. Do the people of Ontario then take any interest in the people of Nova Scotia in a political sense? That they do is evident enough. Nova Scotia returns a number of members to the Parliament of the Dominion. Are these elections not watched with the keenest interest by the people of Ontario? Do not the Toronto newspapers concern themselves with the candidates that come forward, the issues that are presented, and the varying fortunes of the political struggle? There can be no doubt that these elections are watched just as closely in Toronto as are the elections of the Province of Ontario itself. If it is replied that the local politics of Nova Scotia have little or no interest for the people of Ontario a sufficient answer is that precisely the same thing is true of the various States of the Union. The people of Ohio have no interest in the local politics of Maine. It is only on the great questions that interest every part of the country that the people of the various States have any interest in common. A closer bond than that between the various States of the Union we do not want, and are never likely to get if we did. The fact of separate States having separate interests and sectional disputes does not prevent the whole forming one of the great nations and powers of the world. No more will the separate interests of our various Provinces prevent the growth of strong attachment and warm devotion to a common country in our case. The talk that we might as well love the atomic theory as the Dominion of Canada may be the conceit of a book-worm or scientist; but is certainly not the opinion of practical men of the world, or the men of business who have a stake in the country.

In these brief sentences I have not alluded to a bond which binds us, politically, as a whole to the British Empire, a bond, the strength of which may never be known until an attempt is made to break it. The silk glove may probably be found to have an iron hand beneath it, the iron hand being our own. Commercially, it is impossible for Ontario to do otherwise than care for Nova Scotia. If your correspondent were acquainted with the presidents and managers of banks in Ontario, he would find that the standing, wealth, and prosperity, or otherwise of the traders of Nova Scotia was a matter of the keenest interest to them. Where the interest is the heart is not far away. The merchants, importers, manufacturers, flour millers of Ontario, are all interested in the welfare of their numerous customers in Nova Scotia. They have constant correspondence with every part of the Province. They are well acquainted with the condition of every crop that grows on the land, every product of the numerous mines, every catch of fish from the sea, as well as the crowd of ships she sails. We are all apt to speak of things as they present themselves to

own vision. It is evident that your correspondent (like others who write on the subject in other places) is entirely unacquainted with the commercial ties that bind the business communities of Ontario and Nova Scotia together, or he could never have dreamed of saying that Ontario cares nothing for Nova Scotia.

Ecclesiastically, the bonds that unite Ontario to Nova Scotia are quite as close as the rest. All the leading churches of the Dominion embrace Ontario and Nova Scotia in a common field of operations. In the present session of the Dominion Parliament a Bill will be brought forward to ratify the last of these ecclesiastical unions that has taken place. A clergyman of any church in Ontario finds himself perfectly at home if he goes to Nova Scotia, and vice versa. When a "principal" for an Ontario University was required it was to Nova Scotia that attention was turned, and he was found in Halifax. His former congregation, in looking for a pastor, found one in Ontario. It is not needful to multiply instances. Those who are acquainted with the general course of human affairs are well aware that the meeting of men from various Provinces on equal terms in ecclesiastical assemblies is quite as potent in binding men together as the meeting in a common Parliament. All or nearly all that is written with regard to bonds between Ontario and Nova Scotia applies equally to every Province of the Dominion. Judging from my own observations, I say that a sentiment of regard for and a pride in the Dominion of Canada as a country is becoming a deeper and more potent factor in our position every year. This is especially the case with the young men who have been born and brought up in it, and upon whom our educational system, and especially our Universities, have had their full influence. And, if one may form an opinion from the closing eloquent sentence of your correspondent, I should say that this sentiment is tolerably powerful in his own breast.

One word more. It is vain to expect a time when there will be no questions or causes of difference between the different Provinces of the Dominion. There are numbers of such in the United States, even putting aside questions between the North and the South. There are such between various parts of Great Britain, and between the agricultural and manufacturing centres of England. We must learn to discuss these things like men, and not quarrel like a parcel of school-boys. A full reciprocity with the United States is advocated as a remedy for certain evils. This is a very fair subject of discussion. But it must be borne in mind that full reciprocity with the United States would not be possible without full reciprocity with Great Britain also. This would of course involve an entire abolition of our customs duties. An alarming prospect for our Finance Minister, truly. The truth is, the proposal would bring to the front at once the question of separation. One or other of two alternatives would then be before us, viz.: Independence or Annexation, both of which are legitimate subjects of discussion. But they should be discussed on their merits, and not brought in by a side issue.

G. HAGUE.

Montreal, February 4.

## WELLS OF SHEBACAS.—JAN. 19th, 1885.

"Nearly half of the men reached the river alive, and almost half the remainder found their way back, bringing water to refresh the troops and enable them to repulse the enemy."—Daily Paper.

"WATER or death!" Forever shall be chanted  
Their praise, who reached and won the silver flood  
For comrades' sake—who hewed their way undaunted,  
Bearing the treasure where each step was blood.

"Water and victory!" The psalm rises  
From thousand throats, applauding far and wide  
Valour successful. Fame's most precious prizes  
Be theirs ungrudged. But what for those who tried?

The "half" who strove yet perished unvictorious,  
Though lavish of the best they had to give—  
Whose labour's meed was death—to them inglorious,  
While others bid their comrades "drink and live":

The "half" whose courage and whose will were wasted—  
Whose uncrowned effort saw the prize unwon?  
Who poured their life-blood for that draught untasted—  
Who toiled so hard, yet left their task undone?

All honour to the victors! England's glory  
Be their reward, as theirs shall be her pride;  
But—when with swelling hearts we tell the story—  
Give more than honour to the "half" who died!

ANNIE ROTHWELL.

## ULTIMA THULE.

AFTER the terrific flash God's thunder is broken in Heaven,  
Torn from its temple of cloud and hurled on the infinite Silence;  
Shattered, it falls with a moan and drops, cliff by cliff, thro' the tempest,  
Shaking the earth with its tread as it walks to the halls of His Quiet,  
The soul of the tempest is Light; the spirit of sunshine is Shadow.

We grope for God in the darkness, and silently sometimes  
We touch His hand in the shadow, unseeing, unknowing;  
At midnight we call in our anguish aloud, and low voices  
Close walking beside us unseen answer us out of the silence:  
We turn in our fear to behold, but nothing is there save the darkness.

Constantly by us forever walks an impalpable Shadow;  
Constantly too can we feel it in everything earthly:  
In the falling of leaves in the autumn, in the rustle of vines by the window,  
In the sound of the sleet as it rattles in the rooftop over above us,  
In the cry of the tempest-blown rain as it rushes at night thro' the lindens,  
In the sad, pale faces of clouds when they glide like ghosts in the daytime,  
In the gusty cold tones of the winds as they moan in the forest at night-time,  
Moaning without in the dark with deathly, deep-desolate voices,  
As if they were souls of our dead going by to the Silence Eternal.

Where goeth thoughts shot into dark? Where goeth down blown from the thistle?  
Where lighteth the raindrops that fall when shook by God's lion, the Thunder,  
Who roars 'mong the valleys of clouds and shakes from his mane the black tempest?  
Mysteries all, and unknown as which apple will fall on the morrow,  
We grope for God in the darkness, storm-torn, in sorrow, and often  
We touch even the palm of His hand—His Hand, and clasp it unknowing.  
About us forever a filmy strange thread of the Mystic is woven  
That twines us around at the noon and crosses our pathway at even;  
Yet if we find rest in His tent, who questions the ways of the Shepherd?

CHARLES J. O'MALLEY.