

THE WEEK.

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The Week,

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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

IN our natural objection to having Toronto flooded with pauper immigrants, who have been brought up in a way which almost precludes the possibility of them ever becoming useful citizens, let us keep in view the danger of running to the absurd extreme at which our brothers to the south of us have apparently arrived. Toronto complains of a class of immigrants who wont work, preferring to live at ease upon the charity of the city; and she will do well to guard herself against such undesirable additions to the population. But from this the passage is easy to that state of mind in which all immigrants come to be looked upon with suspicion. It was not because they refused to work, but because the Caucasian inhabitants could not compete against their industry and economy, that the Chinese were denied admittance at the Golden Gates. Had they been shut out on the ground that there was no work for them in the United States, the case would have been altogether different. But no such argument was possible. We read of our forefathers doing strangely inhospitable things;—putting to death ship-wrecked strangers as natural enemies, cherishing a wholesome hatred toward all aliens, and jealously suspecting every unfamiliar face. Like characteristics may be studied now in our domestic animals. Put a strange chicken into the flock, and see with what religious unanimity the flock will set upon it, beat it and hustle it off the premises. Especially is this the case when the stranger is unfortunate enough to be possessed of some prominent peculiarity, a difference in colour, stature, or other characteristic. Of course we would not for a moment insinuate that the hoodlums of the California coast were actuated by any such primitive, not to say animal, instincts. On the contrary, it was from the most enlightened and civilized motives that they found themselves reluctantly compelled to regard the Chinaman as a nuisance. That he indulged in no extravagant excesses, and therefore could live more cheaply and work for lower wages than they could, was a small grievance alongside of the fact that he washed so shockingly seldom. His indifference to ventilation, and his capacity for packing large quantities of his kind into a ridiculously limited space, were also most offensive to the fastidious

hoodlums, who thereupon undertook to improve, expel, or annihilate the meek intruder, by the beneficent agencies of brick-bat and revolver. Now we see the same thing among the miners of Connellsville, Pennsylvania. These immaculate miners have suffered unutterable things. A number of Hungarian emigrants have come between the wind and their nobility. But it is declared that the Hungarians must go. There is no place for them on this hospitable continent. They do not display that regard for the necessities of life and dress which the Connellsville miners have been accustomed to look for in their neighbours. It is complained also that their marriage customs are confusing and irregular, and that they have even been suspected of being immoral at times. Probably no such charge could ever be urged successfully against the Connellsville miners; but the question would be irrelevant. We wish merely to call attention to a fact which intending emigrants from the old world should bear in mind. America does not care to pose any longer as a refuge for the oppressed and miserable of all nations, she no longer extends an open-handed welcome to the industrious poor, but she will permit visitors to become residents if they have made their way to her strictly by their own unaided resources, if they mean to live expensively, whether they can afford it or not, if they agree to prove neither more diligent nor more capable than the native labourer, if, above all, they are alive to the necessity of frequent and thorough ablutions. As immigrants are liable to be sent home again if they do not come up to the standard in the last mentioned respect, it would be well if the standard could be made definite. Intending immigrants could then be notified of the number of baths per month which they would be required to take; and if they considered the requirement too heavy they could remain at home. That these requirements may not be made too stringent however, before settling them finally it would be well to ascertain just how often the Connellsville miners wash themselves.

IN a late paragraph concerning the election of Mr. Carlisle to the Speakership of the American House of Representatives, we expressed our skepticism concerning the adoption of Free Trade, pure and simple, by the Democrats. A recent letter by Mr. Hewitt, in the Albany *Argus*, confirms us in our opinion. Mr. Hewitt courageously and plainly defines the position which his party either holds or should hold on the tariff question. He ascribes the present depression in the iron industry to the fact that owing to the necessities of the war much higher duties were imposed than were needed for protection. The industry was thus stimulated to an unnatural development, from which the present depression is the inevitable reaction. The lesson which Mr. Hewitt, as a practical iron manufacturer, draws from his extended experience is that the duties on iron should not be higher than the lowest that will protect the home market, in times of depression, from being glutted with foreign iron. In laying down the Democratic programme he says that reform must consist "first in freeing raw materials from all duties, and, secondly, in imposing rates of duty on manufactured products not more than sufficient to make good the difference in the amount paid for labour, in the production of any given article in this country, as compared with the amount paid for the same labour in other countries with which we compete. For this purpose the incidental protection afforded by revenue duties will, as a rule, be found sufficient when any protection is needed." Mr. Hewitt's straightforward and wholly committal statement of the doctrines of his party is in striking contrast with the utterances of other Democratic leaders, whose chief care apparently is to be non-committal; and who, if by any chance they have slipped into a definite statement, hasten to disclaim the responsibility of having meant anything serious. They are listening with all earnestness, straining their ears to catch the voice of the people's desires. But Mr. Hewitt says that "the mere politician follows public opinion; the true statesman instructs it."

IN the recent riot in Newfoundland there is furnished a warning against the policy of locating flocks of immigrants saturated with race and religious prejudice in isolated districts. The people of the "North Shore," so called, of Newfoundland, are almost entirely protestant, while along the south and west Roman Catholics predominate. To a lamentable extent among both these classes the densest ignorance prevails, and the seeds of religious hatred which both brought from the mother country have been carefully nurtured; as more than one bloody affray has attested. To the Roman