

THE WEEK.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, 1889.

\$3.00 per Annum
Single Copies, 10 Cents

Sixth Year.
Vol. VI. No. 52.

THE WEEK :

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS LITERATURE SCIENCE AND ART

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00
Subscriptions payable in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptionable in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4.00 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. 6d.; half-year, 6s. 6d. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.

No advertisements charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHER, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS—	PAGE
The New President of the Council	819
The Approaching Session	819
The Nomination in West York	819
Civil Improvement	819
"The Constitution of Canada"	820
The Harvey Case	820
"Leaving" versus Matriculation Examinations	820
Unjust Customs Regulations	820
The late Elections in the United States	820
Bismarck and Socialism	821
Emperor William's New Crown	821
The Dark Continent	821
THE ANGLICAN JUBILEE	821
ALMOST (Poem)	Stuart Livingston 822
PARIS LETTER	Z. 822
MONTREAL LETTER	Fille Marie 822
THE PROPOSED ART GALLERY	823
IN BCOTIA (Poem)	Sarepta 823
THE STUDY OF LITERATURE	W. J. Alexander, Ph. D. 823
ROMAN CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA	825
LIFE (Poem)	Colin A. Scott 825
EPHEMERA	D. R. Moore, M.D. 826
LADY DUFFERIN'S JOURNALS	826
JOHN WARD, PREACHER	Warfleck 827
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Manitoba Schools	A. B. D. 827
Why Canadians Oppose Annexation	R. 828
The "Decaying Industries" of New England	W. E. Rancy 829
TRUE TALE	829
ART NOTES	Templar 829
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA	829
OUR LIBRARY TABLE	830
LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP	830
CHESS	831

All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

IN appointing Mr. Colby to the Cabinet vacancy left by the death of Mr. Pope, the Dominion Government has made a creditable selection. The new Minister takes the position of President of the Council, the Premier himself continuing to hold the portfolio of Railways and Canals. Mr. Colby ranks high as a parliamentarian; his political record is acknowledged to be clean, and his executive abilities are undoubtedly good. He represents, as did Mr. Pope, the eastern townships of Quebec, and will be looked upon as the representative of the English-speaking people of that Province. As is well known, he opposed the disallowance of the Jesuits' Estates Act, and was, in consequence, made the object of considerable criticism in his own Province as well as in Ontario. It is improbable, however, that enough dissatisfaction exists among his constituents to offset in their minds the advantage of representation by a Cabinet Minister, and his return is not likely to be opposed. Mr. Colby's promotion leaves the Deputy Speakership unfilled, but no difficulty will be experienced in finding a member willing to assume the not very arduous duties of that position. While the Premier may not intend this appointment as a recognition of Mr. Colby's attitude on the question of disallowance, it is significant that he neither endeavoured to conciliate the Orangemen by selecting another colleague from their order, nor yielded to the importunities that are supposed to have been brought to bear in order to give Mr. Chapleau, who controls by far the larger part of Sir John's Quebec supporters, a more influential position in the Cabinet than he now fills. It is quite possible, however, that the new arrangement may prove to be merely a temporary makeshift, and that a general readjustment of portfolios may be announced at no distant day.

IT is announced that Parliament will assemble on January 16th, two weeks earlier than last year. In view of the widespread and many-sided political discussions and agitations that have taken place since prorogation, the coming

session will be looked forward to with more than usual interest. Though it is hardly likely that the Jesuits' Estates Act, which is now a matter of history, will come up for discussion in any shape, much curiosity is naturally evinced concerning the position that will be taken by Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Charlton, and others of the celebrated thirteen. The North-West resolutions, which Mr. McCarthy has announced his intention of bringing forward, will doubtless be the subject of an important debate; a resolution favouring Imperial Federation will also be on the tapis, and Sir Richard Cartwright's charges against the Government can hardly be passed over in silence. The question of our relations with the United States will in all probability be again brought forward, and it is not unlikely that the Government may have some legislative surprises in store. What rôle may be taken by Mr. Blake is also a legitimate matter for surmise. He now enjoys, we are glad to believe, a fair measure of health, and can scarcely maintain unbroken his silence of last session. His views on Commercial Union, Imperial Federation and other large questions of Canadian policy will be awaited with interest. The forthcoming session will be the fourth of the present Parliament, and if Sir John Macdonald follows what has been his practice since his return to power in 1879, it will be the last before dissolution. Until a general election takes place, we can only conjecture the extent to which recent events have loosened party bonds in Canada.

WHAT with Conservative, Liberal, Third Party men, and Equal Rights Associations, the politics of Canada, and particularly of Ontario, are just now in a state of strange upheaval. The course of events at the recent Lambton election one could understand. The candidate of the New Party struck in boldly between the other two and carried off a respectable number of votes from each, though without affecting the general result. But the later transactions in West York are decidedly puzzling. An avowed adherent of the Equal Rights movement accepts nomination by a Conservative Convention, though without abating a jot of his Equal Rights declaration of faith and purpose. More surprising still, a Conservative Convention accepts and makes unanimous the nomination of the candidate, who thus firmly takes his stand on the Equal Rights platform. We claim no right to offer advice to the leaders of the Equal Rights movement, else we should feel like asking them to consider seriously the effect of such a coalition—we have admitted that it was not a compromise—upon the future of the movement. Alliance with one of the old political parties can scarcely mean less than the alienation of adherents of the other. It is not unlikely to mean also the secession of many of the recruits hitherto enlisted from the ranks of that other party. But the prime object of the Equal Rights Association must be to influence Dominion, rather than Provincial legislation. What effect will this incident have upon the prospects of attaining that ulterior object? Does the nomination of Mr. Clendenan foreshadow the complete severance of local from Dominion politics? We are not sure that such a result should not be welcomed by all who deprecate party spirit and methods as the bane of Canadian public life. But that is too much to hope for. The agitation which gave rise to the Equal Rights organization had its origin in an Act of the Dominion Government, and seemed thereby logically shut up to a course of antagonism to the policy of that Government. It is true that the Dominion Opposition, by its support of the Government, put itself in the same position and justified the same attitude towards it on the part of the Association. A coalition of the latter with the Local Government party would have been no less illogical, and, we venture to say, no less dangerous, to the higher objects and permanent influence of the Association. We can, of course, understand the view of those who, without looking far beyond the immediate future, persuade themselves that their cause would be strengthened by the acquisition of a few seats in the Local Legislature, even at the cost of the antagonism of the local Liberal partisans. That is, to say the least, extremely doubtful. But if it were not, are not such tactics too much on a par with those of the party politicians against whose principles and methods the Equal Rights Association is supposed to be an emphatic protest?

THE number and magnitude of the projects now before the Council and citizens of Toronto are such as may well give us pause in spite of the wonderful growth and promise of the city. The reclamation of a considerable area from the waters of the lake; the great railway viaduct; the much-needed grand trunk sewer; the machinery for the proper, economical, and sanitary disposal of the sewage which is now, to the disgrace of our civilization, permitted to defile and poison the bay; the completion of the straightening of the Don; the reclamation of Ashbridge's Bay, and the proposed taking over of the Street Railway, are undertakings, all of which are, in a greater or less degree, essential to the welfare and progress of the city, and some of which are of imperative and pressing necessity. In the presence of such demands upon the wisdom, energy, and executive ability of those entrusted with the management of civic affairs, it is no wonder that a deep and growing dissatisfaction is felt in regard to the present municipal arrangements. We do not see how any thoughtful citizen can contemplate the existing state of affairs, and watch for a few weeks the way in which the public business is now transacted, without feeling that such results, or rather want of results, and the system which produces them, are a reproach to our intelligence. They seriously impeach our capacity for self-government. We do not mean to intimate that the situation of Toronto is peculiarly bad in this respect. Many American cities are, we dare say, in a worse condition. But can any one doubt that if six or eight of our most capable and reliable citizens could be placed at the head of civic affairs, with ample powers, and induced to give their whole time and energies to the service of the city, a reform almost equivalent to a renovation could be wrought with vastly less expenditure of time and money? We are not advocating a scheme, but illustrating a point. Surely it is high time that we had found out some more excellent way, and were walking in it. Some such change is perhaps among the possibilities of the future, but some of the large works referred to cannot wait. The viaduct may be considered, we suppose, as good as adopted, so far as the general principle is concerned. Meanwhile, in connection with this and the reclamation scheme one unalterable rule should, it seems to us, be laid down by and for those who have the management of civic affairs, whoever they may be. That rule, having all the force of law, should be that no landed or storage property of any kind to be reclaimed or otherwise created, shall, on any consideration, be allowed to pass out of the possession and control of the city. Every proposal to alienate any such property, by giving it into the hands of a railway or other company, should be at once frowned down. If the city cannot under present arrangements perform any great work of the kind more efficiently and economically than any private company, it is time that such reforms were wrought as may be necessary to enable it to do so. Neither the present nor the coming generation will easily forgive the man or body of men who shall alienate for the enriching of private individuals any real estate of any kind which should properly and rightfully belong to the city, and be under its immediate control.

SINCE the passage of the British North America Act in 1867 various causes have conspired to give the "Constitution of Canada" an importance that could scarcely have been at that time anticipated. At home the various differences of interpretation which have from time to time arisen, and which are even now arising in connection with events in Manitoba, and possibly in Quebec; abroad, the Irish Home Rule struggle, the fast-maturing questions of local self-government for other parts of the Empire, and now the projected federation of the Australian Colonies; these and other circumstances have turned the eyes of many to study the charter of the Canadian Confederation. The interest thus aroused has no doubt prompted and well justified the publication, at the University Press, Cambridge, of the work on "The Constitution of Canada," by Mr. J. E. C. Munro, of the Middle Temple, Professor of Law at Owens' College, Victoria University, which is now before us. Mr. Munro does not attempt in the present volume to criticize the working of the Constitution. Mr. Todd's admirable treatises on Parliamentary Government in the Colonies have, as Mr. Munro very naturally con-