

THE WEEK.

Vol. I., No. 32.

Toronto, Thursday, July 10th, 1884.

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

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The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, POLITICS, AND CRITICISM.

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

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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

AFTER a week of elaborate pleasure Toronto sits down to ruminate and review. Of the processions, perhaps the most successful was that of the school children, which was very pretty and well-managed, excited general interest, and was greeted with frequent applause. The marching past of the Volunteers was also effective as a military pageant: nothing in the way of manoeuvring of course could be attempted. In the municipal and historic procession the symbolical tableaux evidently told their tale well enough to give pleasure to the mass of the spectators; their principal object was thus attained, and fastidious criticism would be out of place. Tableaux, tasteful and really expressive, are pieces of minor art which it is very difficult to produce. Not only from rivals in this, but in all the processions, the display of the firemen bore off the palm. The long train of aldermen and ex-aldermen in hacks was not imposing, but it was in place. To Industry we owe the prosperity and beauty of this fair city; and this thought was, no doubt, vividly present to the minds of all the spectators as the Industrial procession moved along. But it was difficult to think the procession fine in itself, or to say that it worthily embodied a great idea. The effect was too much that of an interminable line of advertising vans, followed by an equally interminable train of coal carts. Nor was the brotherhood of Industry well represented. The guilds of the Middle Ages, marching under their banners, with their wardens at their head, and the brethren all following in order along the picturesque streets and up the nave of the cathedral must have spoken both to the eye and the heart with an eloquence which was wanting to our display, though ours was on a far larger scale. Length is not everything in a procession, however grand it may seem to be told that it took two hours to pass a given point. On the contrary, when the train of objects is drawn out beyond measure, unity, and with it impressiveness, is lost. Of the other entertainments, the concerts and the lacrosse match were well attended; the ball was not: the fancy dresses were too few to create a general effect, and the military uniforms failed to appear. The fireworks at the Horticultural Gardens were successful. The exhibition on the lake was happily conceived: nothing is more brilliant than fireworks and illuminated processions

on the water; but the execution proved beyond the organizing power of the Committee. The hour fixed, to give time for preceding entertainments, was also far too late. The general aspect of the city was gay, and bespoke popular interest in the jubilee. So fine a street as King Street, plentifully decked out with flags and drapery, though there was rather too much sameness of colour, could not fail to please the eye, and be thoroughly significant of public joy; but the arch, with its wretched canvas imitation of stonework, was a senseless and hideous obstruction, which did nothing but mar the view. After favouring us highly at the beginning of the festive week, the weather, by changing for the worse at the end, reminded us of the peril to which all open-air celebrations on a large scale are exposed. The cost it would be ungracious to count, if the people have had a week of genuine pleasure; but we must not learn to multiply these festivals in the belief that the money taken by some of the hotels, and perhaps by stores on the gala streets, make up for the loss of a week's work and the disorganization of industry, in addition to the direct cost of the fête. A round sum is well spent in making all citizens feel that they are members of a community, and that the city, with its wealth, its history, and its hopes is the common property and pride of all. It is a pity that in any quarter the political truce should have been broken, and the social harmony of our jubilee disturbed.

LORD SPENCER'S statesmanlike speech at Belfast the other day upon the dynamite outrages in particular, and the so-called programme of the "Nationalist Party" in Ireland in general, might with profit be printed and scattered broadcast amongst the misguided dupes on this continent who subscribe hard-earned dollars for the support of blood-thirsty Rossas and calculating Parnells. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland acknowledged, with sorrow, that there was little gratitude to be found in that country for the enormous benefits which have been showered upon it by the British Legislature during the last few years. But he showed a bold front to the demand for concessions which the Government is resolved to withhold. The position is one which is probably without parallel in history. A section of the Irish people demand separation from England in order that they may gain certain advantages. The English Government replies by granting the advantage, but refusing the separation. The response is—dynamite. Lord Spencer's rejoinder is one not possible to mistake, and will be endorsed by all Englishmen—by all honest and thoughtful men of whatever nationality. His Lordship declared that the men who are using dynamite as an argument "little know the metal of which British statesmen are made." That is an argument which has not been sufficiently urged. However widespread the ramifications of the dynamite party may be, however energetic and determined their leaders and their rank and file may show themselves, however persistent their efforts and unscrupulous their agencies, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, speaking for his colleagues as well as for himself, declares that these efforts can have only one result. They do not frighten him; they only make him more resolved. "We should be disposed to go even a step further," says the temperate-spoken *Liverpool Mercury*, commenting on the speech, "and to declare our conviction that each pound of dynamite which is exploded, that each fresh act in the scientific "warfare," renders success on the part of the Irish faction even less possible than it was before." Beyond shadow of doubt our contemporary is right.

A TORONTO daily thinks the movement in favour of Woman Suffrage must be making rapid strides in England, but does not give the data upon which the belief is founded. As a matter of fact, the reverse is the case. Our contemporary is evidently not aware that *The Queen*, the principal ladies' organ in England, and no "trimmer," proclaims distinctly against Woman Suffrage. Advocates of that movement are welcome to all the consolation they can extract from the fact that the *Saturday Review* "is scolding at the whole thing," though it is difficult to understand how such a policy on the part of a powerful and independent review can be construed to "clearly indicate that the movement advances in power and influence." A more careful reading of public utterances upon the question will show that whilst the "higher education" of women is generally recognized as an important factor in social economics, the vast weight of intelligent female and male opinion is against the entry of woman into political life.