

THE WEEK.

Fifth Year.
Vol. V., No. 7.

Toronto, Thursday, January 12th, 1888.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

The Week,

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

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 \$1 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 pre paid, 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.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS —	PAGE
The Independent Press.....	99
Increased Military Expenditure.....	99
The Veto Power in Canada.....	99
A Tribunal to decide Questions of Jurisdiction.....	99
Reciprocity of Defaulters.....	100
The Tariff Reform Struggle in the United States.....	100
Some Absurdities of Professional Etiquette.....	100
Reduction of Rents in Ireland.....	100
Industrial Training in Ireland.....	100
The Origin of Celestial Species.....	101
International Copyright.....	101
WASHINGTON LETTER.....	B. 101
TO A POET (POEM).....	A. Ethelwyn Wetherald. 102
LONDON LETTER.....	Walter Powell. 102
MONTREAL LETTER.....	Louis Lloyd. 103
THE EARTH-SPIRIT.....	J. H. Brown. 103
PROMINENT CANADIANS—HON. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE.....	Knoxonian. 104
CORRESPONDENCE—	
The Fisheries Question.....	Frank Oliver. 105
READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.....	105
OUR LIBRARY TABLE.....	107
CHESS.....	108

THE *Empire* has kindly undertaken to enlighten the public in regard to the "real difference" between the independent press and the party organ. That difference is, we are told, that "the former, as a rule, represents the wishes of a few persons, while the latter gives voice to the hopes and convictions and wishes of the masses." By "the masses," we learn from another paragraph, is meant "the majority of the people." The *Empire* calls it the "great" majority, conveniently forgetting that the party majority is as likely to be small as great, and that its criterion must apply in either case. This conception of the office of a public journal has at least the merit of simplicity. We have no doubt that the *Empire* would claim, equally with the independent journals, that it is set for the defence of the truth. "What is truth?" is a question that has perplexed the wise in all ages, but with the exception of members of the infallible Church who are favoured with authoritative decisions as required, few inquirers have the advantage of so simple a means of decision as the party organ. Herein lies its great advantage. Whereas the independent press is always liable to have its opinions modified by better light or fuller reflection, the stability of the organ's creed is assured. It has only to watch the division lists in Parliament, and pin its convictions to the sleeve of the leader of the Government. Whether the *Empire* is prepared to follow its confession of faith to its legitimate issue, in case of a change taking place in the Government, that is, in the majority, we are not informed. Supposing, for mere argument's sake, that Commercial Union, or Free Trade, or some other party "fad" should secure a majority for the Liberals at the next election, would the *Empire* feel in duty bound to invert its political views, in order still to represent the majority, or, in other words of its own, to be "guided by principle?" We do not suppose we should move our contemporary from its fixed base, ballasted as it is with the dead weight of a solid majority, by reminding it that most great reforms in politics and society have originated with an independent few, who could not at the outset have elected a single representative to Parliament. But when it proceeds to pile a Pelion upon the Ossa of its argument by declaring that "the people will have nothing to do with 'independents,'" we may be pardoned for asking what it was, if not the independent vote, at the last Presidential election, which gave to the United States the best Administration it has had since the days of the Rebellion.

By what may probably be regarded as a semi-official announcement, a considerable increase in the militia expenditure is foreshadowed, as a part of the Government programme for the approaching session of the Dominion Parliament. It is possible that the necessity for such increase may be satisfactorily shown. It may be indispensable, for instance, in order to secure the best results from the considerable amount already expended. But the sober sentiment of the Canadian people will, it may be safely predicted, shrink from any considerable increase of expenditure for any unproductive purpose. The national relations of the Dominion do not demand, its financial condition will not warrant, any such outlay. We, as a people, have neither need nor inclination to cultivate the military spirit, or to lay heavy burdens upon productive industry in order to provide large sums for unproductive uses. The nations of Europe at the present moment present a spectacle which should be a lesson to all the world. Even Great Britain herself is expending every year upon her armaments a sum a tithe of which devoted to useful public works would provide permanent employment for the vast army of the unemployed who now threaten the peace of the great cities. A writer in the *Contemporary Review*, dealing with the terrible problem of London's destitute thousands, points out that if only the money were forthcoming, profitable employment could at once be found for 100,000 in the vicinity of London alone. In the demolition of slums, the erection of dwellings for artisans, the construction of cheap baths, the extension of the sewage system, the reclamation and drainage of the Thames marshes and flats, works of the highest utility to the city and the nation might be carried on, and at the same time tens of thousands of deserving men and women be rescued from direst want. But there is no money for such uses, although the Ministers of the Crown could in a few hours raise ten millions for war purposes. Canada most certainly needs all her capital for the development of her resources, the employment of her people, and the payment of her debts, and Canadians will be very short-sighted if they permit any military ambitions to betray them into permitting the thin edge of the wedge to be entered, to make way for a standing army of any dimensions.

COMMENTING on the discussion which will probably soon take place in the Ontario Legislature, in regard to that resolution of the Inter-Provincial Conference which proposes to transfer the veto power from the Dominion to the British Privy Council, the *Mail* quotes the prediction of Mr. Joly, in the Debate on Confederation, that the prerogative in the hands of a partisan Canadian Government would "become an intolerable nuisance," as an instance of remarkable political sagacity. Mr. Joly was not alone in foreseeing the evil. In the same debate, Hon. Christopher Duncan, a strong Conservative, in the course of one of the ablest speeches ever delivered in a Canadian Parliament, referred to this weak spot in the Confederation compact in the following terms: "We have not even an intelligible statement as to what powers are to be exercised by the general, and what by the local legislatures and governments. Several subjects are specifically given to both; many others are confusedly left between them; and there is the strange and anomalous provision that not only can the general Government disallow the acts of the Provincial Legislatures, and control and hamper and fetter Provincial action in more ways than one, but that wherever any Federal legislation contravenes, or in any way clashes with Provincial legislation, as to any matter at all common between them, such Federal legislation shall over-ride it, and take its place. It is not too much to say that a continuance of such a system for any length of time without serious clashing is absolutely impossible." This prediction has, it must be confessed, been but too well verified. The perpetuation of the unseemly struggles between the central and the local governments cannot be too strongly deprecated. The wisdom of our statesmen should surely be equal to the task of devising some means of putting an end to disputes which, otherwise, are pretty sure to culminate not only in disgrace but in calamity.

WHETHER, however, the plan proposed by the late Conference of Provincial ministers is the best, or even a desirable mode of solving the problem, is open to serious question. To ordinary thinking it seems to be grossly inconsistent with the very idea of Federal union, or, indeed, union of any kind between the Provinces. If a central government is to exist at