

Local Legislature and has retained unimpaired his oratorical ability.

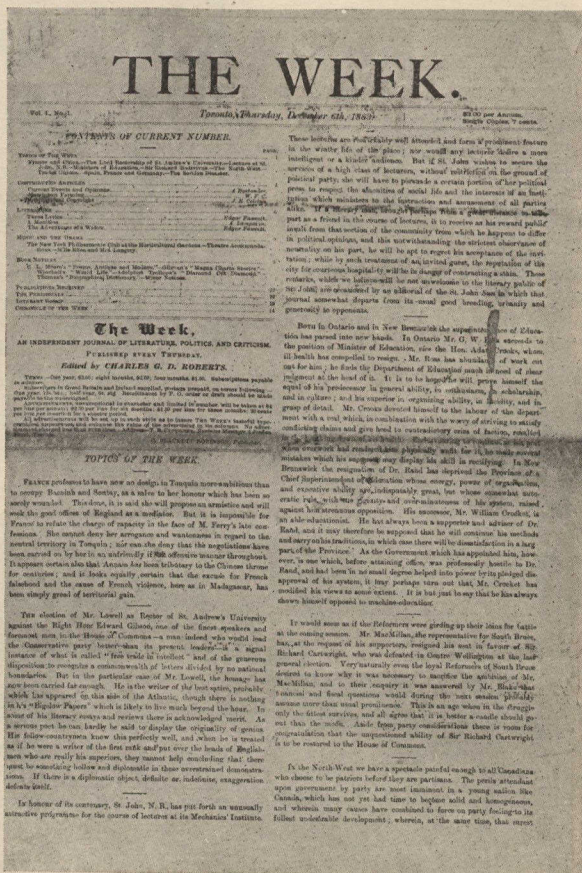
In "Current Events and Opinions," reference is made to the celebration of Evacuation Day at New York, on which occasion in 1883, the orator was Mr. George W. Curtis. This comment is characteristic of "A Bystander's" historic sense. "But the best of Revolution orators has now to squeeze an orange which has been squeezed by a hundred orators before, and which, to tell the truth, never was over full of juice; for the heroism of the American Revolution was not unlimited: it fell very far short of that displayed by the Dutch in their sixty years' struggle against Spain."

There are articles on "Manitoba Farming" and "International Copyright" and a serial story, "The Adventures of a Widow," by Edgar Fawcett, then a popular novelist. There is an exquisite bit of poetry by "A. Lampman," for "The Week" made an effort to encourage Canadian poets, and in its columns many fragments of worthy verse are found. In "Music and the Drama," we are informed of the recent appearance of Mlle. Rhea and Mrs. Langtry in Toronto. The writer of "Literary Gossip" announces that Mr. Matthew Arnold will visit the principal Canadian cities during the months of February and March. There is one item that is amusing to the modern reader, "Mr. W. D. Howells is as indefatigable, almost, as the marvellously prolific Mr. F. Marion Crawford." More than twenty years ago, the author of "Mr. Isaacs" was called prolific. Just last month, the novel, "A Lady of Rome," showed that he is industrious as ever, but we should be afraid to number the volume.

"The Week," an "independent journal of Literature, Politics and Criticism," was in existence for about a decade, and exerted a healthy and stimulating influence in Canadian journalism. Its editor, Mr. Charles G. D. Roberts, has been for several years a resident of New York, where his literary work has met with gratifying appreciation. "A Bystander," full of years and honours, still dispenses the hospitality of "The Grange," and delights Canadian audiences with those addresses, so chaste in literary expression, so admirably liberal in spirit. To appreciate our debt to Mr. Goldwin Smith, it is necessary to know something of the "Current Events and Opinions," which, to quote Ian MacLaren, made "gran' feeding" for the readers of "The Week."

The growth of national feeling during the last ten years has been very marked and, while indulging in no idle rhetoric about this being Canada's century, we are

confident that the year 1920 will see a country undreamed of by the pioneers. That we may not confuse bigness with greatness and dollars with development is the petition that the Canadian of to-day needs to offer.



Facsimile first page of
"The Week," Dec. 6th, 1883

As a great English lecturer said of the Canada of 1875—
"May no Marius ever sit amid the ruins of a promise
so fair!"

CANADIENNE.

A Municipal Democracy

IN modern life one hears a great deal about the problems of the Twentieth Century city and the apparent hopelessness of solving them. But in an article, "London: A Municipal Democracy," Mr. Frederic C. Howe explains to the readers of Scribner's Magazine how the greatest city in the world is making progress towards cleanliness and comfort. We are reminded in the first place: "London is not a city—London is a place—a place where the world-wide empire of Great Britain and, in a sense, all mankind converge. Men live in closer association here than anywhere else in the world. It is not a city in the eyes of the law. It is a county. And its governing body is called a county council."

The powers of the Council are thus defined: "The Council has control of the main sewerage; the protection of the community from fires; the building and maintenance of bridges and ferries; the control of the means of transit on the streets; the street improvements; asylums; housing; parks and open spaces. It has large control over education, and enjoys many lesser powers. It is the County Council that is making of London a city."

"It is the London County Council that inspires the affection of the Londoner. There are some men who are beginning to love London. Not as Lamb, Johnson and Goldsmith loved London, not as the world which gathers there loves it, but as the burghers of the free cities of old Germany, or the people of Florence in the days of her greatness loved their cities. It is a big body, is the Council. It contains 118 men."

"The Council knows no politics—at least its politics bears no national names. The Progressive programme included the clearing away of disease-breeding slums and the erection of fine model dwellings owned by the Council

and rented to the occupants at a reasonable charge. It included the ownership and operation of the tramways and their extension into a splendid system, as well as a new municipal steamboat service on the Thames. The taxation of land values is the next step in the Council's policy. The improvement of the port of London, the municipalisation of the water-supply, the widening of many thoroughfares, the completion of a main drainage scheme, the opening up of small parks and open spaces, the promotion of temperance and of education, the betterment of the condition of municipal employees and the development of the Works Department, for the doing of all public work without the intervention of the contractor, are some of the other things the Council is doing."

"The Council itself bids upon all work, and if its proposal is the lowest, it secures the job as would any other contractor. It has shortened the hours of labour and pays the trade-union rate of wages."

In the matter of transit much is being accomplished. "To the south of the Thames forty-six miles of track have been laid which converge on the river about the heart of the city. Forty-eight miles are also owned to the north of the Thames."

The Canadian reader of modern investigations turns eagerly to such information as this: "There is only one way to kill graft, and that is to absorb within the sphere of municipal ownership these public franchises that are a fruitful source of jobbery and robbery. * * * There is no incentive to making money out of a franchise when the public itself owns the public utility."

This article, after reciting what the Council has done, justifiably concludes with the statement: "The London of to-morrow is as full of hope as the London of to-day is full of misery."