

administrative work of organization could be done, and these were at once assembled in the vicinity of Washington and other suitable places contiguous to the seats of war, East and West, and industriously employed in learning the duties of military life, from squad drill to the grand manoeuvres of entire divisions. Frequent inspections and reviews promoted the *esprit de corps* of the troops, and a series of general orders, promulgating and reviewing the proceedings of the numerous courts-martial indispensable to the discipline of the crude mass constituting the army, served the double purpose of control and instruction in respect of men so lately called from the looser habits of civil life. Expeditionary forces seized and occupied favourable strategic points on the Southern coast, without violence to the policy of conciliation or the plan of an ultimate combined advance.

Except as it might bear upon the question of the professional standing of General McClellan (which is a matter that can only especially concern his immediate friends or military critics and instructors), it would be idle to stop to consider now whether the plan outlined would have succeeded had it been carried forward to execution. The attempt to execute it required a fulness of time and an absolute initiative which did not remain to the General-in-Chief long enough to test the qualities of his strategy. His government compelled him to premature movement and to the execution of a military policy which did not command his confidence. In this President Lincoln was possibly right and possibly wrong; much is to be said in support of either view, but not now or herein. As for General McClellan, he would have been completely justified in throwing up his command, upon patriotic equally with logical grounds. That he did not do so indicates an unconscious lack of confidence in himself that showed itself afterwards in his indecisive movements against and combats with the enemy. He saw that the "forward" party were in control of the Government, and he feared that his retirement might close instead of renewing a career so full of high fortune and promise thitherto. He permitted himself to be made a puppet in hands that he believed to be incapable, and from the moment of his decision his fate can be seen to have been inevitable. Nearly fifteen years afterward Mr. Bristow, Secretary of the Treasury under President Grant, lost the successful nomination to the Presidency by a similar error of judgment, and was similarly destroyed by the hands into which he had delivered himself.

If General McClellan had been permitted to carry out his own plans it is probable that he would have succeeded in ending the rebellion without the necessity of subjecting himself to the test which he was least fitted to endure—the direct command of large forces on the actual field of battle. Had he refused to lend himself to the execution of designs which he believed from the first to be impracticable it seems probable, from all that we know, that he would have been recalled to the head of the army under circumstances which would have made him truly independent, and he would then have had a full and fair opportunity to reap the imperishable renown which, missing Halleck and Burnside and Hooker and Rosecrans and Meade, settled upon the unsuspected brow of Grant.

But however the things that were might have been, we may feel assured that when this country has grown old enough to value its past, the memory of the true soldier and gentleman that has just passed away will not fail of high appreciation. B.

### HERE AND THERE.

OTTAWA, it is said, is about to "steal" the Montreal Carnival. If, as is feared, the small-pox-afflicted city will not be able to shake itself free of the dread epidemic before Carnivaltide, by all means let us wish success to the Capital in its endeavours to amuse winter visitors and to induce them to circulate their shekels. It is too late now to object to such entertainments as a reflection upon the climate. Canada is known as an arctic country by her southern neighbours, and she may as well philosophically pocket with the reputation the dollars which in this way it brings.

THE present occupant of the post is yet to be heard from: otherwise it seems to be generally accepted that "ere long" the office of Chief Constable in Toronto will become vacant. Whatever may be thought of Major Draper as an administrator, every one will regret that failing health should have rendered his retirement a possibility, if not a necessity. Whether the date of his resignation be near or remote, it will be in order to discuss the question of a successor. The growth of Toronto is so rapid, and its police requirements are growing so swiftly that none other than an experienced officer should be put in command of her guardians of the peace. The applications of amateurs should not be encouraged, nor, let us hope, will the appointment be made a reward for political services. Competent judges declare that the right man may be found amongst the present chief's lieutenants. Others are of opinion that only by the selection of some one not of the city can an incoming chief keep clear of cabals and avoid the suspicion of favouritism. With the latter, Chief Stewart, of Hamilton, is *persona grata*, and without prejudice to the claims of others it is to be said of that gentleman that our neighbours of the Ambitious City have paid him the great compliment of objecting to part with him. He is said to be possessed of that *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re*, which are so essential in a Chief of Police. Meanwhile it may be hoped that, relieved of the onerous duties attaching to the office, Major Draper will soon be restored to health and strength.

If Mesdames Gowanlock and Delaney, whose experiences in the recent Rebellion have just been published in volume form, may be taken as voicing the general white opinion of the Indian, it is not difficult to understand that there must be danger wherever the two races come in contact. Loath-

ing and contempt, such as is freely expressed in their joint "Two Months in the Camp of Big Bear," must inevitably at times have demonstrated themselves, and just as necessarily engendered hatred and scorn in the untutored breast. It is no doubt quite true that a few years of instruction at the hands of their conquerors have failed to civilize a people who for centuries lived a savage life; the evidence is only too irrefragable that as yet Christianity has not marked the red man for her own; but it is not quite so certain that the fault lies altogether with the aborigines. Have there been no shortcomings on the part of those who now squat on the erstwhile hunting-ground of the Indian? Has justice ever been dealt out with blind impartiality? Have the wrongs all been inflicted by Indians? Have that charity and that truthfulness which missionaries have declared to be the very foundation of the Great Mother's religion ever characterized the dealings of white settlers with their red customers? If they have not, then is the responsibility for occasional Indian outbreaks not rightly apportioned when it is put solely upon the shoulders of the red man. Through all the pitiable narrative told by the ladies who suffered so severely in the North-West it is apparent that the white man's eyes are more widely open to the vices and ineptitude of the Indian than to his present good points or future possibilities.

THAT Mr. James Macdonald Oxley, of Ottawa, is one of our most graceful Canadian writers readers of THE WEEK know; that his abilities are winning generous recognition from our neighbours they will join us in applauding. The following appeared in the last issue of *Chicago Life*:—"James Macdonald Oxley, of Ottawa, is one of the rising writers of Canada. He was born at Halifax, Nova Scotia, October 22, 1855. He graduated B.A., Dalhousie University, in 1874, and LL.B., Halifax University, in 1878. Was a leader writer on the *Halifax Herald* in 1876. He was admitted to the Bar of Nova Scotia in 1878, contributing occasionally to the daily press. His first contribution to a magazine was an article on "Abandonment," published in the *American Law Review*, St. Louis, for July and August, 1883. He has since contributed "The Canadian Capital," and "The Friend of the Dyak," to *The Continent*; "Reporting in Parliament," and "The British Association," to THE WEEK, of Toronto; "Facial Revealment," and "An Unappreciated Work," to *The Current*; "The Premier of Canada," in *Lippincott's*; "The Mediterranean of Canada," in *Popular Science Monthly*; "Convictions vs. Opinions," *Canadian Methodist Magazine*; "Camping Out at Cole Harbour," THE WEEK; all of which show wide observation, careful arrangement of materials and great skill as a writer, particularly in descriptive work. He has at present accepted MSS. with *Outing* and *Wide-Awake*, besides two articles, accepted in advance, but not yet finished. Mr. Oxley at present fills the position of Canadian Legal Adviser to the Marine Department, Ottawa."

THERE were twenty-four failures in Canada reported to Bradstreet's during the past week, against twenty-one in the preceding week, and thirty-two, thirty-two and twenty-two in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882, respectively. In the United States there were one hundred and fifty-six failures reported during the week as compared with one hundred and seventy in the preceding week, and with one hundred and sixty-six, two hundred and nineteen and one hundred and forty-nine, respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About eighty-six per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000.

WITH remarkable unanimity the disgraceful maltreatment of a dissecting-room "subject" on Hallowe'en in Toronto was laid at the doors of local medical students, one professedly comic journal even going so far as to give an imaginary portrait of the culprit. Although the perpetrators of the outrage were found in quite another direction, the "med" has earned for himself so bad a name the world over that no surprise can be felt that his order was in this instance wrongfully blamed. He is popularly supposed to be capable of any enormity, and to be endowed with powers of skylarking which no other class of youth possesses. It is difficult to assign a reason for the fact, for fact it is, that young men who are studying a profession which has constantly before it the ills of humanity, and who are also continually viewing disease and death in their most depressing forms, should exhibit such wonderful spirits. Perhaps it is only a kind compensating Providence that provides them with this exuberant jollity, or their studies would be too much for them. But there is no doubt about it, that when released from the operating theatre, the lecture hall, or the dissecting room, they so often disgrace themselves that their title to the name of gentlemen becomes doubtful. It must have been an idea of this sort which was floating in the mind of a newspaper reporter when, in giving an account of a recent case in which a young Irishman was charged with marrying a Ward in Chancery without the sanction of the Court, he says that the prisoner was "described on the charge-sheet as a gentleman, but stated to be also a medical student." Oh, the sting of that *but*. "But me no buts," says Shakespeare. Medical men are acknowledged to be gentlemen, yet in the embryo stage of studentship, landladies, keepers of restaurants, managers of promenade concerts, and bobbies, know from a painful experience that there is a great deal of hidden meaning in the words "but also" a medical student.

THE Springfield *Republican* thinks that if the celebration of the fourth centenary of America is not a success it will not be the fault of that devoted Italian, Chevalier Baldi. For twenty years the Chevalier has carried about in his breast a great secret, but now for the express purpose