

"GOSSIP"

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— BY —
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NOTICE.

Subscribers who do not receive their papers punctually would oblige by dropping us a line at once.

We shall shortly offer inducements to those getting up clubs. Our circulation is now increasing so rapidly that we shall be able to add many new and interesting features to the paper.

PRIZE HISTORY QUESTIONS.

We have in course of preparation a series of Questions on Canadian History, which will be very interesting.

The competition will be open only to subscribers.

AGENTS WANTED.

Terms to Agents will be given on application.

Contributions received later than Wednesday cannot be certain of insertion.

Subscribers would oblige by remitting punctually to save us the expense of collectors.

The Week, when it chooses can write as well against as for a question; but the happy trick of writing well does not constitute argument. To say that Herat is not in any way the key of India is to directly insult the best intelligence of ancient and modern authorities on Central Asian politics. Sir Henry Rodes Green, K.C.S.I., is the only authority the *Week* mentions in support of its historically untrue assertion; but the glorious fact of being a Major-General does not entitle Sir H. R. Green to demolish such men as Lord Houghton, Sir H. Rawlinson, and Vambéry, all of whom are thoroughly convinced of the great importance of Herat as the key of India. The *Week* has no reasons, outside the general statement of Sir H. R. Green, to adduce in support of its untenable assertion. From economic, ethnical and military grounds Herat is the most important position in Afghanistan from an Indian outlook. It has a population of over one million. It has been the great centralizing point of Indian invaders in the past, and a

constant source of trouble to the Afghan Ameer in modern times. Russian travellers and military commanders have justly estimated Herat to be the most important position in Central Asia, and Russian diplomats are doing all in their power to gain its possession. Such a loss to Afghanistan would place in jeopardy the Indian North-West, but the *Week* does not believe it on account of a fanciful Jingo ring in the assertion.

The Week, in attempting to play the middle man between Lord Melgund and Colonel Otter is like the unfortunate party between two stools. The astute writer wishes to show that the Indians, although they had committed depredations, had not gone upon the war path against us on their own account. They had merely joined the half-breeds, and therefore should not be regarded as belligerents. They had massacred a few people, and taken away white women to a fate yet doubtful enough to excite our greatest anxieties; yet to engage in hostilities with them would be absurd. There is nonsense, and nonsense only in this style of writing. If the *Week* means to sympathize with Poundmaker and his horde of ignorant and irresponsible savages, let it declare its policy at once. It cannot play Indian and Canadian at the same time.

In answer to the *Week's* usual raving against Imperial Federation, we would ask whether any practical plan has ever been evolved from the womb of political thought which was not preceded by a vague idea of its desirability? Is not necessity the mother of invention? It is something gained if the *Week* endorses the *Scottish Review's* opinion that with the vague idea of the necessity of Imperial Federation, the plan of practicability will come in due time. *Festina lente*. It will be better for not being hatched too soon. The *Week's* opposition is a sure sign that it is dreaded in the political minority which delights in belittling the British Empire and insulting its monarch.

The Week is not exactly correct in its opinion "that the scientific spirit as it gains ground will extend its influence to the political sphere and bring the irrational violence more under the control of reason." The scientific debate is not of so pacific a nature as the *Week* wishes to suggest. Darwin had to submit to the most indelicate ridicule at the hands of many of his opponents. I have heard the most heated discussions at London scientific societies occasion the use of personalities between theorists, which might have occurred in the political arena of verbose vulgarity. Party is as much represented among scientists as among politicians and unless a man can sink his own individuality and that of his opponents, he will as certainly become vituperative over an anthropological theory as a political question. Human nature is much the same everywhere.

The Week is again in error when it tries to undervalue the power of the London press in English affairs. The leading London dailies are scattered all over England during the same

day, and are the recognized voice of the nation in foreign lands. The Northern and Western papers, which have a certain influence, with the inhabitants of certain sections through the record of local items of interest, have no more to do with the moulding of public opinion at large than has the Scottish American with the voters at Canadian Elections. Jingoism is asserted by the *Week* to be the special product of the London Clubs and Music Halls. How little the erudite writer knows of his subject. Jingoism is the patriotic sentiment of an angered nation, and its resolutions are recorded in every large city and town in England, and taken into the villages by the rustic visitors on their return. The *Week* should confine itself to matters which it understands and not meddle with subjects which ignorance cannot turn to an adverse use even by the most ingenious argument.

America is to be visited by the 13 year and 17 year locusts this summer. It has been ascertained that these insects remain for the period which gives them their respective names underground in a state of larvæ, and has a very gradual development. A record of their devastating performances has been kept since 1715; but no means has been yet discovered to exterminate the voracious visitors.

The Queen of Germany has acted nobly in the interests of humanity by offering a prize of \$1,000 and a gold medal for the best model of a moveable ambulance barracks, suitable for the battle field or for epidemics. The regulations for the competition are well drawn up and the models sent in will be shown at the Antwerp Exhibition, September 10-20, 1885.

It may be interesting to our cricketers and baseball players to know that a ball struck at an angle of twenty three degrees is projected the greatest distance, the projecting power being the same at all angles. This might be also useful to prize-fighters and wife-beaters.

The agriculture of Japan affords a curious piece of instruction. Owing to the volcanic formation of the islands, the entire arable land is estimated at only 11,215,000 acres and this feeds 37,000,000 people. Rice is a leading cereal; but wheat, barley, beans, potatoes, etc., are raised in good quantity. The implements used are primitive; but steam plows are finding their way with other modern improvements. The irrigation is in most instances artificial, owing to the nature of the land.

Now that Canada has the Indian question again forced upon her by a rebellion, it would be well if her Statesmen would practically solve the problem. The Indians who have left their reserves to join the Metis should not be allowed to re-occupy them. Their land should be confiscated and their rights and privileges