

THE WEEK.

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Contents.

	PAGE.
CURRENT TOPICS.....	1135
LEADERS—	
Love of Country.....	1162
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
An Appreciation of Hall Caine.....	Bernard McEwen, 1162
The Government and the Judgment.....	A. E., 1164
At Street Corners.....	Diogenes, 1166
Parisian Affairs.....	Z., 1166
Montreal Affairs.....	1167
Music and the Drama.....	H. O. Forsyth, C. E. Saunders, 1168
Art Notes.....	E. W. Grier, 1169
POETRY—	
Peter's Sonnets.....	Robert Betchworth, 1162
BOOKS—	
A Notable Book.....	S. A. Carson, 1170
The Catholic Church in the Niagara Peninsula 1826-1895.....	Mary Agnes FitzGibbon, 1171
Life and Work of Mr. Gladstone.....	Nicholas Flood Davis, 1171
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....	
Delenda est Carthago.....	H. J. Wickham, 1172
"An Assumption of the Opponents of Separate Schools" Answered.....	Rev. Charles Duff, M.A., 1172

Current Topics.

Chateauguay Monument.

The unveiling of the monument at Chateauguay was a most interesting ceremony. The abstract propriety of erecting memorials of by-gone struggles for national independence should not require argument. In this instance of the Battle of Chateauguay some lasting tribute is peculiarly desirable as it calls to mind the devotion of the French Canadians to a rule to which they might naturally have seemed opposed. British institutions and British laws must have proved satisfactory when French-speaking Canadians were found ready to die in their defence. Long may it be so and long may the descendants of the men who fought under Montcalm and De Lévis stand shoulder to shoulder with the sons of sturdy John Bull, steadfast Sandy, and gallant Pat in defence of Canada the Fair. It must not be forgotten also that at Chateauguay the Glengarry Highlanders had an ample share in the victory. This fact clearly appeared from the correspondence published last summer between the descendants of De Salaberry and Macdonell. The recognition of De Salaberry so generously insisted upon by Macdonell forms a glorious page in our history. The march, or rather the advance of Macdonell's regiment from Glengarry to Chateauguay was one of the most brilliant achievements ever performed on this continent. A full recognition by the French Canadians of Macdonell's assistance to De Salaberry in the hour of danger would be the very tribute that hero himself, were he alive, would most insist upon. Both were gentlemen and each would claim no preference over the other.

The Conservative Campaign.

Mr. Sam Hunter's cartoon in yesterday's Toronto World depicted Mr. Laurier as a professor looking over a wall at his own statue, carved in the best Greek style, which is mounted on a lofty pedestal on which is inscribed "Laurier: The sweet singer of sweet nothings." Rushing toward the statue are Messrs. Foster, Haggart, Caron, Montague, and Ouimet arrayed as university students, and with the evident intention of

painting the statue red, much to the concern of the "Professor." But the "students" did not turn out in force at Owen Sound on Hallowe'en, and the red paint pot was not used. The Board of Trade banquet was a love feast. But the red paint pot, it is said, will come into play to-night, at London, when the keynote of the campaign will be sounded. If the Conservative leaders are greeted in their tour as enthusiastically as Mr. Laurier was in his, which is more than probable, it will be difficult to know what the people themselves really think with regard to the important questions discussed. Perhaps they do not know what to think.

Mr. White's Resignation.

Mr. Robert S. White has issued an address to the electors of Cardwell explaining the reasons that induced him to resign his seat in the House of Commons. His reasons, which are eminently honourable, were pretty well known before the publication of this address—which is a model one in every respect. At the time of the elections of 1891 he promised the people of Cardwell to withdraw his confidence from the Government in the event of the then recently enacted school legislation of Manitoba being made the subject of disallowance by the Dominion Government. To-day the question is in a different position, its circumstances have altered, and he is unwilling to await the events of the approaching session of Parliament with his hands tied by his pledge of 1891. In alluding to the Montreal collectorship, with which his name has been coupled, Mr. White says that his resignation will relieve the Government of any embarrassment his presence in Parliament may have caused in naming a collector for the port of Montreal. It is greatly to be regretted that Mr. White will no longer be in Parliament. His loss will be severely felt.

The Fall of the Ribot Ministry.

The French have just seen the fall of the thirty-third Ministry since the establishment of the Republic. The ostensible reason for the defeat of M. Ribot is his refusal to investigate certain railway scandals. Scandals and republicanism seem to go hand in hand in France. Under the Empire there was much scoundrelism, but the paternal care of the Government kept the news from the public. Now, it is brought into the light of day. Perhaps the evil may bring its own cure. But financial scandals are the least evil the Republic has to face. There are signs that the alliance between Papal Rome and Republican France will not last. How they can live in harmony it is difficult to see. One is atheistical and effervescent, the other is Rome *semper eadem*. If the Duke of Orleans played his cards properly the whole ecclesiastical influence would be at his back. But he seems to have alienated even his own friends by his imbecile arrogance. It is a curious defect, that of the Orleans Royal Family as well as of the Bourbon branch. The old Regent seems to live again in the present Duke. Heredity has its bad consequences as well as its good. Meantime the Republic staggers on.