

Now, there is a divinity which doth hedge a judge and prevents ordinary mortals from criticising him as freely as ordinary citizens are criticized. The courts, we admit and urge, must be kept free from public animadversion as far as possible. But there are limits to this doctrine. The limit is that law of self-preservation which society lays down as its first essential. If judges are never to be criticized, never to be told when they are wrong, we had better petition heaven to send us angels and archangels to judge us. As long as we have men for judges they must be fallible. If they make mistakes, the sense of the community must put them right. On one point certainly the judge was wrong if he was correctly reported. He is said to have said, and it is one of the objections of the Crown Counsel that "*the prisoners' mouths were closed*," that is, "*that they could not speak for themselves*." The very contrary is now the case. Prisoners can give evidence on their own behalf. They cannot be compelled to give evidence for themselves or against themselves. If they choose to give evidence for themselves they become liable to cross-examination like any other witness. The Act says that if they do not choose to give evidence it shall not be commented upon, that is all. The jury, who are the sole judges of fact, can, if they choose in deciding upon the case, bear in mind the fact that the accused have not given evidence. That is their business. Judge Ferguson's well-known ability in civil cases, and his infinite painstaking, and sincere desire to do justice, are universally acknowledged and it is only a conviction that a serious blow has been dealt to the bulwarks of society which impels us to write as we do. We understand that the case reserved asked for by the Crown has to go before the Attorney-General for his leave before it can be argued before the Court of Appeal. We trust that the leave will be granted on public grounds and we feel that we would be deficient in our duty as public journalists if we did not call attention to what we can only regard as a failure of justice. It would seem as if the judges of the Chancery Division should not be assigned to try criminal cases. It requires a totally different class of mind to construe a will or declare a trust from that which takes a sturdy common-sense view that the technical rules of evidence can be strained too far in favour of a prisoner as well as against him.

There are one or two other points about this case which require attention. The coroner who admitted that he said, as he states, jocularly to a brother physician that there was money in it for the defence, should be removed. He is a Crown officer and should have chosen his duty according to his oath of office.

The presence of women at a criminal court when men are on trial for their lives seems to us odious. If they will go there and claim the same rights as men it is well that they should know how their conduct is regarded. The women who would go to hear a murder trial would go to see a gladiator dying in the arena, or a Spanish bull fight with its attendant horrors. We hoped that our Canadian women had kept clear of the up-to-date heartlessness of the new woman. We trust that they will not be seen again at murder trials. If any are seen there there will be more than a suspicion of gold hair and painted faces. It is painful to have to allude to this feature of the trial, but if not checked there will next be introduced here the American custom of bouquets for the prisoners, and female visitors at the gaol. There must be none of that nonsense here. It is foreign to our notions of what is right. The public must understand that a court of law is not a flower show or a fancy fair and no Canadian court should be made the vehicle for pandering to morbid unfeminine curiosity.

Appreciation.

THE WEEK IN ITS TEENS.

With the issue of yesterday THE WEEK opens its thirteenth volume, twelve years having elapsed since it was started here. Appropriately enough the leader of the number is devoted to "Ourselves," and contains a moderately-expressed statement of THE WEEK's claims as an independent paper, whose non-partizanship makes for it a place in the country, and of its aim of developing Canadian talent and fostering Canadian national spirit. Its declaration of its policy and of its hopes for the future is very well put indeed. The number itself is a good one. Principal Grant contributes the second instalment of his "Cost and Profit of Canadian Liberty," the most striking feature of which is his explicit declaration that a more efficient militia should be maintained in Canada, and the first instalment is given of Mr. Hampden Burnham's "The Socialism of To-day." The rest of the paper is well up to the high standard which THE WEEK has always maintained.—*Toronto Globe*.

With the current number that excellent journal, THE WEEK, begins its thirteenth year of publication and takes advantage of the occasion to indulge in a few pardonable remarks concerning itself. THE WEEK occupies an enviable position as Canada's only high-class literary weekly, and it is satisfactory to learn that it is making steady progress not only in the estimation of Canadians, but with reading and thinking people everywhere. Its absolute independence and the spirit of fairness which characterizes its discussion of men and measures are not the least admirable of its qualities.—*Hamilton Herald*.

The Toronto WEEK has now entered on the thirteenth year of its publication, and takes advantage of the occasion to "point with pride" to its record and present position. THE WEEK occupies a position in Canada somewhat similar to that of the London Spectator in England, and the New York Nation in the United States. It has always been fair and independent, and it is now able and interesting as well. We are glad to learn of its continued success.—*Ottawa Citizen*.

The Toronto WEEK entered on its thirteenth year of publication this week. It is a national journal which commands attention abroad as well as at home, and its contributors are among the leaders of thought in the Dominion.—*London Advertiser*.

With the last number THE WEEK, published by the Week Publishing Co., Toronto, entered on the 13th year of publication. We are glad to know that as it grows in years its reputation as a first-class journal continues to increase, and that its prosperity is now thoroughly established. It has never stood so high in the opinion of Canadians as it does to-day, while abroad it is now recognized as a national journal, expressing the educated and independent thought of the Dominion. This is a high position to attain, and it has only been secured by years of patient labour, the employment of first-class talent and the contributions of able writers from all parts of the country. It discusses all political questions from an independent standpoint, and is thus able to deal with these with more freedom than the strictly party papers. This in itself is a feature which no doubt is agreeable to many who do not take any strong sides with either of the two great political parties. In addition THE WEEK is of great interest to the increasing educated classes in this country who look for some higher mental food than is usually contained in the ordinary daily and weekly press. In the various fields of politics, literature, science, art and music, it presents to us weekly a mass of important matter contributed by writers thoroughly conversant with their subjects, and couched in choice language. Occupying as it thus does a separate, but important and steadily increasing field of usefulness, we feel that under its present able editorial management it will continue to prosper, and steadily increase its circulation and influence.—*Guelph Mercury*.

By the announcement that the Canadian High Commissioner has been summoned to Ottawa to consult with the