

The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

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A REVERENT and cultured Christian may perhaps feel a shock of disapproval at the methods pursued by the Salvation Army; yet it is impossible, we should think, for any such to read the account of the proceedings at the meetings held here last week without feeling very kindly disposed towards these new evangelists. Their methods are not our methods; we cannot help considering their behaviour extravagant and irreverent; but we forget that we look at this matter from a stage of spiritual culture probably very different from that occupied by those they appeal to. Their efforts are not directed toward us, and so their methods are not adapted to our needs; but evidently they have grasped that great central principle of Christianity expressed in the words *Jesus only*; and using it alone—discarding all obscuring dogmas and legalism—they bring it to bear with the irresistible force that lies in it on the lapsed masses of humanity, recovering to manhood and spiritual life thousands whom the Churches with their present methods are not able to reach. In this field, however irregular the process, they are unquestionably doing the work of Christianity better than the Churches; and therefore let us at least wish them God-speed.

"THE question of the day," says Petroleum V. Nasby, writing of Prohibition, in the *North American Review*, "is whether the law can be made to restrain the criminal-maker as well as the criminal, to prevent the manufacture of paupers instead of supporting paupers; in short, whether the community has the right to protect its weaker members against organised demoralisation." Yes; and when by persistence in this method of government—which will not be confined to prohibition of one habit—an invertebrate race shall have been produced, without self-reliance or will-power to successfully resist the smallest temptation to evil, the question of the day will be whether it was worth while to deprive men of their virility, and to foster the growth of numerous other vices merely to repress those to which only the weakest are prone. Not in laws made to restrain vicious habits, but in building up from within a manhood which will move freely toward goodness, lies the true remedy. The Turks are a teetotal race, but there are qualities of heart and head in the Anglo-Saxon race which, even when accompanied by drunkenness, are infinitely better than the Turk's moral destitution, with all his sobriety. The simple truth is, Prohibitionists are on the wrong track entirely; they could learn a most useful lesson on the proper cure of intemperance from the Salvation Army, who, recognising that there can be no such foe to intemperance as a loved and personal Saviour, strive to bring their converts to Him first and before all, and succeeding, find no need for even a temperance pledge, much less Prohibitive Legislation.

THE resolution come to at the meeting of exhibitors and others with Sir Charles Tupper, last week, to make the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London a permanent one, is a most excellent step, and if, besides leaving their exhibits there, the owners will, as suggested by Sir Charles Tupper, improve and add to them from time to time, that this exhibition may not become a museum, but be kept a living illustration of the progress of Canada from day to day, the benefit to Canadian Trade may be great. To avail Canadian merchants more fully, however, of the enormous advantages offered by a permanent exhibition in such a trade centre as London, it occurs to us that the plan of export agencies now in extensive operation in Germany may be advantageously applied as a supplement to the exhibition; but whether as an adjunct under the supervision of the Canadian High Commissioner's office, or independent of that, is an open question. There are several of these export agencies scattered throughout Germany, and a report of the progress of, perhaps, the newest of them—that at Frankfort—has just been issued. Although it commenced working so recently as January last, there are already more than two hundred and fifty members. (It is co-operative, every exhibitor being a member;) and, during the first six months, one hundred orders from abroad were received by the members through its intervention. The object of these agencies is to bring German patterns and samples directly under the eyes of foreign buyers. The samples are arranged in glass cases, and the members pay

30s. per square metre per annum for the space occupied. Price lists *raisonnés* are published in several languages, and the agencies undertake to furnish travellers for foreign houses with any further information they may require, and to keep their members informed regarding new classes or patterns of goods which may be in demand. The amount of time and trouble saved to all parties by this system is enormous. The well-known Exportverein at Vienna is conducted on similar principles, and has exercised a potent influence upon the development of Austro-Hungarian trade with the East. The very successful Frankfort agency was established with the small capital of £2,000. We find these particulars in a late number of the *St. James's Gazette*, and to us the plan seems very appropriate to what our merchants are about to undertake. Perhaps there is no use in issuing the polyglot price lists spoken of, because all foreign merchants in London do business in English; but, with this exception, it appears to us the scheme is worth a trial. Even if the sample rooms have necessarily to be apart from the exhibition, and under independent care, the existence of the permanent exhibition as headquarters will give the agents a standing and influence that may insure success.

THE Philadelphia *American* is looking to the State Department to demand the right for American fishermen to buy bait within the limits of Canadian jurisdiction, "in accordance with the advanced maxims of international law, whose growth has unavoidably modified the Treaty of 1818." Strange how these advanced maxims have grown since the expiration of the last Fishery Treaty, for whose privileges, notwithstanding the international law, the States paid \$5,500,000. "Canada," again says the *American*, "makes just such a claim in the case of the Alaska seal fishery, declaring that the former claim of Russia to treat the waters of the Upper Pacific as within her boundary is at variance with the new tendencies of international law." A wonderfully convenient thing this international law, which may be stretched to cover the evasion of the most solemn commercial treaties when their observance becomes inconvenient. But we beg our contemporary to observe that Canada has not proposed to stretch international law, with its advancing maxims, over the whole Upper Pacific: it is the *American* that does this; but the trick will not serve: Canada utterly denies that there has been any change whatever in the international law which gives on the one hand the United States jurisdiction over an extent of three miles only from the Alaska shore, and on the other, to Canada, jurisdiction over the same extent from the Canadian coast, measured in both cases from headland to headland.

THE trouble in the Balkans has now reached an acute stage, and a few days may decide whether there is to be peace or war between Russia and Austria this year. These Powers are like two rivers that have for years been approaching a place of meeting; the approach has been much accelerated of late by rapids, and it is hardly in human power to prevent their shortly joining and battling together in a mad leap over the precipice. Whether below the Falls they can flow on peacefully side by side in the one channel is also something not in human power to foretell. The only thing plain at present is that the battle ground is very nearly reached; possibly will be reached, though the battle may not begin so soon, before this year is out. The determining point may be the refusal or acceptance of the terms attempted to be imposed by Gen. Kaulbars on the Bulgarian people. If these be accepted, the great conflict may be postponed, unless the influence Russia consequently gains grows unbearable; but if refused—and the terms are so insolent that it looks as if the Bulgars, who have lately exhibited so high a national spirit, must refuse them—then immediate war would seem to be inevitable. For Russia must follow this defiance by an occupation of Bulgaria, or the assertion of her authority in some form; and any such step will bring Austria into the field. The Czar has evidently made up his mind to employ force, rather than fail in this venture. The opportunity seems favourable to recover the foothold Russia gained in the last war, but lost again through Prince Alexander. England is hampered in several ways—by foreign difficulties, by political dissensions, by domestic treason,—and she cannot at any rate throw any formidable land force into the Balkan Peninsula: Austria, as a State that divides Slavism with Russia, is regarded as a rival that must be fought sooner or later; and the Panslavist party in Russia think the sooner the better. These have evidently captured the Czar, who the other day publicly praised and decorated their great exponent, M. Katkoff, of the *Moscow Gazette*; and besides this Panslavic inclination to war, the ablest men in Russia are said to have a latent desire for it as the only road out of a miserable situation: for victory would give the Imperial system a new strength and make their submission to it honourable; while defeat would bring the present system of government to an end.