

## The Week.

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THE New England fishermen and their friends in Congress continue to play their antics. Mr. Boutelle, of Maine, has taken the wind out of Senator Frye's sails by introducing a Bill repealing the present law, and taxing "fresh fish for immediate consumption,"—to the immense delight of the fish dealers of Portland. To their no less delight, a rather contradictory petition is being circulated, asking that Congress prohibit the importation into United States markets of any Canadian fish, either salt or fresh, until the commercial privileges awarded English vessels be awarded American fishermen calling at Canadian ports; that in case Americans are prohibited "from landing and transporting in bond such products of their industry as may be necessary to forward to the United States (which means bait shipped by their agents overland, to evade the law) the same privilege be denied all products shipped from any part of Canada through the United States in bond to any of the other provinces or any countries whatsoever; and, finally, that Canada be required to serve any vessel fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, or the waters adjacent to Canadian coasts, with a copy of the requirements of Canadian marine law and the penalty attached thereto, before the said vessels can be liable to seizure,"—which is very like requiring a policeman to read the Larceny Statutes to a shoplifter before arresting him.

THE Cleveland Convention of Knights of Labour has rejected the platform of the trades-unions, and resolved to adhere to their own original plan of organisation. This decision is due in part to the natural disinclination of any association to commit suicide, and in part to a desire among the unskilled members of the Order to retain within it the influence of the skilled. The two demands made by the trades-unions—that the Order should not interfere with any trade having a national or international organisation, and that it should revoke the charters of all assemblies having a union of their own—were certain to be rejected by men desirous to perpetuate their own influence; and the failure of the street-car strikes in New York and elsewhere showed the unskilled branches of the Order the impossibility of their successfully standing alone, without the co-operation and assistance of the skilled trades. Skilled craftsmen possess a power over their employers beyond the reach of the unskilled employé. For when an artisan of any description goes out on strike, his employer's business is stopped, if all other workmen of the same trade strike too, because there is no one to take his place; but in the case of a car conductor or driver, stableman or hostler, as was seen in the recent car-strikes, these men's duties being easily and quickly learned by any man of ordinary intelligence, there is no difficulty in replacing them, in great cities where the labour market is filled with the unemployed. Owing to this defenceless position, the employés of railway corporations and all other similar employments where artisan-skill is not an essential factor in the performance of the duties, may be expected to belong to the Order of Knights of Labour; but whether skilled artisans will continue for long the onerous service of protecting them in their contest against the operation of the law of supply and demand, to which they are naturally subject, is very questionable.

THERE cannot be any solidarity of interest between members of all trades and occupations; and though the glamour of the name "Labour," thrown around certain branches of industry, may blind the lower class of labourers to the truth that the higher class—designated "Capital"—are also labourers, the fact remains that contests with so-called "Capital" are more injurious to industry than to property, and that each trade, for its best advantage, must pursue the same line of independent action that individuals pursue. It is, for instance, to the interest of coal miners that coal should produce a high price; of butchers, grocers, tailors, drapers, that their commodities should fetch a high price; but the interest of every consumer, as such, is quite the reverse. Yet the Knights of Labour have undertaken to identify the opposed interests of buyer and seller—to produce a solidarity of interest between the housekeeper and the butcher, which is about as possible a feat as to ride two horses at once, each bent on going in a different direction.

THE proposal of the Knights of Labour that Congress shall establish loan offices all over the country, at which money may be borrowed by whoever (with sufficient security) chooses to ask for it, is the most ludicrous yet. Why should Government go into the pawnbroking business? For this only is what the proposal can mean. The banks throughout the country are congested with funds, available for every legitimate purpose; and rates of interest are low enough, when the security is undoubted, and the transaction of a commercial character. It will not enure to the advantage of workingmen to afford them facilities for borrowing money, which will generally lure them to their ruin. Doing business on borrowed capital is precarious at the best; but cheap credit is ruinous to the inexperienced. The ease with which they might borrow would tempt them to embrace many doubtful ventures which now they would look askance on; and such an embrace is a wedlock that cannot be got rid of at will, especially if the bride turns out to be "all worse and no better."

WE don't believe for a moment that any considerable number of Americans approve of the enterprise shown by their newspapers in reporting the particulars of the engagement and wedding of the President. Of course so momentous an event in the life of so prominent a man is of great interest to all; but no decent persons' curiosity, we are persuaded, can have been so overpowering as to excuse to them the utter want of common decency, to say nothing of right feeling, shown by a great many newspapers throughout the proceedings, from the announcement of the engagement—when every police-court reporter felt constrained in his columns of balderdash to speak with Old Bailey familiarity of Miss Folsom as "Frankie"—to the departure of the President and his bride on their wedding trip, when the chief newspapers hunted them down with a staff of reporters, as though they had been a pair of curious animals kept at the White House for the amusement of the nation. Take this as a specimen of the manner in which the gentlemen of the Press sought to promote the comfort of the Chief Magistrate on his wedding day:—"It was expected that the President would try and slip away unobserved, and in order to prevent this a number of newspaper men stationed themselves near the south-west entrance to the grounds with carriages convenient to follow the President in case he should make his exit by that gate. This was reported to the President, so he instructed his driver to go out of the grounds by another and almost unused route, and in that way he avoided the reporters altogether." And again:—"The train moved off at once towards Deer Park, where the couple hope to pass their honeymoon in quiet. . . . The Chicago 'Limited,' which followed the President's special, carried a number of special correspondents, who will reach Oakland about sunrise. None of the hotels open at this season, and the question of providing the journalistic pilgrims with food and shelter will have to resolve itself when the unexpected colony invade the mountain precincts of the President's retreat." Literature seems to have run to seed considerably in the States, if its hodmen can with approval play such pranks with ordinary decency.

WHEN, on the introduction of the Home Rule Bill, Mr. Gladstone had finished his speech, Cardinal Manning, sitting in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery, surrounded by Irish members, said to them, referring to their proposed exclusion from Westminster: "We cannot spare one of you." Now, it is not to be supposed that, as a dignitary of the Church and an Englishman, His Eminence meant to imply that the mass of fifth-rate ward politicians who now represent Ireland in Parliament could not be spared; that he was affectionately solicitous to retain at Westminster Mr. Parnell, the bosom friend of Henri Rochfort, Mr. Harris, who has declared he had no objection to see landlords shot down like partridges, or Mr. Redmond, who hopes the Russians will stable their horses in London, and we infer that the Catholic Church is at length awakening to the true nature of the great mistake it made when it appointed a Nationalist agitator to the Archbishopric of Dublin and threw its influence on the side of revolution. When it took that fatal step and declared for Home Rule, it doubtless gained immediately a great accession of influence in Ireland, and hoped to gain the like among the Irish in America and the Colonies; but, on the other hand, it lost England and the aid of English influence the world over. The dream of creating a Catholic State in a small island sunk in ignorance and amenable to priestly influence was very tempting; but the advisers of the Pope did not see that the realisation of this dream would be purchased at the expense of Catholic influence throughout the Empire and especially in England, whose House of Commons, the Irish members being withdrawn, would contain only two Catholics. They rashly chose the small insular field rather than the world-wide Empire; and now that their error is becoming