

## The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

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### THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

*Notice to Canadian Writers.*

A prize of

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS

will be given for the best

*POEM on the QUEEN'S JUBILEE,*

To be competed for by Canadian writers, under the following conditions:

- (1) The poem not to exceed one hundred lines.
- (2) To be delivered at THE WEEK office not later than May 1st next.

A similar prize of

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS

Will be given for the best

*ORATION on the QUEEN'S JUBILEE,*

To be competed for similarly by Canadian writers, under the following conditions:

- (1) The oration not to exceed three thousand words.
- (2) To be delivered at THE WEEK office not later than May 1st next.

The right of publication of both poem and oration to be reserved to THE WEEK.

The competing poems and orations must bear on them a motto, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked with this motto and enclosing the name and address of the writer.

THE WEEK will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfilment of the conditions.

Our Volunteers take the opportunity when all public questions are opened, of advancing their claims for more consideration at the hands of Government. We trust they will get all that is due to them, and it certainly is due to them that Toronto should be the military centre of British Canada. Quebec has been the standard bearer of the Tory Government, and has consequently been treated as the centre of everything. But it assuredly is not the heart of British population or of British feeling, and in case of a war with France, even its sympathy would, we fear, be very doubtful. Toronto clearly ought to be the military centre.

MR. DARLING, on retiring from the Presidency of the Toronto Board of Trade, gave a very masterly review of the state of our commerce and of those questions affecting it, the right settlement of which is the special and most beneficent function of the Board. He dwelt, among other questions, on the necessity of providing a more efficient authority for the control of railways, and on the expediency of amending the law of bankruptcy to guard against fraud on the part of debtors. The first is most essential, but where shall we find an authority powerful enough to control the C. P. R.? The English Board of Trade has at its back what is still, comparatively speaking, a strong administrative Government, and it has nothing like the C. P. R. to deal with. Fraudulent bankruptcy is a danger against which it now concerns the chiefs of our commerce in every possible manner to guard, inasmuch as it is a regular trade among a certain class of immigrants, whose number is increasing in this city. We have had one or two bad cases within the last year. Mr. Darling concluded his Presidency amidst general and well-deserved applause.

THE meeting of the Board of Trade, which Mr. Darling addressed, was a magnificent assemblage of our commercial wealth and intelligence. The elections were going on, and it was impossible, on looking round the meeting, not to moralise on the poverty of our representation in Parliament compared with the constituency which is represented. The Machines, of course, nominate not the best men, but the men who will serve them best. But it is also very difficult for the chiefs of commerce to leave a

great business and reside for three or four months at Ottawa. The choice of Ottawa itself as the capital was most unfortunate in this respect. Its distance from the great centres and its social isolation are not compensated by any of the supposed advantages which led to the selection of the site. The military security amounts to nothing, and the danger of mob control was a mere hugbear.

THE two sections of respectable and law-abiding citizens who are grappling with each other in deadly conflict about names, such as Tory and Grit, or fancies, may as well know what a mine is being laid under their feet. In a Canadian Labour journal, and not the most violent of them, we are told that "property has rights; it has the right to belong to those who have given their labour for it, and these have a right to take it away from any who have unjustly appropriated it, by constitutional means, of course, in constitutionally governed countries, and by the easiest and most effective means in others." That is to say, by a confiscating use of the taxing power where they have it, and where they have it not, by force. This is the question of the near future, and it is likely before very long to unite with a vengeance those who are now quarrelling over the character of Sir John Macdonald and the sanity of Riel.

WE cannot help wishing that a sharper punishment could have been inflicted upon the Hinton, for their fiendish cruelty to a child. The year in the Mercer Reformatory will probably have about as much effect on the woman, whose malice appears to have been the greater, as it would upon a she-wolf. Cruelty is the worst of all vices. Other vices are swinish, but this is devilish. It is some satisfaction that popular feeling, at all events, was strongly manifested on the occasion. There is a general outcry for the application of the lash to wife-beaters, though the blow which the ruffian, in his fury, strikes is often the consequence of intolerable provocation. Children, especially in the hands of stepmothers, being helpless and without power of complaint, need fully as much as wives the protection of the law, if the law could effectually protect, when after all our main reliance must be upon nature and affection. These demons appear to have been respectable and educated; their case warns us once more that there are still abysses beneath the smooth social surface, and that education is not virtue.

SAYS the Oshawa *Vindicator*, Oshawa must vote for N. P., for her life depends on it. "To be plain, there are no special facilities for manufacturing, and without the National Policy, there is not an industry worth a year's purchase." There is the mischief of it. If Protection only did what rational Protectionists profess—if it only sheltered national industries in their feeble infancy from the nipping blasts of foreign competition, or guarded the national producer against such unfair interference of the foreigner—we, who are not purists of Free Trade, should have nothing in principle to say against it, provided always that the protection when no longer really needed, could be withdrawn. But in practice it forces into existence, as in the instance before us, industries which are mere exotics, which can never strike a healthy root, which are nothing but a misdirection of capital, and which are only kept in being at the expense of the community at large. The interests thus formed are driven by the law of self-preservation to become political, and thus a vicious ring is formed. Rings are terribly tenacious, but they cannot hold for ever, and when they break, Oshawa and her industries come to the ground.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD, it seems, said in a letter to Mr. Galt, "When dissolution is decided upon by the Cabinet, friend and foe must know it alike." So the prerogative has been avowedly usurped by the party leader, and our Parliament sits not for a legal term, or till Her Majesty's representative deems a dissolution necessary in the interest of the community at large, but during the convenience of the party. The President of the United States is elected by the nation; but who would tolerate the idea of his being empowered to dissolve Congress at his pleasure?

THE faction fight goes on merrily, with the usual consequences to national interests and to public character. The two moieties of the community, utterly forgetting that they are fellow-citizens, are flying, for a name, at each other's throats: there is nothing, however vital to the welfare of the State, which either of them would not sacrifice for victory. The floodgates of mutual calumny are open. All sorts of knavish tricks are being played; sinister interests of all sorts are embracing the golden opportunity of pushing themselves at the national expense. That corruption of various kinds and under different disguises is going on in every direction, beneath the surface, may on all these occasions be taken for