

# THE WEEK.

## THE WEEK:

A Canadian Journal of Politics, Literature, Science and Arts.

TERMS:—One year, \$3; eight months, \$2; four months, \$1. Subscriptions payable in advance.

Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. stg.; half-year, 6s. stg. Remittances by P.O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the publisher.

ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptionable in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4 per line per annum; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per insertion for a shorter period.

No advertisements charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGH, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

### CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CURRENT TOPICS.....	747
A PARSON'S PONDERINGS CONCERNING PREACHERS. Rev. Geo. J. Low.	750
PARIS LETTER.....	751
SACRET (Poem)..... Helen Merrill.	752
DIALOGUES OF MEN WHO WERE—I. Nicholas Flood Davin, Q.C., M.P.	752
CORRESPONDENCE—	
THE CAMPBELL CASE..... Colin A. Scott.	753
THROUGH MY WINDOW (Sonnet)..... Lee Wyndham.	754
PEPEY'S DIARY.....	754
AN HOUR'S REPRIEVE (Poem)..... A. Melbourne Thompson.	756
GLENGARRY IN CANADA..... Principal Grant.	756
LATER CANADIAN POEMS..... S. E. Dawson, Litt. D.	756
FIRST INQUIRIES (Poem)..... Charles Swain.	757
ART NOTES.....	757
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.....	758
LIBRARY TABLE.....	758
PERIODICALS.....	759
LITERARY AND PERSONAL.....	759
PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.....	760
READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.....	760
PUBLIC OPINION.....	764
SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY.....	765
MISCELLANEOUS.....	766
QUIPS AND CRANKS.....	767

All articles, contributions, and letters on matter pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

### CURRENT TOPICS.

The "Places of Worship Sites Bill" is another of those minor radical measures which have passed through Committee of the Imperial House of Commons without attracting the attention that would have been given them in a less exciting time. The great need for some measure of the kind, if virtual proscription of nonconformity in a large part of England is to be no longer tolerated, was illustrated but a week or two since by the blunt refusal of an influential peer to dispose of a bit of ground for a chapel site from any portion of his great estate. The Bill above referred to passed through Committee without material change save an amendment moved by Lord Belper extending its operation to "the acquisition of sites for any church, chapel, or meeting-house, or other place of Divine worship, and for the residence of a minister officiating in such place of worship." In order to obtain the benefit of the Act a requisition in writing must be served on the owner or

occupier of the proposed site, accompanied with a plan, and must be signed by not less than twenty inhabitant householders. The Local Government Board will have power to take into consideration the accommodation already available within a reasonable distance for religious worship for members of the same denomination.

President Cleveland's proclamation, summoning the two Houses of Congress to meet in special session for the transaction of important business, on August 7th, will probably of itself have some effect in lessening the tension of the financial crisis through which the nation is passing. It is one of the unfortunate but unavoidable incidents of a financial crisis that the action adopted by those who fear the loss of property on the one hand, and the hesitancy which retards the transaction of business which would otherwise be carried on, on the other, both tend to make the situation much worse than it would otherwise have been. No doubt both these causes are operative in the United States. Hence, though it is quite probable that ex-President Harrison may be right in thinking that the Sherman Silver Bill is credited with much more than its due effect in producing the trouble, the assurance that something is to be done in the near future, by the repeal of that Bill or otherwise to mend matters, may have the effect of ameliorating the situation by lessening the public distrust and apprehension. The influence of those who are deriving immense profit from the purchase of silver by the Government will no doubt be exerted with all possible energy to prevent the repeal of the Bill by virtue of which they have their gains, but the situation is now so well understood that it is highly probable that the repeal will be quickly effected. The Sherman silver purchase Bill will go down to history as a warning against such attempts by the Legislature of a nation to promote the interests of a few of its subjects, or of one or more of its industries, by arbitrary interference with the national currency.

The sailing of the "Falcon," under the command of Lieutenant Peary, with his band of brave comrades, for the Polar seas, suggests anew the question whether these Arctic expeditions have, after all, any adequate justification in the shape of a reasonable hope of discoveries beneficial to the human race or any portion of it. So long as the dream of an open circum-polar sea, or

an usable North-West passage, was indulged in, there was the same justification for the exposure of those who were willing to make the venture to untold sufferings and dangers which alone can justify such ventures in any case. But it is scarcely possible that any one can longer cherish a hope that any discoveries which may be made can be useful for any other purpose than the gratification of a curiosity more or less scientific. So far from there being any tendency of population towards the extreme North, it is becoming evident that the Greenlanders, Icelanders, and other inhabitants of high latitudes will soon be forced in increasing numbers to seek less rigorous climes. There is, we suppose, something which commands admiration in the mere fact of conspicuous bravery, apart from the worthiness of the object which may call it into action. That kind of admiration will be freely accorded to Lieut. Peary and his wife, and all those who have volunteered for this voyage; but their fortunes can hardly be followed, in thought, or their return awaited, with the same feelings of grateful anxiety and admiration which would exist were the expedition one for the rescue of the lost or distressed, or in the hope of opening up a new habitable region for settlement, or with expectation of conferring any other blessing upon humanity.

We observe that Ottawa is just now debating the question whether it is so far possible to remove the question of sectarianism from hospital management as to save the taxpayers from the necessity of supporting two institutions instead of one. It is not long since Toronto had a somewhat similar question before it. In this city the influences in favour of continuing the sectarian arrangement were unfortunately too strong for the firmness of the Council, and the reform which had been resolved on in a moment of valour was abandoned in the hour of weakness. The chances seem to be in favour of a similar triumph of the forces which make for a narrow sectarianism at the capital. In regard to all such matters, the only sound and consistent principle is that which leads to the withdrawal or refusal of all subventions from the City treasuries to sectarian institutions of any and every kind. This would by no means imply that the inmates of any public charitable or other institution should be deprived of the ministrations of the clergy of their choice, or obliged to receive those of any other body. It should not be difficult so to arrange matters, even in a contagious dis-