

# THE WEEK.

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## Current Topics.

**The Chrysler Farm Monument.**

Wednesday was an important day in the history of the united Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry, especially in that part where lies the battle field of Chrysler's Farm. Here a monument was unveiled, in the presence of thousands of Canadians, which has been erected in memory of the brave men who loved their country, and fought and died for her, and of the glorious victory won by their valour over a vastly superior force. Hon. Mr. Dickey, in the course of his interesting remarks, when speaking at the unveiling, said that one of the previous speakers had referred to Chrysler's Farm as a little battle. He was of the opinion that the importance of a battle did not lie in the number of men engaged or the number of the slain. Only a small British force under the immortal Clive took part in the battle of Plassey, which settled the fate of India, and had much to do with making the history of the world. Chrysler's Farm saw the repulse of an American invasion, and decided the fate of Canada. The erection of these monuments would do much for Canadian history. In this we agree cordially with Hon. Mr. Dickey, and also with Hon. Mr. Haggart, who, in beginning his most interesting speech, said that "love of country had furnished in all ages, and in every land, a fruitful theme for poets, orators, and moralists. Many pages of history are forgotten, many have grown dim with the lapse of centuries, but the names of those great ones who had repelled the invader and freed their country from the oppressor's yoke, or who had perished in the attempt, shine with a lustre which is but enhanced by time."

**The Coming of Hall Caine.**

The advent of Mr. Hall Caine, the well-known novelist, is now near at hand. He comes to confer with the Government respecting the matter of Copyright. Two or three months ago he gave expression to his opinions on this question in very emphatic and unpleasant terms in the pages of the Contemporary Review. The Contemporary is generally the medium used in England for publishing articles hostile in tone to the Dominion, so Mr. Hall Caine, and those who joined in his indictment, found a ready welcome from its editor. Now that the novelist will soon be in Ottawa on his mission it is interesting to recall a few of his kind and generous remarks. It is held in Canada that it is unfair for the English to reproach Canadians for wanting to do in the matter of Copyright what they have consented to the United States doing. Mr. Hall Caine says this is very foolish indeed of Canadians and very unjust. That the United States has a great and valuable privilege is no reason at all why Canada should

have it. Besides this there is "no organization of publishers" in the Dominion; in fact it may be said "to have no publishers at all"

A mere handful of printers and booksellers (generally carrying on other trades) are all that we should have to deal with. It is impossible that they can have any real knowledge of the English book-market. Their proposals show that they are ignorant of the principles of English book publishing. A good book might go over there, be badgered about for a month, and lose its copyright after all. A month is not enough to make arrangements under such conditions; we want six months, twelve months, in fact, no limit of months at all. But Canada offers to be very good to us in its way. It proposes that if we do not arrange to copyright our book within a month, any Canadian printer shall be free to take our book without our permission and sell it at whatever price he likes, with the condition that the Canadian Government shall grant him a license to do this, and he shall undertake to pay 10 per cent. of the retail price for the benefit of the author.

Mr. Hall Caine ridicules this offer and says it is a high-handed method of settling English affairs, that Canada will soon become the literary pirate-in-chief to the whole world, and the dispenser of a copyright which is only a sham and a mockery. He concludes by saying that England must not indulge Canada in this mischievous, ill-advised, and most dangerous whim.

France and  
Russia.

The presence of the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and of the Russian General Dragomiroff, at the recent manœuvres of the French army, and the enthusiastic and seemingly significant toast proposed by the latter to fraternity and union in battle between the two nations, seem to have convinced some, at least, of the leading English papers that the alliance which the French have been so earnestly seeking with the great Northern power has at last been accomplished. Should this inference prove correct the union between the French Republic and the most despotic power in Europe will be one of the strangest ever formed. What would add to its singularity and detract from its strength is the fact that if the compact has actually been made it is not an offensive and defensive alliance against a common foe, but one in which each nation seeks the aid of the other against its own enemy and in aid of its own projects. Thus the bond of a common object is wanting. Russia's propelling force is ambition, that of France, revenge. The one seeks expansion southward and a free access to an open seaboard. The other burns to reclaim lost territory and to regain lost military prestige. If they have any common object it is the weakening or humiliation of Great Britain. Even in respect to this the objective goals of the two nations would not be the same, for while Russia's eyes are turned in the direction of India, those of France are feverishly fixed upon Egypt. It is doubtful if a union on the principle of "you help me here, and I will help you there," can have in it the elements of true strength. Even if it were otherwise, the alliance would be a short-sighted one, for Great Britain has but to join the Dreibund, as some of its great journals are suggesting, and the Franco-Russian alliance would find itself immediately and hopelessly overmatched. But it would be a deplorable thing were the close of the nineteenth century to see the Christian (?) powers of Europe ranged in two great groups of hostile camps with millions of men in each, armed to the teeth and waiting only the signal to send against each other the terrible instruments of modern war.