

Ourselves.

IN another column we have commemorated the fact that the present issue commences our thirteenth volume. An existence of a paper like THE WEEK continued through so many years is satisfactory evidence of a principle of vitality in the constitution of that paper. It is well known that the distinguishing feature of our columns has been, in the discussion of political questions, an independence of party or personal influence. Without in the least making invidious comparisons we may safely say and appeal to our past as evidence that our motto has been *nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri*. We have, we confess, one matter strongly at heart, and that is, to do our utmost to awaken and encourage a strong Canadian sentiment. We believe that wherever possible we should assimilate our institutions and mode of government to the English model, but at the same time we also wish to see our own native talent strike out for itself. We desire to see Canadian development on Canadian lines. As for imitating our neighbours to the south of us, or making ourselves or our institutions a reflection of them or theirs, we most strenuously object to anything of the kind. We believe that of the two ideals the British is by far the one to be preferred. But we do not want to see Canada the tail of anybody's kite. Our efforts should be directed to making ourselves able and willing to hold our own among the nations of the world. This policy we have always vigorously supported, and any other policy or any policy tending to sink our national individuality we will forcibly oppose. With this reservation our columns are open to men of all opinions for the purpose of giving them an opportunity to state their views. In Canada there is a large and increasing educated class. These men have no satisfactory neutral ground common to all in which they can publish their opinions and argue a debatable question. The daily press are party papers. They exist by, with and for the party. There are many able men who detest party and everything connected with it. They have strong convictions on certain subjects, but cannot bring themselves to follow A., B., or C. in everything A., B. or C. does or says. The views of these men, who are generally moderate, are most deserving of attention. They may not be "practical politicians," but they are worth listening to with respect and their advice followed may save the state. To such men as these THE WEEK is open.

In Canada, further, there is required a satisfactory outlet for that miscellaneous talent which lies dormant in many people. In spite of the demands of the age and of the exacting rush of competition most men keep somewhere in their heart one soft spot for the pursuits of their leisure hours. We have moreover an able and zealous scholastic class whose investigations are commencing to bear good fruit. From time to time spasmodic attempts have been made to give an opening in Canada for the abilities of both species of cultured native talent. The attempt has, we fear, too often been abortive, but we must not give up the effort. We have heard objections to any paper of the objects and standard we claim for THE WEEK that it is too high a class of paper to be maintained in Canada, that it is beyond the scope of Canadian intelligence, that it is a generation too soon, and so on. We trust these objections are not well-founded. We believe the very contrary, and we trust to see such gloomy criticisms not borne out by the results. Between the Atlantic and the Pacific we maintain several good universities—we turn out some hundreds of graduates each year. Is it to be believed that these men are so destitute of talent that they cannot produce a national literature? We acknowledge that the

strength of the vast majority of these graduates is frittered away in the struggle for daily bread. Many of them drift across the border. Many of them join the Provincial press and coin their brains for ducats. But there are many who would welcome an opportunity of saying what they really think, of confiding to their fellow-countrymen their hopes, their fears and their fancies. To such as these we say, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." Help us in sustaining a vigorous non-partizan Canadian literary paper in which our people may know that they will find public questions calmly discussed, current topics fairly presented, and literary work honestly criticized. In dealing with these matters we trust that we shall be moved by neither fear, favour, nor affection. We lay our work in the hands of the Canadian people and appeal to their patriotism to maintain a Canadian independent literary journal.

We feel that an objection may be made that a paper of the class we advocate may become a medium for preserving the fads of cranks. It is sufficient answer to the objection that we point it out ourselves. A tree is known by its fruits and we must be content to be judged by what we produce. Good wine, they say, needs no bush. We make no protestations, but present our readers with the first number of Volume Thirteen. We respectfully bespeak public support and promise to do all we can to deserve it in the future as in the past.

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Cost and Profit of Liberty.—II.

EVERY one admits that Canada cannot remain a dependency much longer, no matter what the price of freedom may be. It is also clear that there are only three roads open, and a little reflection will show that there is only one. To unite with the United States means an annual expenditure for military purposes of about seventeen millions *per annum*, plus the cost of a militia to be borne by each Province. This would be the smallest cost, but it is mentioned because the value of money is understood by men who understand nothing else. We might grow into the feeling that from seventeen to twenty millions was not too high a price to pay for national unity, honour, responsibility, privileges and life, but to be pitchforked, at a moment's notice, into paying such a sum, contracted too by others, ought to take the breath from the windiest. How much worse to be pitchforked into a Constitution which we had no hand in making, and into conflicts over dishonest money, British aggression, and other issues which would perpetually disgust or rasp us, and end by driving most of us out of political life! An apology is required for referring to this road, but only a reference is made to it, not an argument. I will not argue it with anyone. The other road, nicknamed Independence, is thornier still. A citizen of the United States gets something worth while, for paying twenty times as much for military purposes as we pay. Go where he will, the mighty organization of which he is a member protects him, and at home the current of the national life flows through his veins and infinite opportunities of individual enterprise are open to him. The other day, American missionaries in Asiatic Turkey reported that they were threatened, and the United States Minister promptly informed the Porte that if the threats were followed by action, his Government would hold the Turkish ministry personally responsible. This warning will be quite enough, for the American fleet is a reality, and the United States could exact reparation more promptly than any other power, just because it is not in the European concert, and could act without any suspicion that it intended to play a selfish game. But what would warnings from the Minister of St. Domingo, Costa Rica, or Venezuela amount to? What does the citizen of any of these "independent" Republics get for the military, naval and diplomatic services of his State? Simply the proud consciousness that he belongs to Lilliput. Canada is commercial and cosmopolitan by birth. Our ships are on every ocean; our commercial interests are bound up with those of the world; our missionaries are to be found in the new Hebrides, where