

# THE WEEK.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 1889.

\$3.00 per Annum  
Single Copies, 10 Cents

Sixth Year.  
Vol. VI. No. 49.

## THE WEEK :

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS LITERATURE SCIENCE AND ARTS

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00  
Subscriptions payable in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptionable in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4.00 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.

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.

No advertisements charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHIER, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.  
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

### CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS—	PAGE
Mr. Wiman's Toronto Address.....	771
A Logical Dilemma.....	771
The Need of Neighbourliness.....	771
The North-West Assembly.....	771
The Behring Sea Matter.....	772
Let Knowledge Grow.....	772
Similia Similibus Curantur.....	772
The University Problem.....	772
Prevention or Cure?.....	772
Ad Quam Finem?.....	773
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.....	773
SUMMER'S LEGACY (Poem).....	F. Valentine Keys. 773
CONCERNING THE OLDEST ENGLISH LITERATURE.....	Archibald MacMechan, B.A. 773
THE DAY-DREAM SHIP (Poem).....	Alme 775
LONDON LETTER.....	Walter Powell. 775
PARIS LETTER.....	Z. 776
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN (Poem).....	Albert E. S. Smythe. 776
THE SONNET—IX.....	Sarepta. 776
PARISIAN LITERARY NOTES.....	777
THE SIMPLON PASS.....	A. C. F. Boulton. 777
WOMAN (Poem).....	Colin A. Scott. 778
MR. PATMORE'S ESSAYS.....	778
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Another Curiosity.....	Wellington. 778
School Regulations.....	Reformer. 778
TRUE TALE.....	779
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.....	779
ART NOTES.....	780
OUR LIBRARY TABLE.....	780
LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.....	781
READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.....	781
CHESS.....	782

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

THAT free interchange of products with the United States would be, on the whole, commercially profitable to Canada, is a proposition which few Canadians would care to dispute. Any arrangement tending to facilitate such interchange, and not inconsistent with the self-respect of the Canadian people and their honest duty to the Mother Country, could not fail to be acceptable to the great majority. Hence Mr. Wiman's address before the Young Men's Liberal Club of this city the other evening—an address which we are bound to say showed tact and ability of a high order—was, we will not say superfluous, but devoted largely to the proof of what is generally accepted as almost a truism. Much allowance will, however, need to be made for oratorical exaggeration. Not many sober-minded people will be persuaded that there is any magic in even continental free trade which could work so wonderful a transformation as that painted in such glowing colours by Mr. Wiman. By no waving of the wand of Commercial Union, or of any other wand, can our land be made an El Dorado. For Canadians, as for other peoples, industry and economy are the hands of fortune, and the only hands with which her best gifts can be secured. The utmost that commercial treaties, Zollvereins, or any other form of international legislation can do is to remove the artificial barriers which national legislation has erected. That this would be of great service, in the present case, we have already admitted. The point we wish to reach, after guarding ourselves against the very common and serious danger of expecting too much from mere political arrangements of any kind, is that, if a practical people are to be persuaded to throw themselves heartily into an agitation for any great change, something more is necessary than that they should be convinced that such change would be in itself beneficial. They must also be shown that its accomplishment is at least within the range of reasonable possibility, and that it is, moreover, quite consistent with other and it may be higher obligations than those by which its promotion is prompted. Perhaps we have no right to complain of Mr. Wiman that in his Thursday evening's

address he made scarcely an effort to meet those two dialectical conditions. It is quite possible that he adheres to the safe motto, "One thing at a time." Possibly he may be reserving for future occasions his answers to the objections which now seem to so many minds absolutely conclusive against his scheme, objections drawn, on the one hand, from the very strong reasons that appear for doubting whether the American Government and people will ever consent to unrestricted reciprocity in any form save the one which no loyal or self-respecting Canadian can consider for a moment; and drawn, on the other hand, from our relations to Great Britain. It is impossible to accept men's individual opinions or assertions on points so vital. But such opinions and assertions were certainly very nearly all that Mr. Wiman gave us in his address. He must, therefore, excuse us, if we decline to accept his case as proven, and wait for further light.

THERE is, we suppose, no necessary connection between the merits of a proposed scheme or policy and the consistency of its chief promoter. The real logical force of any argument advanced by Mr. Wiman before a Toronto audience in support of Unrestricted Reciprocity or Commercial Union would be in no wise weakened intrinsically should it be shown that Mr. Wiman had in another country and before another audience advocated views quite inconsistent with those now presented and pointing to conclusions radically different. But in all discussions of this kind it is inevitable that the practical cogency of the reasoning is greatly strengthened or modified by the personality of the reasoner, and the popular impression in regard to his frankness and honesty. It must, therefore, have been a serious disappointment to Mr. Wiman's friends and to those who wish for the success of his crusade, that he made no attempt to deny or explain away the glaring discrepancies which are publicly alleged to exist between his Canadian speeches and those addressed to audiences on the other side of the border. Mr. Wiman could not easily have been much more emphatic than he was on Thursday evening in his assurance that he did not regard the policy of Commercial Union as tending to Annexation, but the opposite. The closest commercial relation is, he declared, the absolute preventive of Annexation. The only argument in the Annexationist's mouth is that of material advantage, and if this advantage could be gained without political union, the only argument in favour of Annexation would fall to the ground. Possibly many Americans favoured Commercial Union as a means of Annexation, but, he reiterated, those who look deeper see that it would be the surest preventive of political union. It would achieve everything in the way of commerce that could be achieved by Annexation, and in his opinion it would postpone indefinitely any consideration of political annexation to have the commercial interests of the country harmonised in the way proposed. Now there is, as we have granted in a previous number, great force in this argument. We have yet to meet the Canadian-born Annexationist who prefers the Constitution and institutions of the United States, as a whole, for their own sake. The only successful answer, so far as we can see, that could be made to the plea above presented must proceed along the line of an assumption that under international free trade the influx of American citizens into Canada would be so great as to change its political complexion, an assumption which goes so far towards admitting that the policy would be greatly successful commercially and financially that an opponent of Commercial Union would hesitate to use it. But what surprised us and must have disappointed the audience was that Mr. Wiman, in making these strong declarations of his political faith, did not deem it necessary to say a word in reference to the charges so plentifully made, and apparently so well substantiated, that in addressing American audiences he has taken ground precisely opposite to that above indicated. Did he or did he not say on one occasion, as reported in the *St. Paul Globe*, that "Canada under Commercial Union could no longer resist the attractive forces which would prevail towards a political absorption;" on another occasion, as reported in the *New York Herald*, that "Commercial Union is the only right road to Annexation," and so on through the long list of quotations paraded by his

critics? The statements, if so made, would not prove that such results would actually follow, but they would most surely prove that the chief advocate of Commercial Union must be sadly lacking in sincerity and other qualities of character which lie at the foundation of confidence. Mr. Wiman, having invited our attention in advance to his Toronto address, must excuse us for stating thus frankly one of the dilemmas which confronts and perplexes us.

ONE point incidentally touched by Mr. Wiman is well worth the serious consideration of every one who has even the slightest influence in shaping the political and commercial policy of the Dominion. We refer to the passage in which he alluded to the great danger of misunderstanding and irritation arising in connection with such delicate questions as those of export duties on lumber, the long-and-short haul clauses of the Interstate Commerce Act, and so forth, and one day precipitating a commercial war. The *Empire* well observes that: "As to the desirability of the most intimate commercial intercourse between Canada and the United States, consistent with the relation which we sustain to the Mother Country, the healthy development of our own institutions, and the maintenance of our own complete freedom of action, there can be no possible doubt," and that "It did not require Mr. Wiman's arguments to convince the people of this country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, that it was the evident design of Providence that these countries should be friends, and that they should be mutually helpful to one another." And yet it can hardly be denied that there have been some incidents in connection with Canadian legislation, even within the last year or two, that were adapted to increase the danger of such a catastrophe as that hinted at by Mr. Wiman. Witness the hasty action at first taken in regard to the standing offer of reciprocity in fruits and certain other articles, and in imposing the untenable export duty upon saw-logs. In these cases the wise and conciliatory action which followed the second thoughts of the Canadian Government was tantamount to a confession of error. It is very desirable that such errors should not be repeated. We say so much in the name of the good fellowship that should prevail between two peoples so closely united by mutual interest, kinship and contiguity. At the same time we are far from admitting that "Ontario could be frozen to death by a law of Congress," or that Canada is so entirely dependent upon United States legislation, in regard even to her commercial future, as Mr. Wiman would seem to imply. None the less every right-minded citizen of either country must deprecate the disposition too often manifested in a certain class of platform speeches and newspaper articles, on both sides of the line, to make offensive allusions and sling out cheap defiance to their cousins across the border. Whatever may be the future of Canada, whether she shall work out her destiny as a self-governing colony, a member of a great Imperial Federation, or an independent nation, she must ever live side by side with the United States, and the peace, happiness and prosperity of her people must ever be affected to a very great degree by the cordiality, or the opposite, of their relations to the great Anglo-Saxon nation which Providence has made their next-door neighbour in perpetuity.

THE resignation of the Advisory Board of the North-West Assembly is an event of some interest in connection with the working of the peculiar machinery of the Territorial Government. The announcement made in the Assembly on behalf of the Board was that its members resigned because they were unable to take the responsibility for several executive acts. In some further remarks Mr. Hultain, who announced the resignation, stated that, having been elected by the Assembly, he and his fellow advisers felt responsible to it. There had been, he added, a tendency on the part of members to criticise them rather than the system, and to draw an unfair comparison between that and the ideal system they wished for. These remarks make pretty clear the source of the trouble. The members of the Board were evidently placed in an anomalous and untenable position. They were the constitutional advisers of an Executive which was in no wise bound to follow, or even, we suppose, to ask their advice. On the other hand, they were naturally held