

THE WEEK.

Vol. I., No. 23.

Toronto, Thursday, May 8th, 1884.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 7 cents.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

	PAGE.
TOPICS OF THE WEEK.....	353
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
Current Events and Opinions.....	<i>A Bystander</i> , 354
Here and There.....	357
The Morality of Aiding to Commit Crime.....	<i>E. Douglass Armour</i> , 358
Is it Decadence?.....	<i>Douglas Rowan</i> , 359
Fifty Years' Progress Amongst the English Working Classes.....	<i>Anglo-Canadian</i> , 360
Emigration of the Young Men of Canada to the United States.....	<i>J. H. S.</i> , 361
Yachting on the Great Lakes.....	<i>F. J. N.</i> , 361
CORRESPONDENCE.....	362
LITERATURE—	
The First Phoebe.....	<i>O. C. Auringer</i> , 363
The Adventures of a Widow.....	<i>Edgar Fawcett</i> , 363
THE SCRAP-BOOK.....	364
MUSIC AND DRAMA.....	365
THE PERIODICALS.....	366
CHESS COLUMN.....	366

The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, POLITICS, AND CRITICISM.

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

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

ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptional 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.

All advertisements will be set up in such style as to insure THE WEEK's tasteful typographical appearance, and enhance the value of the advertising in its columns. No advertisement charged less than FIVE lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHER, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

All contributions should be addressed to the Editor, and should be accompanied by stamp to insure notification in case the manuscripts are rejected. Upon payment of postage, the Editor will endeavour to return all manuscripts not proving available, but cannot be responsible in the case of loss of any but accepted articles. Contributions will be paid for when they are made use of.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

By the retirement of Sir Charles Tupper from the office of Minister of Railways, Sir John A. Macdonald loses an able Cabinet Minister and a faithful henchman. There is every reason to believe this step was induced by personal rather than political causes. Sir Charles's health has for some time been precarious, and this fact probably accounts for his selection of the English High Commissionership on the choice of that or the Canadian office being offered by the Premier. He will be much missed by his colleagues in Parliament, where he had been for some time recognized as deputy-leader. Whatever may be the estimate put upon Sir Charles Tupper as a politician, it is unquestionable that his name will be intimately connected with the history of Canada since Confederation.

THE Toronto Parliament-house dynamite scare was a god-send to the dailies, coming as it did when there was a dearth of news. Of course it was immediately made a party question, and the leading organs vied one with the other in evolving reasons why the destruction of the Ontario Legislative Buildings should be compassed by t'other side! Surely the force of folly could no further go! The impartial observer was inclined to look upon the whole thing as a hoax; but the presence of a fuse and other necessities for the explosion of the cartridges discovered, tend to a conviction that, at any rate, the authors wished to be thought in earnest. The most probable motive that suggests itself is such an one as would influence the Irish dynamiters to an outrage—the necessity of doing something, if only to get up a scare, to bring in subscriptions. At any rate, this is the more rational theory, pending the discovery of further evidence.

THE letter from a "Brewer" which appears in another column claims an indisputable right for compensation, with a moderation of tone in strong contrast with the diatribes of intemperate advocates of prohibition. Nothing could be more repulsive and discouraging to thoughtful social reformers than the attitude of those who would apply a quack remedy for intemperance, with an utter disregard for the rights of others. No respect can be felt for enthusiasts who declare that the example of the real temperance man is more productive of evil than that of a drunkard, and who refuse to recognize the vested interests of a body of men licensed by the state to pursue an honest avocation. The whole controversy is conducted upon

false premises. It is gratuitously supposed by prohibitionists that all who do not openly oppose the attempt to enforce total abstinence from alcoholic drinks favour their doctrines, whereas nothing could be further from the truth. A large majority of the more reputable part of the community—and whom it is not for a moment claimed are teetotalers—are silent in the matter, not because they sympathize with prohibition, but because by avowing their sentiments they would expose themselves to the intolerance of extremists who would stigmatize them as whiskey defenders. And so the prohibitionists, led by men who would as readily force upon the country a state religion as a prohibitive liquor law, by their clamour deceive short-sighted politicians, who in turn bid for their votes whilst detesting their doctrines. The true remedy for the undoubted evils of intemperance is to be found in high license, heavy taxation of strong liquors, and the prevention of adulteration in the case of lighter drinks. Total suppression only results in illicit sale, secret consumption, and a contempt for law.

SIDE by side with complaints of the apathy shown in making arrangements for the Toronto semi-centennial, come reports of the enthusiastic manner in which preparations are being made in Montreal for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of St. Jean Baptiste. More than this, the date of the latter festival immediately precedes that of the former—from Tuesday the 24th to Saturday the 28th of June. The promoters of the French fête have not only entered into the preliminaries with vigour, and made arrangements on a scale of unparalleled magnificence, but—what is a point of vital importance to its success—are at an advanced stage with the preparations. They are sanguine enough to hope their programme will attract even more people than the Ice Carnival did. So encouraged do they feel at the support promised from many Canadian and American towns that they are reported to have spent ten thousand dollars for the trappings and costumes for allegorical characters which will promenade the city. In addition to spectacular attractions, music, sport, banquets, et cetera are projected. It is, to say the least, unfortunate for Toronto that so strong a programme should be offered at such a date, and is one more reason, if that were necessary, why the semi-centennial celebration of its civic birth should be postponed to the fair week. Otherwise the executive committee must lose no time, or they will find Toronto's semi-centennial eclipsed by that of St. Jean Baptiste.

THE inaction of the British Government in Egyptian affairs is incomprehensible when taken in conjunction with reported appeals for assistance from General Gordon. That he is considered to be in danger by many persons in England is evidenced by the repeated attempts made to organize a "relief fund"; but the attitude of the press in refusing to recognize the movement, despite the unsparing manner in which the Government's policy is condemned, would seem to indicate that Gordon's position at Khartoum is far from desperate. It must be remembered, also, that not only did General Gordon declare his intention of bringing about a peaceable solution of the Soudan difficulty, and refuse military aid, but that in previous instances he has shown wonderful resources in raising money and maney's worth. As Governor of Darfour in 1873, at Gondo-Koro, and other places, he raised large sums and wrote to his Government—he was then employed by Khedive Ismail—that he and his army were amply provided for for many months. If, however, the desponding report that Gordon thinks Khartoum in jeopardy should be confirmed, then grave responsibility will rest upon the British Government for not having sent the reinforcement it is said Gordon demanded. But Mr. Gladstone is not usually rash, and must have some good ground for the calm confidence with which he apparently awaits the issue of events.

THERE were twenty-one failures reported to Bradstreet's as having occurred in Canada during the past week, as compared with twenty-five, sixteen, and two, in the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882, and 1881. During the same period one hundred and fifty-one failures took place in the United States, as against one hundred and thirty-two, ninety-six, and one hundred and sixteen, in the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882, and 1881. About 80 per cent. of the failures were those of traders whose capital was under \$5,000.