## THE WEEK:

## AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS LITERATURE SCIENCE AND ARTS

Terms: One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$4.00 imbscriptionapsyable in advance.

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Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid, on terms following: "One year, 128, stg.; half-year, 68, 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. CLOUGHER, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

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NO loyal Canadian could take much exception to a socalled Federation of the Empire which meant only an independent Canada in alliance with Great Britain and certain other English-speaking nations developed like ourselves from the colonial status, the alliance being simply for the purpose of joint action upon certain subjects in which all had a common interest, and those subjects aloue. If the idea of Imperial Federation thus conceived by Mr. J. Castell Hopkins is really the correct one, or that of its advocates generally, we respectfully submit that the scheme could be re-named with great advantage. Many of the strongest objections suggested by the words "federation" and "union" might, in that case, be met by the simple substitution of another name, better designating the thing meant and free from the objectionable connotations of either of the above terms. We dare say that many of those who look forward to independent national life as the goal of Canadian ambition may be fond of cenating in thought that independence with some form of alliance with the grand old Mother of Nations. But, unfortunately, Mr. Hopkins no sooner ventures into the region of definitions than we find ourselves again involved, to some extent, in the old difficulties. "Combination for defence" might, perhaps, be admissible, though we often query whether in such discussions too much stress is not laid upon the necessity for defence, whether of territory or of commerce. May not our imaginations be too much enslaved by the past? In these days, happily, the oceans are not swarming with pirates, nor is the United States a nation of freebooters. A war of conquest is well-nigh inconceivable. Such a war belongs to the dead past, so far as civilized and Christianized nations are concerned. In regard to "co-operation for commercial purposes," we have to confess to a state of mind bordering on sheer acepticism. The time to which Mr. Hopkins looks forward as "now within measurable distance" we can conceive of

only as in the receding and unreturning past. Further, with the fullest respect for our correspondent, we are bound to say that we are quite unable to assign a clear meaning to the phrase, "the gradual consolidation of existing political relations," much less a meaning that we can reconcile with "the full privileges of national existence," which we understand to be one of his postulates. The existing political relations must surely die before we can come into the larger inheritance. We may just add that we should be sorry to be thought captions in our many criticisms. Notwithstanding our want of faith we shall continue to follow the discussion of Imperial Federation with deep interest, as one which is eminently adapted to be of service in enlarging and elevating our conceptions of the possibilities of the future of Canada, if in no other way.

WITH the fullest respect for another correspondent, Mr. W. E. Raney, and with high appreciation of the ability with which he handles his argument, we cannot regard that argument as entitled to the same consideration as the foregoing. The simple fact is, that the question of annexation to the United States is not a living question in Canada. Nor do we believe it can be galvanized into life by any logical process. The argument in this case necessarily sinks to what Mr. Hopkins fitly calls "the lowest possible basis-that of dollars and cents." This is inevitable, because there is no footing from which an appeal can be made to the higher motives and sentiments, which alone are worthy to decide a question involving national life or death. We shall not, therefore, follow closely the chain of reasoning so fully wrought out by our correspondent. not because we deem that reasoning unanswerable, even from the commercial point of view, but because we do not think a sufficient number of our readers are interested in the discussion to warrant us in prolonging it. Did we deem it otherwise, we should join issue at once with Mr. Raney in regard to certain of his assumptions. The question whether we should be benefited politically by annexation is out of court. That has gone against annexation by default. Mr. Raney virtually admits that Mr. Cunningham's contention is sound, that the Canadian laws, institutions, and administration are the better. Were it not so, Canadians would still, we believe, with all respect and friendship for their neighbours, prefer to develop their own national institutions and characteristics along original and independent lines, rather than merge them in the United States form of republicanism. We may freely admit all that Mr. Raney says about the great commercial advantages that would accrue to Canada from unrestricted intercourse with the Continent, but we do not regard it as by any means proved that that intercourse is unattainable save on the humiliating terms of political absorption. Were it clearly so, the majority of Canadians would, no doubt. declare the price far too high, and resolutely forego the boon. In closing the discussion so far as annexation is concerned, we cannot refrain from protesting against the assumption which seems to be common to annexationists and federationists, that independent national life is impossible for Canada, save on the galling condition of United States' sufferance. We adhere most confidently to the opinion intimated in another paragraph, that the people—we do not refer to the politicians but to their masters-of the United States are far too high-minded nd Christian to make unprovoked war upon any neighbour, weak or strong. But, should it prove otherwise, we have but to appeal to the history of the Americans themselves to justify us in adapting the words of a great British statesman and declaring that a nation of five millions, armed in the sacred cause of liberty, would be invincible by any force that could be brought against them on their own soil.

COURTESY requires that we should acknowledge, and so far as we can, accept the corrections offered in last issue by Mr. J. H. Long, of certain statements made in an editorial paragraph in a preceding number of The Week. It would be an uncongenial and thankless task to set about controverting the statement that Canada has grown in population far more rapidly than the United States. We have no relish for it. We yield to none in our loyalty to Canada and our faith in her possibilities of national devel-

opment. None the less we are convinced that it is the part of true patriotism to look all difficulties fairly in the face, and refuse to delude ourselves with either impracticable visions or deceptive ratios. The answer to the question whether Canada has increased faster in population than the United States depends altogether upon how one looks at it. From what period do we start? What is our method of computation and basis of comparison? This opens up too wide a field. But for the practical purpose of the present inquiry the following facts seem to us to be conclusive. We Canadians have a territory larger than that of the United States. Our writers who have studied the subject and written upon it will scarcely admit, we think, that, take them all in all, our climate and resources are inferior. And yet the United States which had in 1860 a population all told of about thirty-five millions has now a population of from tifty-five to sixty millions, an increase of at least twenty millions in thirty years. Canada which has now a total population of less than five millions, has probably added a little more than one million to its population within the same period. It cannot be necessary to say more. Mr. Long will no doubt agree with us that this growth is not satisfactory, and that something should be done to bring about an improvement. Free and fearless discussion may help the people to find out what that thing is.

THE difference between 320,000,000 and 48,000,000 is certainly somewhat appreciable. Is Mr. Long so certain that the old 272,000,000 of British subjects will fall gracefully into the new arrangement, which increases the number of their masters, without improving their status? It would be clearly but a question of time, and in some cases of a very short time, when the neglected fragments would demand to be admitted as constituent parts of the Imperial unit. The Indian problem itself bids fair to develop into a very formidable one within the next half century. But let that pass. The disproportion between five millions and forty-eight millions is also somewhat appreciable. England does not seem particularly anxious to have Canada's help in steering the ship of Empire through the intricate and dangerous straits which lie before her. Why should Canada be anxious to add to her complications, at a great increase of expense and anxiety to herself, and with so little prospect of rendering much ser vice? Another consideration also demands some attention. The providence or fate which has cast Canada's lot beside her mighty Republic neighbour has made it forever impossible for her to leave that neighbour out of the account in determining her own course and destiny. There have not been wanting of late indications of an ambition, on the part of the United States, to abandon the Monroe Doctrine as a policy outgrown, and to enter the arena as one of the world's Great Powers. It may be doubted whether any thing would tend more directly to hasten her decision than the change contemplated in Imperial Federation - a change which would transform Canada, her northern neighbour, from an American colony, into an integrant part of a European nation. We should repudiate as indignantly as any Imperial Federationist in Canada, the idea that the United States has any right to interfere with Canada's free action or development in any direction. But as a matter of political expediency and prescience it might not be amiss to ask whether, with Canada in organic union rith Great Britain, and the United States as a great maritime power, the situation of either of the two former would be greatly improved.

IT is, unhappily, but too well understood that one of the chief duties of the average Member of Parliament is to get the largest possible amount of Government appropriations and patronage for his constituents; but it is not often that this view of duty is so openly avowed as it was the other day by one of the members for Ottawa, if his speech before the Conservative Workingmen's Association is correctly reported. Mr. Perley is reported as having said: "I know very well I have not been able to satisfy all the applicants for employment in the Government, and I do not think it possible, with the number of applicants there are, for any man to obtain places for all in the Government. I am not aware of neglecting any of their requirements. I have endeavoured to do all I could for