

THE WEEK.

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Current Topics.

Col. F. C.
Denison.

The many friends of the late Colonel F. C. Denison mourn his untimely fate. He has passed away in the prime of life, when many years of service to his country were still before him. During his too brief career he played many parts, and in all he shone with equal credit. As a boy, at Upper Canada College, he was a great favourite. He took a good place in his form and his schoolmates found him what he remained through his whole life—plucky, honest, and straightforward. When he entered his profession—that of the law—without attaining rank in that field he maintained the respect and regard of his brother members of the Bar. But in another line, that of military life, he achieved uncommon success. The stirring times of 1866 and of 1870 found him in the field. He was directly under Lord Wolseley's personal notice and he then made such a favourable impression upon that commander that when it became advisable to send a Canadian contingent up the Nile Col. F. C. Denison was specially called for by cable from Lord Wolseley to take charge of the men sent from Canada to Egypt. In this position he saw actual fighting, being under fire twice. He received the Egyptian medal and bronze star. He was a sufferer from enteric fever, which carried off several of his men, but he himself recovered and returned to Canada. As an alderman of his native city he occupied a prominent position, which he eventually exchanged for that of member for West Toronto in the House of Commons. His career in the stormy arena of Canadian politics was of a piece with the rest of his life. No dishonest subservience to the party whip was ever received from him. He was a faithful and sincere believer in the creed of the party to which he belonged, but he could never be counted upon to support any measure which commended itself only because

it benefitted the party. He was as fearless and independent in the ranks of the members of the House of Commons as when under fire in action against the enemy. In him Canada has lost a good son—his friends have lost a true comrade—his constituency has lost a fearless and able representative—and his native city, an intelligent and honest administrator. His memory will long be held dear, and his bereaved family will have the consolation of knowing that their protector died as he lived—a gentleman without fear and without reproach.

The Turning
of the Worm.

The eminent divines who have lately been making very strong not to say sensational statements respecting the manners and morals of the present Canadian Parliament have overshot the mark and have done considerably more harm than good. Because two of the members misconducted themselves on a certain occasion is no excuse for the wholesale indictment of Parliament, whilst the remarks on the ball and its imaginary evils were in exceedingly bad taste as well as entirely uncalled for. It is the one failing of very good and eminently strict-living people that they are apt to imagine the great unknown circles outside their own particular little circle to be much worse than actually is the case. Exaggeration and sensationalism, which are for the most part begotten of a foolish craving for notoriety, should not characterize the speeches and sermons of those who desire the esteem and respect of wise and observant men. We are glad that our Parliament, through the voices of its best and most honoured members, has emphatically and satisfactorily contradicted the reckless charges which have been made against it. It is also gratifying to our national pride to learn that so competent an authority as Sir Cecil Graham considers that Canada possesses the second deliberative assembly in the world.

Three
Needs.

Sir William Van Horne says that in his opinion the most pressing needs of Canada are "a vigorous immigration policy, to be carried out by a special commission; a first-class Atlantic mail and passenger steamship service; and the protection of the interests of the Dominion in the mining districts of Southern British Columbia." Sir William certainly will find few to disagree with him except, perhaps, the advocates of the Remedial Bill. If some decisive step is not taken soon in the Pacific Province its mining districts will be in the hands of American capitalists. Canadians are just a little too slow about taking advantage of the good things Nature gives them in such abundance.