

of fact, the duty could be, and probably would be, very soon put on again. En passant, it is not out of place to question whether the publication of such works as "Trilby," "Dodo," "Madame Sans Gene," etc., in 5 or 10 cent editions, would tend to improve the morality of the community. As the representative of a firm which has tried to establish a business in Canada by complying with the requirements of the Copyright Act of 1875, and has been very seriously handicapped by the inability or the unwillingness, or both, of the Government to enforce the provisions of that Act, I can speak very feelingly on the subject of copyright.

SYDNEY ASHDOWN.

#### THE CANADIAN FLAG.

SIR,—To all who have taken an interest in the subject of an emblem for our flag there is something very pleasing in the fact that, to use Dr. Sandford Fleming's words in a former letter, "the discussion has generally been conducted with moderation and courtesy"; and it is a matter of surprise and regret that he now considers it to be conducted in a spirit of anger. Surely the "threatening letters" cannot be looked upon as otherwise than the action of some irresponsible person (as they are not published), or as a joke perpetrated at the expense of the genial editor of THE WEEK. Nothing has yet been written that should call forth an angry retort. In urging the claims of his favourite symbol, which he has called "The Star of the North Pole," Dr. Fleming mentions a number of orders the insignia of which is a star; he also gives a list of twenty-nine foreign star-orders from twelve European countries and a South American republic. Now this is just what we wish to avoid; what Canadians want is a distinctly Canadian emblem. In the three crosses of the Union Jack, which must assuredly remain, we have that which will ever remind us of the great Empire to which we belong, of the old-world glory, and they, too, date back to the time of the Crusades; indeed, the broad Latin Cross is the *great emblem* which has come down to us from the early days of the Christian era. Canada has been unfortunate in being so often misrepresented as a place of almost perpetual snow and ice; a tract of country bordering on the arctic regions, where the inhabitants fraternize with the Esquimaux. To a great extent we are to blame ourselves for this: we get photographs taken, wrapped up in shaggy furs, with background of snowy hill-tops or icy caverns; we advertise our winter carnivals with the thermometer registering below zero; and "Miss Canada" is generally portrayed in an Indian blanket suit, snow shoes, fur cap, etc. No wonder that foreigners—and our own people in the British Isles—have the idea that our country is but a cold, northern waste; and if we wish to get that idea generally confirmed, we should adopt for our flag-emblem the Star of the North Pole!

H. SPENCER HOWELL.

Galt, Oct. 5th, 1895.

#### THE CANADIAN FLAG.

SIR,—Mr. Sandford Fleming excuses his suggestion of a Star badge instead of the Maple Leaf by a lengthy reference to the "Stars" (so called) which are the usual insignia of Knighthood, but he omits to point out in what way there is any connection or resemblance between such insignia and the Star badge suggested by him; there is, in fact, no such connection or resemblance. One might as well attempt to draw a comparison between a flagpole and a walking stick, for each of them is a "staff," but the mention of one by that name would not suggest the other. The distinction between a "star" of knighthood and a "star" as a heraldic charge or badge is fully as great as the difference between a walking stick and a flag pole, or as the difference between a princely coronet and a cap of liberty. The Star is very common in heraldry in two forms, the estoile and the Mullett, and ordinarily in a coat of arms has no especial significance, except where it is used, as is sometimes the case, as a "difference" to distinguish the arms of one person from the similar coat of another member of the same family, but when adopted for a national flag it is generally regarded as a badge of republicanism. The resemblance of the American flag to the arms of Washington is an accidental coincidence for the flag first used by the American Revolutionary Army was the East India flag of red and white stripes with the Union Jack in Canton, the latter being subsequently

changed by the substitution of the stars as emblematic of the new Republic then constituted. The American Revolutionists rejected the "Stars of knighthood and nobility" and all titles and honours, and even family arms, Washington's as well as others; by all means let them keep the other variety of "Stars" which they adopted, and for which Canada has no use.

E. M. CHADWICK.

#### AN ECONOMIC QUESTION: THE WAGES PROBLEM.

SIR,—I express my thanks for your reflective article on this subject, and also for your sympathy for the oppressed workman. You argue that Supply and Demand from the nature of the case is brutal in its operation, and that it intensifies the struggle for existence. Perhaps you are like Professor Maurice who expressed his feelings in this way, not, however, giving us much of an argument. He said: "I believe in my soul this Manchester doctrine of buying in the cheapest markets and selling in the dearest is the doctrine of devils." And as Burns says: "This business of hugging a brother of the earth to give him leave to toil" is a poetic expression hinting that this wage problem has a solution very different from what now obtains, and practically we have protest from all quarters. You sympathetically desire that the employer should exercise a freer hand to his own workmen. It would be a blessing if such a course were possible, but see! if he does anything of that kind he is on the direct road to business ruin, because his neighbour manufacturer, being swayed by selfish impulses, buys his material, his labour, cheaper. Even his discounts are secured at a lower price, in which case this pound of flesh manufacturer has the market in his own hands, and he succeeds "heaven help the mark," and we, the people, worship him, his wealth, his business success, and very likely make him a member of Parliament. I do not want to colour his character in any worse shading. All the same, the principles of supply and demand does, as a consequence, play into the hands of the sharks and the skin flints. We may see how false the system is when this competition—this struggle for existence—rewards only the high self-regarding characters, and rewards with a crust the kindly-hearted, or even those who are honest enough to feel that a fair day's wage ought to be the equivalent of a fair day's work, having a full regard for human requirements. We can see there cannot be very vigorous evolutionary forces at work, so long as that law works so grossly. I find I cannot go on much further without enlarging my subject, which would take up too much space. But let me say I am a stiff defender of the law of supply and demand—the law of competition must obtain in all stages of our present or future industrial life. I suppose you will think me quite inconsistent in saying so, but this is no absurdity when I insist that the *intensity* of this our deplorable competition is principally the result of law. False law, unjust law dominates our industrial life, and it reigns and rules because we ourselves, Church, Bar, and people, are, as yet, utterly ignorant of the purpose of our industrial life. The first hint that threw light to my mind was this proposition: The primary purpose of production is to reward the man who produces. But we act on a secondary principle, namely this: The purpose of production is to reward capital. We have adopted the principal of Byron's *Satan*, "Evil be thou my good," in making what is really secondary and accidental occupy the highest place to the dethronement of poor working humanity. Excuse me while I say no more at this time. Thanking you for space and particularly for your editorial habit of allowing the freest discussion of your leading articles, a habit that is to be particularly commended.

WM. BOWES.

Pinkerton, 30th Sept., 1895.

#### EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS.

SIR,—I am very sorry that I find myself unable to write at length this week in answer to "Audi Alteram Partem" as I had wished to do. However, it is but right that I should take this early opportunity of apologizing for what you yourself have assured me in your editorial note of last week is a mistake concerning the succession to the chair in mineralogy and geology. By way of extenuation I may say that my information was obtained from gentlemen who are rarely mistaken with regard to University of Toronto affairs.

ROU.