

# THE WEEK.

Ninth Year.  
Vol. IX., No. 44.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, 1892.

\$3.00 per Annum.  
Single Copies, 10 Cents.

## THE WEEK:

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART

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. stg.; half-year, 6s. stg. Remittances by P.O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.

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.

No advertisements charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHER, Business Manager, 6 Jordan Street, Toronto.  
European Agents—SMITH, AINSLIE & Co., 25 Newcastle Street, Strand, London.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

### CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPIC—	PAGE
"Marjory Darrow".....	691
A Legalized Combine.....	691
The Dominion Medical Council.....	691
The Pan-Presbyterian Council.....	691
The Chinese Question.....	692
Sir William Ritchie's Death.....	692
Russia and the Sealers.....	692
Advice to Bread-Winners.....	692
They Should Own Their Homes.....	692
Politics in South Australia.....	693
Proportional Representation.....	693
THE CANADIAN VIEW OF THE BEHRING SEA QUESTION.....	
.....Thos. P. Gorman.....	693
TWO KNAPSACKS: A Novel of Canadian Summer Life.....	694
.....J. Cawdor Bell.....	694
AT SEA. (Sonnet).....	696
.....T. G. Marquis.....	696
PARIS LETTER.....	696
.....Z.....	696
THE INDIANS OF THE MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY.....	697
.....Iota North.....	697
THE CRITIC.....	698
MARJORY DARROW (Poem, Selected).....	699
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Sir John Thompson at Petrolen.....	699
.....S. A. C.....	699
Poetic Nonsense.....	699
.....E.....	699
Fresh Air Fund.....	699
.....J. K. Macdonald.....	699
ART NOTES.....	699
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.....	699
OUR LIBRARY TABLE.....	700
LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.....	701
PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.....	701
SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY.....	702

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

WE are not surprised that our comments in connection with "Marjory Darrow," upon what seems to us a tendency to obscurity in some of the young Canadian poets of whom we are justly proud, should have called forth rejoinders. That some of these rejoinders should be abusive is, too, what was to be expected. Abusive adjectives are the stock-in-trade of a certain class of journalists. Of quite a different kind are the remarks of "S," in the *Globe's* "At the Mermaid Inn." This writer, being one of the young poets himself, has the good sense to see that the best friends of Canadian literature are not necessarily those whose idea of criticism is indiscriminate praise of everything Canadian. "S's" observations are so reasonable and at the same time so courteous that it is a pleasure to comply with his suggestion that we should publish the poem in full. It will be found in another column. No one with an ear can fail to feel both the rhythm of the narrative quatrains, and the music of the liquid and sibilant refrains. Nor are we deaf to the fact that the attempt in the latter to translate into words "the cadence and pause of the thrush's song" is successful, probably it will be judged highly successful, in conveying an impression of the song itself. The lyric has its merits, and from this point of view its marked merits, undoubtedly. But this is not the point of view from which we were looking, as we distinctly intimated, when we penned our half-jocular comments. We found fault from the intellectual side, and surely even a lyric has an intellectual side from which it may be legitimately criticized. That is to say, in the case before us, the lines in which the story is "hinted at, after Mr. Carman's manner," must have a meaning though those intended to imitate or suggest the thrush's song need not. May we not lay it down as a safe canon that, in order to have the best lyrical effect, both the meaning of the story and the relation to it of the thrush's song should be so clear that even the unpoetic reader could take it in without conscious effort or prolonged study? To put into propositions our objections to "Marjory Darrow," so that the reader may pronounce upon the question for himself, we may say (1) The story is obscure, inasmuch as the general reader is obliged to study it out, losing a part at

least of the musical effect in the process. Worse still, we doubt if the average reader, unaided, can be sure, even after careful study, that he understands it just as the poet meant it. This is the radical defect in much of Browning's poetry. You are never quite sure that you have the right interpretation. (2) It was a mistake, we think, to express the refrain, the song of the thrush, in actual and apparently connected words, since these naturally lead the reader to search for ideas, thus again interrupting the enjoyment of both narrative and cadence. Had unmeaning phonetics, or even obviously disconnected words, been used, this might have been avoided. (3) The relation of the story to the bird's song, or the connection between the two, throughout the whole poem, is not obvious without close study, and the necessity for close study mars, we hold, the effect of the lyric, however unobjectionable it may be in the more subjective forms of poetry. We give these criticisms for what they are worth. If our remarks shall have the effect of calling the attention of our clever young writers to the danger of unconsciously courting obscurity rather than simplicity and perspicuity in expression, our chief end will have been attained.

SOME of the Liberal members of the Liberal Legislature of Ontario occasionally wax eloquent in debate as they denounce the facilities afforded by the tariff legislation of the Dominion Government and Parliament for the formation of combines and monopolies. And yet these same Liberal representatives, through their support of their Liberal Government, sanction some of the closest monopolies, created by Provincial statute, which are to be found anywhere. Two facts in a daily paper which lies before us, illustrate our meaning. On one page we are informed that a detective employed by the Ontario Medical Council has summoned several of the city druggists before the Police Court, there to be tried for the crime of having, probably in answer to the questions of some poor customers, recommended certain specifics for the cure of certain ailments. We have no particulars before us, but it is highly probable that in most cases the ailments may have been of such a kind that a druggist would have no difficulty in recommending some well-known remedy which would produce the effect desired quite as well, at the expense of a few cents, as the costly prescription of some licensed physician. There are probably few of us who have not at some time or other been glad to utilize in this way the druggist's knowledge of the *materia medica*, and have profited by that knowledge, when it would have been decidedly inconvenient to summon a doctor. The other fact referred to is the statement that the members of the Dominion Medical Council, assembled at Ottawa, are seriously considering whether the heavens would be likely to fall if the various Provincial Councils were to so far widen the strait gates of their respective monopolies as to permit the licensees of these Councils to enter each other's preserves without the ordeal of a special examination. An unsophisticated citizen would naturally suppose that the right to practise any honourable calling or profession in any Province of this free Dominion was a natural right, which could be taken away only by a special Act of the Legislature, for some good or sufficient cause. Yet the tone and spirit of the discussion remind us that no man, no matter how well qualified by study and practice, may venture to prescribe for a sufferer in Ontario, save by leave of the members of the profession in the Province, banded together in a closer corporation, and exercising powers conferred by Act of the Provincial Parliament! Is it any wonder that the druggists are taking the cue and seeking to turn their monopoly to account by preventing the trader, who has the misfortune to be outside of their combine, from selling a bottle of sarsaparilla or pain-killer, and that architects, undertakers, etc., are hastening to demand similar powers for their respective guilds! We sometimes congratulate ourselves on having reached a stage of liberty and enlightenment at which we no longer give to even the most orthodox of churches a monopoly of the cure of souls. With what consistency can the Legislature which is declared incompetent to legislate in this higher sphere, in which malpractice may lead to still more

serious loss, assume the right to dictate to free citizens to whom they may and may not entrust the interests of their ailing bodies!

NOTWITHSTANDING what we have said in another paragraph with reference to the monopoly given by our Provincial laws to the Ontario Medical Council, or rather in perfect harmony with what we have said, we have the highest opinion of the benefits conferred upon the people by the profound scientific research and wonderful surgical skill of the students and practitioners of this noble profession. It has, in fact, always been a matter of wonder to us that the members of a calling whose enthusiastic pursuit carries with it so much inherent influence and authority, should wish or even consent to call in the aid of the constable and the magistrate to secure for them that pre-eminence in the practice of the healing art which belongs to them, and is certain in the main to be accorded to them, solely in virtue of their professional usefulness and indispensability. We can never hear of some alleged quack, or some practitioner who has neglected to apply for the permission of the Council, being hauled before the police court, without a feeling that the thing is decidedly *infra dignitatem*, so far as the members of the Council are concerned. But this is by the way. What we set out to do is to add our word of appreciation of the service which has just now been rendered to the whole Dominion by the deliberations and recommendations of the members of the Canadian Medical Council, which met last week in Ottawa. Such a meeting, at a moment when the minds of all who have a sense of responsibility are alive to the duty of ascertaining and using the very best preventive measures which the scientific wisdom of the profession can suggest, to ward off the danger, be it greater or smaller, of an invasion of cholera, is in the true professional spirit. Its action is patriotic as well as philanthropic. The authorities, both Dominion and Provincial, should not, and we feel sure will not, fail to pay the most careful heed to the advice and suggestions thus given. Above all, it is to be hoped that some means may be found for unifying official action by placing at the head of sanitary affairs a competent Dominion officer with the authority necessary to enable him to make and enforce uniform quarantine regulations. Unnecessary damage to commercial interests is already resulting from the want of harmony between Dominion and Provincial regulations. This is clearly one of the cases in which the central authority should be supreme, or when at least the fullest harmony should be secured between the central and the local authorities.

LAST week and the current week will be memorable in the history of Presbyterianism, especially of Presbyterianism in Canada. The holding of the fifth meeting of the Pan-Presbyterian Council in this city cannot fail to have a powerfully stimulating effect upon the life of the Christian churches generally, upon that of Presbyterian churches in particular, and above all upon that of the Presbyterian churches of Ontario. The existence of this Council is in itself a remarkable evidence of the tendency towards consolidation which is so marked a feature in the religious life of the day. It is true that the coming together is, in this case, of those only who are in a certain sense already one in virtue of their common use of a particular system of church government. As the use of that system is probably co-extensive with the spread of evangelical Christianity, the fact in a measure explains the centripetal force which brings the Council together, drawing to its meetings delegates from the ends of the earth, and representatives of widely divergent shades of theological opinion, and of such dissentient bodies as the Established and the Free Churches of Scotland. But a force more potent and active than a common system of church polity is needed, if we may venture to express the opinion, to account for the substantial unity which rules amidst, or rather over, all the diversities of creed and practice which are to be found within the limits of Pan Presbyterianism. The growing activity of that force is, we are glad to believe, one of the most hopeful signs of the times throughout all Christendom. It is the aggressive force of Christian altruism. This is the outcome of experimental as dis-