To the Editor of The Week :

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for the Editor must be addressed: EDITOR OF THE WEEK 5 Jordan Street, Toronto. Contributors who desire their MS. returned, if not accepted, must enclose stamp fo that purpose.

H.S.-Your communication will appear in our next issue.

## THE YOUNG LIBERALS AND THE SENATE.

To the Editor of The Week :

SIR,—The Convention of "Young Liberals," at Toronto, has come,—and gone. Touching the reconstruction of the Senate the following resolution was adopted:—

That the Dominion Senate, as at present composed and constituted, is not consistent with the genius of the present age, is utterly useless as a legislative body, and has completely failed to realize the hopes and expectations of those who, at Confederation, believed that a Second Chamber, composed entirely of life members, would prove a nonpartisan body which would prove a check upon hasty or imprudent legislation by the House of Commons. That the Convention recommends that steps be at once takenwithout interfering with the present proportionate representation of each Province in that body-to reform or reconstruct the Senate in such a manner as to make it a representative or elective chamber.

This affirms the principle of an elected Senate, but leaves the mode of election still to be determined. Some of the delegates contended that the Senators should be elected by the Provincial Legislatures, as in the United States, and as proposed in THE WEEK of September 10th. Others wanted election by the people, as for the House of Commons: the members being of course fewer in number and the constituencies larger than in elections to the House.

The latter plan is simply the revival of an old one, which had a twenty years' trial in Ontario and Quebec before Confederation. It was not a success in old Canada, and in the course of the Confederation debates it was dropped by statesmen of both parties. If the Senate is to be reconstructed at all, we had better make a complete job of it, and adopt the American plan, which has given to the great Republic the strongest and the most efficient Second Chamber in the world.

But there were those in the Convention who wanted no reform of the Senate at all, but simply to abolish it altogether. They held that any Second Chamber whatever must be opposed to the spirit of Democracy, and to the genius of the present age. Well, the United States is pretty far advanced in Democracy, it will be allowed; yet any American citizen who should to-day propose to abolish the Senate would surely be deemed a fit candidate for the lunatic asylum. That proposal could not come from any *bona fide* American, though it might come from European Socialists. The American Senate is very highly esteemed by the people; and its remarkable efficiency and success point it out as the model for Canada to copy from. SENEX.

#### NEW FRANCE.

To the Editor of The Week : SIR,-In the tearful farewell and benediction which the Paris Figuro bestows on the Rev. M. Labelle, on the return of that worthy ecclesiastic to his Canadian home, accom-Panied by that circle of French delegates whose visit to this country crowns his mission there is an ominous ring which the English-speaking Canadian will find worthy of careful consideration. It reveals the real object of Father Labelle's official journey; and it avows an important fact that the long-cherished devotion of the French Canadians, which the leniency of the terms in which the Act of Capitulation in 1760 was drawn seemed specially designed to cherish and develop, has now reached a fervour which appeals to the maternal heart of France. He forgets that the France of 1608, when his ancestors from Normandy set up their first camp-smoke in Canadian forests, is not the France of to-day; that the monarchy so dear to them perished long ago at the hands of the public executioner; that the supremacy of the Catholic church has in turn expired, drowned in infidelity, communism and liberalism ; that the modern Frenchman, in politics, sociology or theology, bears no resemblance whatever to the traditional representative of the race; that anything approaching a coalition of the now distinct races would necessitate an entire obliteration of the romance of at least four generations. Whether the education of the masses in these matters will alter the existing bias of our French-Canadian mind or not time alone will tell. tell; one thing, however, is certain, that at this present moment they are prepared to form a brotherhood against their fellow-citizens in this Confederation. For some years matters have gone smoothly enough. In the speeches of our public men the peroration has been invariably a flow of tearful thankfulness on the one hand for French-Canadian loyalty, on the act the other a condescending acknowledgment with an assurance that the compliment is not unmerited. But Riel has been convicted of felony by a constitutional tribunal, and a strained relationship is at once felt; or much afflicted Montreal would have all her citizens obedient to her sanitary laws, and the Gallic brother declares that the gauntlet has been thrown. Little troubled thrown down and defies his Anglo-Saxon brother in most forcible strains. Little troubled by past political turmoils, the Anglo-Canadian, with that characteristic commercial instinct which has enabled his brethren in every known land to make their way, set himself determinedly to obtain, even in the Province of Quebec, an acknowledged supremacy, a fact at first painless to the French-Canadian representatives but now full of gall; a state of mind enhanced by the extent of our commercial relations with Great Britain. The hour is late to change all this; but, undeterred by the thought, Father Labelle turned his face toward France in the hope of in some way weakening the influence of England with the Dominion by establishing, in lieu 'of a sentimental bond, a commercial union between What E': what Figaro calls Old and New France. He went; he saw the Figaro; he conquered that journal at all events; and when he set sail once more for Canada the great heart of the organ burst forth in the following strain :--

The Damara is nearing Halifax, having on board the Curé Labelle, the apostle of the colonization of Canada. He is surrounded by worthy Frenchmen—literary men, artists, engineers, manufacturers, merchants—children of Old France who are going to hold out the hand to New France; to fraternize with the Frenchmen of America, too long forgotten ! To bid them welcome, they will find on their arrival all that the French nation of Canada possesses of men of merit, of warm-hearted people, an innumerable crowd ! To renew by a good act the alliance of the old colony with the metropolis; they will want to add their signatures side by side on the petition which will solicit Riel's grace !

This-in plain language-means simply that France is deeply interested in the North-West; that all Quebec and the North-West are to be in future known as New France, in contra-distinction to the rest of the Dominion, with the prospect of a fine jumble should the day arrive when Canadian Independence shall become a subject of serious debate. Enjoying as we now do the protection of Great Britain, the animosities of a race cause the Anglo-Canadian scarcely a thought. But that he would ever enter into an independent union under existing and progressive circumstances is a very different matter. B.

#### A FOOLISH PRACTICE.

Sin,—Will you allow me space to protest once more against the vulgar, useless and dangerous practice of jumping on or off cars or steamers whilst in motion, a practice which has assumed the obdurate guise of a "fashion" among a large portion of our people. Anything so intolerably stupid as a social practice is disallowed in other countries; and, whatever may be the tendencies of government in those countries in any other departments of control, this one cannot certainly be pronounced an unworthy infringement of the liberty of the citizen. It is no infringement of liberty to prevent a man from making a fool of himself in a way that jeopardizes his life; but it is this very feeling which forms the chief restraint upon proper police regulations in this Canada of ours. Rational liberty is to be maintained under all circumstances. Liberty to risk your life foolishly is not rational but injurious, not merely to the individual, but in all the circumstances of life by which he is environed. The point is clear enough to those who *think*. The vain beings who display their jumping powers at such contingent cost *don't* think—consecutively; and it would often be hard to teach them to do so.

## BEREAVED.

A SILENT household mine. Unbroken gloom Where once was mirth and childhood's glad surprise : Ere yet the tear-dewed pathway of the tomb Had led unto the gates of Paradise.

Can I forget that hour when they had borne My one ewe lamb forth from the parent fold, When bolt and bar closed on a heart forlorn And left my little one out in the cold ?

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Oft in my spirit's hour of dark unrest I seek one hallowed room with softened tread,

And, as the shadows lengthen from the west Keep sacred tryst with relics of my dead.

Two little socks, her christening robe, a tress Of golden hair, and Love-crown'd bassinette, Once emblems of a mother's happiness ; Ye shrine till death a stricken heart's regret.

I hear them whisper Murder's hideous name— A daughter of the hamlet, wooed in lust That, flamed with the madness of an open shame, Slew the frail offspring of illicit trust.

Deeply my sorrowing heart bemoans its fate, And murmurs at the chastening Hand which gave

To her a pledge of shame, a child of hate, And unto me, alas! a little grave.

H.K.C.

# THE SCRAP BOOK.

#### FRENCH PRIESTS.

IT has been my fortune to know a good many French priests, and to be on terms of intimacy-indeed I may truly say friendship-with two or They are generally most respectable men, devoted to their work, three. living contentedly on wonderfully small incomes, and as far removed as possible from that dissoluteness of manners which did so much to discredit the Church of Rome in England in the times immediately preceding the Reformation. The worst fault they have, as a class, is too much fondness for good eating, which may very easily be accounted for. Their position affords them very few opportunities for any kind of amusements or pleasure. They wear the long black cassock every day, and all day, and wherever they go are obliged to be very strict in their demeanour. They are much more separated from the world of the laity than a clergyman of the Church of England is. They may not enjoy any active out-door pleasures except a grave kind of pedestrianism ; they may not go to the cafe to play billiards as laymen do, and yet they have no domestic enjoyments except a book by the solitary fireside of the presbytery, and perhaps a secret pipe or a pinch of snuff from time to time. We must remember, too, that the priest is often really a hungry man. He cannot say mass if he has eaten anything-the laws of the Church forbid it-and after mass he often has other work to do which postpones the hour of dejeuner. Then there are fast-days, and the long Lent season, which an earnest priest observes with the greatest strictness. Priests may be divided into two classes, the clever and the simple. The

Priests may be divided into two classes, the clever and the simple. The clever priest usually lives in a town, and confesses great ladies; the simple priest lives in a country village, and hears the wearisome confessions of the peasants' wives and daughters. The first is sometimes a finished man of the world, who, were he placed in the position of a Mazarin, a Richelieu, or an Antonelli, might easily be the diplomatist or statesman; the second tends rather to the saintly than the intellectual life, and sometimes does, indeed, almost realize the difficult ideal of Roman Catholic sanctity. The contrast between the two lives is great indeed. The fashionable confessor passes half his time in drawing rooms, and his own sitting room is like the boudoir of a grande dame, with all sorts of Bibles, vases, engravings, candelabra, bouquets of flowers, pretty needlework, and beautifully bound books. The poor curé de campagne lives in a small cottage, which may be worth a rental of five pounds, with one old ugly servant and a few pieces of