



December.						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Vol. II.  
Home Journal Publishing Co.  
GLOBE BUILDING, TORONTO.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1896.

No. 8.  
YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00.  
SINGLE COPIES, TEN CENTS.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

The year 1896 opened in international unrest. It was rung in with loud clamorings that smote harshly upon the ear of two great Christian peoples, since they held in them possibilities terrible to contemplate. The air was filled with rumors of war and the cries of the oppressed, and statesmen and thinkers looked soberly through the shadowed gateway of the New Year. But 1896 closes with the darkest shadows lifted, and the two Christian nations have been brought to a fuller realization of their kinship, by reason of the cloud that lay for a little between.

GREAT BRITAIN and the United States owe a debt of gratitude to Venezuela in that she has inadvertently tested the strength of the tie which binds them, and shown that it is stronger than they themselves were aware; so that concession, and even sacrifice if need be, is found preferable to an extreme issue. The Venezuela difficulty has been settled by the adoption of a natural and almost self-evident principle of government, "that we should treat our colonies as we treat individuals." The question naturally arises why any other method of government should suggest itself; also whether many other problems of statesmanship might not be solved in similar fashion. And the pleasantest points in connection with the settlement is the satisfaction it affords to the people of both nations, and the impetus that has been given by the entire incident to the international arbitration movement.

AND again the Sultan has given promise of reform; and although no one places the slightest reliance upon his word, still fear may induce something of restraint in the conduct of this atrocious monarch. Russia and France may bring satisfactory pressure to bear upon the Porte; yet this does not justify the long inactivity of Great Britain and the United States. Lord Rosebery's speech in defence of England's inaction was not that of a statesman of the larger vision, inasmuch as the policy he outlined is one of selfishness, one pursued by that first murderer when he asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

I say that any British Minister that engages in an European war, except under the pressure of the direst necessity, except under interests directly and distinctively British, is a criminal to his country and to his position.

In view of the Armenian massacre we should like to know what Lord Rosebery's interpretation of "the direst necessity" is. Again he says he believes that the colonies would support England in a just and necessary war, but he adds, and the italics are our own,

My impression is this: That the colonies would rather take the attitude of a nation not less Anglo-Saxon, not less Christian, and much more populous than yours—a nation whose interests and whose subjects have been more directly affected by those outrages than your own—I mean the United States—

and, while willing to join in diplomatic action, would depreciate involving the arbitrament of the sword on a question which does not directly concern their vital interests.

Had the ex Liberal leader been dealing in sarcastic invective instead of expressing an approving conviction, he could hardly have cracked a more stinging lash over the selfish and un-Christian policy of these nations. Is it nearly two thousand years since Christ was born, and have we got no further than this?

THE possibility of a potato famine in Ireland, recalls to the elder generation the horrors of 1845-46, when the Irish people suffered unspeakable things in disease and death; when they fled by thousands from their island home across the sea and reached the western continent in vessels that were but pest houses. Down on Grosse Isle, out in the blue St. Lawrence, there is a silent acreage ridged with grass-tangled mounds and marked by a time-stained pillar, where lie buried the bodies of over five thousand Irish emigrants of '46, who, fleeing from starvation, were overcome by fell disease, and landed at Canada's outer portal, to die. An old, old woman, an inhabitant of the Isle who went through the terrible scene, told the writer the tale of it three years ago, and as she talked, the wild grass-grown ridges made their mute expressive commentary.

If Liberia has only one vessel in her navy, she means to let the world know she has a navy, and the little black republic does not hold back from action waiting a "concert of the powers," or for fear of "precipitating war." If her naval equipment is limited, it at least does active service, even to firing upon a British steamer. The audacious courage of this navy of one commands our admiration. It is to this prosperous African republic that the United States looks in the latter's periodical discussion of the negro question; and occasionally the scheme of wholesale emigration of the Southern negro to Liberia is discussed. But Liberia must be approached cautiously; she has a navy.

A FEW months ago we were subdued by the word "suzerainty," which the press thrust upon us at every turn; later it was "protocol;" and now our genial Lord Dufferin has been cruel enough to hurl the unkindest word missile yet upon us in the awful phrase "sanguinary camarilla." "Camarilla" suggests crocodiles, leeches, something reptilian and creepy. Someone says it means "back-stair influence," in which case sound and sense are once again welded.

THE last word has been written concerning the result of the presidential election; but, perhaps, the best one from a Canadian point of view was that spoken by Mr. A. M. Crombie, general manager of the Bank of Commerce, who, at the close of an interview concerning the effect of the presidential election upon Canada, said.—

So that I think we, as Canadians, had a great deal at stake. Apart from this the mere fact that the countries are contiguous, and that their general commercial interests are to a certain extent interwoven, makes the result a cause for universal rejoicing throughout the Dominion, for undoubtedly it means increased prosperity for the United States.

Mr. Crombie might have included our social interests also. Nay, further still, the interests of all nations are so interwoven that by immutable law the health of any one affects the international body politic to higher or lower estate. Permanent national prosperity will never be achieved at the expense of another nation. As parts of one great whole we rise and fall together.

AN article in the October *Nineteenth Century*, by Mr. C. S. Oakley, decries the service of women in public life. The writer, who deals in paradoxes, maintains finally that the radical relations of man to woman were settled by nature long ago; that these are incompatible with an uncompromising sifting of truth in public debate. Men will not retaliate upon women, he declares, since this radical relation is one of courtesy from the man to the woman; and the retaliation would mean the loss of her favor, "and the whole attitude of man to woman is a request for favor." Very pretty in theory, but in fact how true? Ask the woman in the business world, the sweat shops, the office; ask the widow, the poor woman and she whom nature has made homely. Mr. Oakley's article will do no harm, it is a trifle late. It should have appeared before the Flood, or earlier still, before the Fall. Then it might have applied.

Globe cartoon of Nov. 18th, re the Manitoba school question: Messrs. Laurier and Sifton—"That patch is put on splendid."

It is open to the chuckling Conservative to remark, "But it's only a patch after all; just wait until he sits down."

THE summer season of 1897 is going to be a succession of celebrations in Toronto. Citizens should begin taking tonics almost immediately in order that they may have strength to bear the blushing honors to be heaped upon them: Her Majesty's sixtieth celebration; a Royal visit; the Cabot celebration; the British Science Association meeting; the International Epworth League Convention; also the assemblage of the world's W.C.T.U.; yes, and the new City Hall opening. Any more?

MISS CLARA BRETT MARTIN is to be congratulated on having won her well fought battle. She deserves also the thanks of all other Canadian women, in thus opening for them an hitherto closed profession in Canada. She has persevered in the face of many discouragements, and suffered as the pioneer in any movement must, from the discourtesy born of prejudice. But now, having yielded the point, all members of the bar will accord her the courtesy that has never been refused her by those who stand highest in the profession.