

# THE WEEK.

Vol. XIII.

Toronto, Friday, October 30th, 1896.

No. 49

## Contents.

	PAGE
CURRENT TOPICS.....	1159
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
Educational Competitions.....	Wm. Houston, M.A. 1162
Wellington.—I.....	Albert R. J. F. Hassard, B.C.L. 1162
The Statistical Year Book.....	Rev. John Burton, B.D. 1164
Field, Forest and Stream.....	On the Wing. 1165
Letter from Paris.....	Z. 1166
Pen and Ink Sketches in a Southern Republic.....	1167
POETRY—	
Come Over and Help Us.....	Fidelis. 1165
Hope.....	Lois Saunders. 1166
Ireland! My Ireland!.....	1168
Suspiria.....	Kate Seymour MacLean. 1169
Earl Li at the Fair.....	J. C. Hamilton. 1171
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—	
Christian Unity.....	Rev. Fredk. Thos. Dibb. 1168
BOOKS—	
The International Critical Commentary.....	Sigma. 1171
Genes of Hope.....	1172
Canadian Catalogue of Books.....	1172
Briefer Notices.....	1172
DEPARTMENTS—	
Music.....	1169
The Drama.....	1170
Periodicals.....	1174
Literary and Personal.....	1174
Chess.....	1175
Public Opinion.....	1176
Scientific and Sanitary.....	1178

THE WEEK: C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, MANAGER.

## Current Topics.

The Howland Memorial Hall.

It is eminently fitting that the name of the late W. H. Howland should be perpetuated by the Mimico Industrial School, to the maintenance and development of which he gave so much thought and toil. It is a noble monument to his memory, and the friends who have undertaken to carry on his work in connection with it have acted wisely in calling the new building which was recently opened the "Howland Memorial Hall." His is a name to conjure with in soliciting contributions for the support of the school, to which he was himself so liberal a contributor. The aim of the institution should commend itself to the community at large. It is designed to prevent boys who have drifted into evil courses from becoming confirmed criminals, and to train to industrial habits those who have, from lack of parental control, become truants and idlers. Some complaint has recently been made that the number of inmates is decreasing. If this is due to a diminution in the number of boys who ought to be sent to such an institution, it is matter for congratulation, for no one would wish to deprive of their freedom those children who are fit subjects for the ordinary public school discipline. The allegation is made, however, that the falling off is due to an unwillingness on the part of magisterial officers to commit to the Industrial School boys of the very class for which it has been designed. If they exist in undiminished numbers in the community, what becomes of them when they pass under the surveillance of the police as cadets in vice or crime? To allow them to drift on in evil courses is not just either to them or to the public; to send them to a reformatory prison before that is absolutely necessary is to shut the door of hope to those whom every humane magistrate should be reluctant to consign to perdition. The new Provincial Secretary might usefully look into the matter, for no more important question is likely to come before him.

Early Closing  
in Montreal

By a civic ordinance of the corporation the shops of Montreal are required to close at a certain and not very late hour. It has been found difficult to secure general observance of the regulation, and a number of shop-keepers have been fined by the Police Magistrate, who announces with equal frankness his disapproval of the ordinance and his determination to enforce it as long as it remains unrepealed. The opponents of the regulation threaten to apply to the Quebec Legislature for relief, but surely that body would be foolish to interfere with so purely a local matter. There is really no hardship inflicted on any class by requiring all shops to close at a reasonable hour, any more than there is by requiring all factories to limit the number of hours their employees are permitted to work during the week. It seems to be too late to protest against the ordinance on general principles, and now that the experiment has been started, it would be a good thing for other places to see it fairly tried in a great commercial centre like Montreal. One of the regrettable things about our modern civilization is its failure to lighten the burdens and brighten the lots of the toilers, and surely the salespeople in shops are entitled to some consideration. The purchasing public would not be seriously inconvenienced by early closing, but it does not seem possible to secure its general adoption except by the enforcement of a civic by-law such as is authorized by the early closing law passed some years ago by the Ontario Legislature.

Dr. Bergin

The death of Dr. Bergin, M.P. for Stormont and Cornwall, has removed from the arena of political life in Canada one of its better known and more interesting characters. He was in many respects a typical Irish Catholic, and was never disposed to apologize for being so. His fondness for horses was proverbial, and as he kept a farm he was able to indulge freely a taste which the introduction of the bicycle tends to obscure if not obliterate. Dr. Bergin entered the House of Commons in 1872 as the Liberal member for the town of Cornwall. He was defeated not long afterward, and having meanwhile separated from his original associates, he was subsequently re-elected as a Conservative. His high standing in the medical profession was recognized by the Government of the day, when he was appointed Surgeon-General of the forces sent to suppress the North-West rebellion a few years ago, and by the Ontario Medical Council when it elected him as its President.

"Ian  
MacLaren"

The author of "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" is so well known to his readers, and is so popular with them, that he takes a great risk in the matter of reputation when he appears on the lecture platform. Few great writers are great speakers, and there is about the usual lyceum lecture an air of conventionalism that is very trying to people of taste. Coleridge drew large crowds to hear him, and so did Thackeray, and Carlyle, but their lectures were not of the conventional type. They were simply able and characteristic essays which were not intended to be used over and over again on