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THE WEEK:

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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.

THERE is," says a writer of a former generation, "no more pleasing exercise of the mind than gratitude." here certainly is none more subduing and elevating in influence on character, individual or national. In-Satitude we all instinctively feel to be one of the basest crimes. And if gratitude between man and man for hdness bestowed is a most natural and becoming virtue, more is such tribute due from man to his divine hefactor, the supreme Creator, Upholder and Ruler the universe. Nor is there in this matter any logical de-ground between the place of the devout worshipper that of the avowed materialist, or atheist. Time was, ot so many years since, when the minds of students of a tain class seemed to be in danger of losing their logical Alance. In the exuberance of their joy at the disberies that were being made in the realms of natural have many for a time were betrayed into the folly of histaking the how for the why and the whence of things, failing to distinguish between mere discoverable order ^{8equence} and true causation. Happily the reaction bich caimer minds foresaw must soon set in against so a phase of scepticism has long since begun, and the hatific investigator who now finds, or supposes himself 6 find, in the invariable and unerring order whose prehe delights to trace in all the phenomena of nature of life, any disproof of the existence of an omnipresent all-directing divine Intelligence, would be hard to During the season now closing the genial sun and abundant rain have worked together in Canada to the the land to bring forth bountifully its kindly fruits, the supplying food for man and beast. Our minds are h constituted that the causeless is unthinkable. Somehere behind the more or less complicated and intricate of secondary causes which has given us the rich secondary causes while that Cause, who has been " causing His sun to shine on upon the unjust, or there is—what? an unthinkable must proceed all those wonderful phenomena of ture and of human life whose origin the materialist and atheist are unwilling to ascribe to an omnipotent God.

There is, as we have said, no tenable third supposition. Every thoughtful mind must choose between the two conceptions, hence, every one who is unable to satisfy his reason and conscience with the miserable negations of the agnostic or the atheist, is bound, if he is logical, to unite in heart, if not in voice, with all devout Christians in "praising the Lord for His goodness and His wonderful works to the children of men." The custom of setting apart a day for harvest thanksgiving is shown by its almost universal prevalence in some form among all nations and in all ages to have its origin in the reason and conscience of mankind. Within reasonable limits it seems fitting that it should be observed as a day of feasting and gladness. All must admit that the year's harvest has brought to Canada much reason for heartfelt and joyful celebration, and must derre to see the day observed with the mingled heartiness and decorum which are appropriate to all Christian worship.

THE crisis at Ottawa may, we suppose, be now considered past, seeing that it has been officially announced that Mr. Chapleau is not to receive the coveted portfolio of the Department of Railways and Canals, and yet is to remain in the Government. Whether this is wholly a victory for Premier Abbott remains to be revealed. Should the event prove that Mr. Chapleau has simply waived his claim on condition that his influence in Quebec affairs shall be paramount, that he shall, in other words, be virtual premier for that province, it is doubtful whether Mr. Abbott's position will have been improved by the compromise. If, on the other hand, as is scarcely likely, Mr. Chapleau has simply succumbed to the influences brought to bear, and consented to take whatever portfolio may be awarded him in the coming redistribution, the Premier is to be congratulated, but the Secretary of State will have made his own position uncomfortable, not to say ridiculous. It is but fair to await the publication of the letter which he is understood to have given to the press, but of which no version has yet come to hand, before pronouncing opinion upon his course and statesmanship. The only other step which has been made, so far as announced, in the direction of reconstruction, is the admission of Lieut.-Colonel Ouimet to the Cabinet. The appointment of Mr. Ouimet, while not one to create much enthusiasm in the Government ranks, or to strike much terror into those of the Opposition, is nevertheless a fairly good one. Mr. Ouimet's reputation as a man of integrity and honour is, we believe, unsullied. This is a first and indispensable consideration. His abilities as an administrator remain to be proved. It is not likely that he is destined to receive the portfolio of railways and canals, which is just now, for obvious reasons, deemed so important, and if Mr. Abbott can but succeed in securing a Minister of high standing and first-class ability from Quebec for this office is, it seems, deemed a Quebec perquisite --- he may congratulate himself on having come well out of his difficulties, so far as that province is concerned. The question of Ontario still confronts him, however, and it is a question of no small magnitude. It is by no means likely that this province will much longer be content with the secondary, or rather tertiary, position which has been accorded her for so long a time, and notably since the death of Sir John A. Macdonald. The list of Conservative representatives in the House from this province does not contain many names of special prominence, and, if it did, the task of replacing those of its Ministers whose resignations are now pro forma in the Premier's hands must be one of no little delicacy. It cannot be said that Premier Abbott's strength, sagacity and skill in the work of cabinet building have as yet been fully demonstrated, but it is possible that he may so use the present opportunity as to meet Parliament at the next session with a stronger Government than has existed at Ottawa for many years. Whether his hesitancy is due to the vacillations of weakness or the cautiousness of wisdom is yet to be determined.

WE are right glad to know that a University Extension Society has been organized for Canada. The meetings in this city on Thursday and Friday last in connection with the movement were fairly representative of the Universities, and the action taken by the representatives present

seems to indicate that all these institutions are prepared to join in the work, though some are more enthusiastic and hopeful than others. We are glad, too, to see that the action is taking the shape of an independent organization, rather than that of a mere offshoot of the Universities. It is essential that the Universities should be in full sympathy with the movement, since, whether the new Society seeks special corporate powers for itself or not it will naturally devolve upon the chartered institutions to give recognition and prestige to the work done by extension students. At the same time it is even more desirable that the outside public should be interested and enlisted in the project to the greatest possible extent. For this reason as well as because of the special fitness of the appointment on the grounds of merit, we are glad that the secretary chosen is Mr. William Houston, M.A., who is not a member of any University staff. We have, we think, on a former occasion pointed out that it would be a mistake to suppose that the lecturers or conductors of the classes to be formed must necessarily be University professors. The work done must be in the main real teaching, largely on the Socratic plan, if the largest amount of good is to be done. In many cases, though happily not in all, the habit of formal, standoff lecturing, which is, we think mistakingly, deemed the correct thing in the class-room of the University, quite unfits the professor for the more familiar, individualizing inductive methods which are best suited to the classes of students that may be expected at the extension centres. There are, we feel sure, scattered all over the provinces, masters in the high, and even in some of the common schools, and educated men engaged in other professions and pursuits, whose services could be enlisted and who would do excellent work in conducting the extension classes. That this variation of method in teaching necessarily implies any sacrifice of efficiency or thoroughness by no means follows. On the contrary we venture to prophesy--and the experience of University Extension workers in England makes the prophecy safe-that the average of work done by those who seriously undertake it and pergevere to the end in the town and village stations, will be found to be quite up to the level of that ordinarily done within college walls. We are glad to learn that after full discussion it was resolved to depend wholly upon local and other voluntary sources for the funds required. We earnestly hope that this principle will be rigidly adhered to from the outset. Though a Government grant might probably be secured, and would no doubt be found very convenient, we are persuaded that in the end it would retard the movement. Our people are already too much in danger of learning to depend upon legislative or municipal aid for every such service and of thus weakening through disuse the faculty of self-help which is essential to all high success in educational development. It would, moreover, be unjust to appropriate from the public funds more money for higher literary culture while so little provision is made for instruction in the technical arts, which afford a more legitimate sphere for Government assistance. If rightly appealed to, we feel sure, the enlightened self-interest and the enlightened philanthropy of the Canadian people will together be found equal to the task of supplying all the necessary funds for a vigorous prosecution of University Extension work.

THE election of the McCarthyites candidate in Cork by a plurality of more than 1,500 votes over his Parnellite opponent shows how completely the Parnellite faction is doomed to extinction. It is likely that the sanguinary conflicts said to have taken place in the streets during the progress of the canvass have been a good deal overdrawn, for it is highly improbable that the authorities. with ample military as well as police forces at their disposal, would allow the faction battles to be carried to the extent indicated by the tale of broken heads reported by cable. Be that as it may, it is clear that Ireland is still Ireland, and that Cork is still Cork. The revelation thus given of the peculiarly Irish way of carrying on political contests will be variously interpreted, as to its bearing upon the fitness of the natives of the Emerald Isle for the Home Rule to which they are now looking forward. At first thought the events of the last week or two, or for that matter, of the last year, can scarcely have impressed any