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THE WEEK.

Vol. X.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, NOV. 10th, 1893.

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All articles, contributions, and letters on matter 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.

CURRENT TOPICS.

It is doubtful whether any other single state or country is in a position to derive more direct benefit from the World's Fair than Canada. The remarkable success of the exhibitors in winning prizes for various agricultural products, and especially for cheese and live stock, can scarcely fail to have a favourable effect in attracting attention to her great resources and inducing immigration of the kind that is specially needed. If the suggestion that an exhibition of the prize-winners be held in New York should be carried into effect, a further opportunity will be afforded of showing her superior excellence in those lines of production which she has made more especially her own. As, however, the articles in which Canada chiefly excels are those which find their chief market in Great Britain, a competition of the exhibition there, if it were possible to bring it about, would be of still

greater practical value. In addition to the advertising of our country to foreigners, our success at Chicago should have a beneficial effect upon our people themselves, by inspiring confidence in the resources and capabilities of their own land, and leading them to stronger resolutions and efforts to make the most of those resources and capabilities for their own behalf and that of their country.

A recent number of *The Open Court*, from which we should have expected better things, has as its leading article a paper in defence of prize-fights, or, as they are euphemistically termed, "public boxing-matches," and in condemnation of the legislation which forbids such exhibitions. The writer, who has the prefix "Prof." before his name, is deeply concerned about the mental and moral degeneration which he foresees as the outcome of the state of public feeling which forbids athletes to pound each other's faces in the presence of crowds of admirers. The writer admits that the best type of men do not now appear in the prize ring. He deems the reform of the ring an urgent necessity, but protests against its abolition. "It is true," he says, "that the most conspicuous prize-fighters are not members of the educated classes, and are frequently men of inferior type. Are we to infer from this that physical and mental courage are lost to man as he advances in culture?" That would certainly be an intrepid inference from the premises. If the boxing ring, with all its degrading accompaniments, is the condition of the development and perpetuation of "physical and mental courage," whatever these terms may mean, the future is certainly dark for the race, for nothing can be more certain than that just in proportion to its progress in culture and refinement and the development of any or all of the higher sentiments, does the sense of disgust with the brutality of such exhibitions and methods gather strength. "Prof. Cope" proceeds to laud "the British defence with the fist" as much more manly than the knife of the Latin, or the pistol of the American. We are no admirer of either method, and the less we have of either the better for the community.

Now that the Silver Question is out of the way, there would seem to be no reason why the United States Congress should further delay the long-looked-for tariff reform legislation. To an onlooker the state of the

country seems to make it most urgent that what is to be done should be done quickly. Whether honestly, or for the sake of political effect, there can be no doubt that the inactivity of the manufacturers in many parts of the Union is such as to make the necessity for immediate action urgent. Protected manufacturers plead the uncertainties of the tariff, or the fear of loss of protection as a cause for either keeping their establishments closed, or carrying on their operations on a reduced scale. The probability is that once the uncertainty is removed and the new tariff fixed, very few of those establishments which are on a tolerably sound basis will find any difficulty in carrying on operations with former or even with increased vigor. In many cases the reductions of taxation upon their raw material will go far to compensate for the loss of protection for their finished products. But it is no wonder that, pending the unknown and unpredictable changes, the manufacturing industry continues in many parts in a state of partial paralysis. One of the worst effects of a protective tariff in any country is that it makes the protected industries, from the moment of its introduction, more or less dependent upon the uncertainties of future legislation, and thus renders the business of the country liable at any moment to be interrupted by the dread of changes in the tariff. Where these are promptly made the injurious results are minimized. But with the intolerably slow movement of the legislative machinery of the United States, under which the mandate of the people given three years ago has not yet been obeyed, the evil of such interference with the free course of trade and industry is greatly aggravated. There is some talk now of delay of tariff legislation until after the holidays, which would really make it late in the year before the new tariff could be brought into operation, but it is probable that the fear of the popular wrath, if no other motive, will compel prompt action.

"Of the dead say nothing but good" may be a sound and decorous maxim in itself, but when construed, as it too often is in practice, to mean that of the dead we must say everything good, irrespectively of fact and truth, it becomes morally mischievous. We might perhaps go even further and deny the healthfulness of the sentiment which compels silence in regard to the evil done by the dead, if the position of the latter had been such as to make his evil-doing