

self. If the issue lay between England and the Boers alone it would be a small matter. But there are other and mightier interests involved. Portugal has not yet surrendered to England Delagoa Bay as it was confidently expected she would. The Boers rely undoubtedly on foreign sympathy, if not on foreign support. Is that support to come from Germany? That power could not very well embarrass England in South Africa, but she could give England much trouble elsewhere. Meanwhile, the loss in South Africa itself from paralysis of business is startling. The situation must end, for it is too critical to last. We look to the pressure coming at last from the English speaking inhabitants of South Africa itself. They will not be able to afford to endure the present position of matters and will take the law into their own hands, which is only what Jameson tried to do prematurely and failed.

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Literary Energy.

A COMPARISON of Canadian or American magazines or weekly newspapers with similar English or European publications betrays the tendencies of the two continents. The interests in this new world are material. Those of the old world are more intellectual. Take any week and consider the number of journals issued in England to confine ourselves to our own kith and kin and the amount of good original literary work poured out is something startling. Critical essays, psychological questions, disputed points in archæology, questions in classical literature still unsettled, all are discussed in the most thorough manner. No attempt is made to appeal to the senses by illustrations or engravings of any kind. The mind of the reader is the only point to which address is made. That such publications are issued in such numbers and of such high quality proves two things. First, it shows that there are men and women competent to write and second that there are men and women fit to be written for, willing to listen and able to pay for what they read. In Canada, the Saturday issues of the daily papers are intended to fill this gap. But from the nature of their constituency they cannot expect to receive the same quality of writing nor do they appeal to the same class as the English and foreign weekly journals we refer to. It is particularly the desire of the publishers of THE WEEK to supply for Canada one paper at all events of a literary character. The circumstances of our country demand the introduction of discussions upon the questions of the day which agitate the popular mind and we endeavour to supply this want also. But it is a sad thing for any country when its purely intellectual development is retarded or subordinated to its material progress. Both ought to go hand in hand, in fact, the intellectual development should lead the practical. THE WEEK appeals to all Canadians who love literature, art or science to aid in contributing to its columns. Every man and woman who takes an interest in books or who delights to dwell in the realms of fancy or dreams visions of that inner life of the soul without which our work-a-day existence is barren indeed may rely on receiving cordial welcome and absolutely fair play. We have been told over and over again that such a paper cannot live in Canada, that it is too advanced for the country, and that it is a hundred years too soon. We refuse to believe these statements. If the energy of the country is devoted to material progress there are many among us who do not believe that that progress is the sole end of man. We call upon fellow-believers to aid us in

showing that in the Dominion there is a band of strong literary workers and that it shall not be said their labour was in vain.

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Imperial Customs Union.

THE STATIST, in its issue of September 15, 1894, announced the offer of a prize of one thousand guineas for the best essay on an Imperial Customs Union, the competition to extend to the end of 1895. Subsequently it was able to announce that, on the nominations of Lord Salisbury and Lord Rosebery, the Marquis of Lorne and Lord Playfair would act as judges in the award of the prize.

This award was made April 20, 1896. Although some essays were disqualified through non-compliance with the conditions, 136 were submitted, and it is noteworthy that of this number about one-fourth were received from colonists.

The judges, differing in economic opinions, decided under the powers taken in the conditions of the competition to divide the thousand guineas into two prizes of five hundred guineas, awarding these to Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G. a well-known authority in matters Canadian; and Mr. R. S. Ashton, of Kent; who wrote under the *nommes des plumes* of "Defence, not Defiance," and "Scrutator" respectively.

Six other essays were specially commended by the judges. By ballot the essay first published is that of "Defence, not Defiance." This essay is from the well-known Canadian writer, J. G. Colmer, C.M.G. Subsequently will be published the essay of "Scrutator," under which *nom de plume* is to be known Ralph S. Ashton, Lee, Kent.

The commended essays, in their alphabetical order, are as under: "Amalgam," T. H. Haynes, West Wickham, Kent; "Ex Occidente Lex," James Van Sommer, Jun., Toronto; "Libra," T. B. Browning, Regent's Park; "Nec Temere, Nec Timide," Joseph Wrigley, Kensington; "Pont-canna Leckwith," H. Read, Cardiff; "The Thoughts of Men," Seward Brice, Q.C., London.

The matter dealt with in these essays is so vitally important that THE WEEK calls attention to the above announcement in the most prominent manner. Next week we hope to present our readers with a sufficient analysis of the prize essays to enable them to judge of the suggestions made. If the mind of the country is directed into the consideration of questions such as those discussed in these essays, instead of being frittered away in angry disputes over matters like the Manitoba school question, the Dominion would profit materially. It is a shame and disgrace to Canada that politics should at present be based on those of Donnybrook Fair.

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A good story of Kinglake, the historian, is now making the rounds of the Press having been rescued from the pages of the Nouvelle Revue, where it was given by Madame de Novikoff, in her "Souvenirs d'Angleterre." When Kinglake was engaged on the history of the Crimea, he received a letter from a husband and wife in one of the colonies, telling of the death of their son in the trenches, and asking that his memory might be perpetuated by mention in Kinglake's great book. The historian replied that he must have more details before he could comply. As answer came the following: "What details do you require? He died on the spot like many others. We know nothing more, but anything you can invent on his account will be gladly accepted by us. We rely entirely on your kindly imagination."