

THE WEEK:

A CANADIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

Second Year.
Vol. II., No. 28.

Toronto, Thursday, June 11th, 1885.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 10 cents.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK—	PAGE.
Discontent in Big Bear's Band	433
State Education	433
The Power of Disallowance	433
Disingenuous Reporting	434
Scott Act Intimidation	434
Hon. J. B. Finch	434
The Silver Coinage Question	434
Catholic Education	435
Defeat of the Gladstone Ministry	435
Dignity of the Imperial Parliament Departing	435
French Anglophobia	435
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
The President of the Bank of Montreal on the Currency	436
Disintegrating Forces within Confederation	Carlos 437
On the Scarcity of Good Singers	W. Elliott Haslam 437
Continental Notes	Zero 438
Matthew Arnold as a Master of Style	438
HERE AND THERE	439
CORRESPONDENCE	440
POETRY—	
A Common Thief	Charles M. Ryan 440
The Swallows	A. G. H. W. 440
A FRENCH VIEW OF THE FUTURE OF CANADA	441
A HALF-FORGOTTEN CHAPTER IN CANADIAN HISTORY	441
SOBAP BOOK	442
MUSIC—	
Toronto Choral Society's Concert	444
General Notes	444
BOOKS	
LITERARY GOSSIP	444
CHESS	445

The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE.
Edited by W. PHILIP ROBINSON.

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance.
ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptional in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4 per line per annum; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per insertion for a shorter period.
Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. stg.; half-year, 6s. stg. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.
All advertisements will be set up in such style as to insure THE WEEK's tasteful typographical appearance, and enhance the value of the advertising in its columns. No advertisement charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHEN, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

BIG BEAR, who does not fight in rifle-pits, will not necessarily stake everything on a single encounter as the Half-breeds did. Under the shelter of the woods he can move stealthily from one position to another. Discontent, the harbinger of disaster, has broken out in his camp; the Forest Crees are said to be anxious to leave him and to be only waiting for the opportunity to do so. Big Bear's allies are less ferocious than his own band. Mrs. Delaney and Mrs. Gowanlock, who have been rescued alive after numerous rumours that they had been killed, if left to them would have been butchered. To the Half-breeds they owe their lives which the savages repeatedly threatened. Even among the Indians degrees of ferocity were marked. Only the Indians of the plains desired to spill the blood of the captives; the Forest Crees, milder than their brethren of the plains, appear to have behaved better. The stories told about these women being subject to indignities at the hands of their captors appear to have been entirely unfounded. In their case captivity among Indians appears to have been shorn of much of its horrors, and the Half-breeds who took them away from Big Bear must have risked something for their gallantry. The women may have been said to have been rescued twice: first by the Half-breeds, who were like themselves Big Bear's prisoners, and then by William McKay and ten of General Strange's men. Big Bear is more to be feared as a fugitive than as a warrior; if he would fight he would soon come to the end of his career; as a fugitive among woods and quagmires his power of evading the troops may prove tedious and annoying. But that he can long keep a force of some hundred men together is improbable. General Middleton's design evidently is so to dispose of his forces that in whatever direction Big Bear may go he will find himself face to face with some of the volunteers from whom he is trying to escape.

In the ever-growing burden of taxation, and notably of city taxation, expenditure on the Public Schools is an item which is perpetually increasing. It is placed out of the control of municipalities in accordance with the

usual policy of a certain class of philanthropists who think nobody so enlightened as themselves, and deem their special object too supremely important to be entrusted to the common sense of the community. The time, however, seems to have come for defining the principle on which the system of school taxation rests and for confining the extension of the tax within that limit. No one can pretend a natural right to having his children educated at the expense of his neighbours any more than to having them clothed or fed. The justification for that which, as between man and man, is not equitable, must be sought in some reason of paramount expediency affecting all members of the community alike. The reason is that it is necessary, under democratic institutions, to provide that all citizens shall receive an education sufficient to enable them to understand public questions, without which their exercise of political power would be dangerous to the State. For the sake of this indispensable object we are content to put up with anomalies which our sense of justice would otherwise condemn. But expediency and justice alike require that the purpose of the expenditure should be the measure of its amount. The plain rudiments of education are all that the State is in any way concerned or called upon to impart. It happens also, that these are all that can be thoroughly taught in an ordinary Public School. To give the pupils a smattering of subjects with imposing names which they cannot really master, is merely to inflate them with a dangerous conceit of knowledge which they do not possess. It is perfectly natural and even laudable that the schoolmaster or the educational official should desire everyone else to exalt his office, and should wish to embellish his programme with high-sounding subjects of instruction. It is for the community to take care that professional zeal shall not, in its career, entirely leave the public interest behind. The question presses the more for consideration because both from the United States and from Canada come increasing complaints of imperfect attendance, while in the United States and even in that abode of light, Massachusetts, illiteracy appears to be growing apace. State education has extinguished in the breasts of parents the sense of educational duties towards their children. If the State system now breaks down in respect to the children of that very class which it is supposed to save from illiteracy and to prevent from being socially and politically dangerous, such advocates of the Voluntary System as remain will have too much ground for triumph. The first step seems to be to get the school taxation once more fairly under the control of the community.

THE Act passed by the Manitoba Legislature to enable debtors, among whom it seems are included not a few of the legislators themselves, to defraud their creditors, is, we must own, a most untoward comment on the plea which we urged the other day for the extension of self-government in the North-West. Such self-government would make the North-West a cave of Adullam. There can surely be no doubt that this is a case for disallowance. For what purpose was the power of disallowance reserved if not for that of keeping these young legislatures, from which crudities and escapades were naturally to be apprehended, within the bounds of public morality and legislative principle? The Act of the Ontario Legislature breaking the Goodhue Will was another proof of the danger of clothing such bodies as little Provincial Legislatures with absolute sovereignty, and of the necessity of retaining such control over their proceedings as the power of disallowance affords. Unfortunately this power is not here, as it is in the United States, vested in a neutral authority. Nominally vested in the Governor-General, it is under cover of that figment really in the hands of the heads of a party, whose exercise of it cannot fail to be tainted in the eyes at all events of the opposite party by his political position. We see that in the present case the party out of power immediately takes arms against disallowance, and, with the regardlessness of all consequences to the State too characteristic of partisans, declares in favour of the absolute sovereignty of a Local Legislature which has shown itself wanting alike in wisdom and in honour. It unluckily happens that, in addition to the party taint, the present Prime Minister has displayed centralizing tendencies of a decided kind, so that disallowance in his hands becomes doubly an object of suspicion. It is