

was a regular subscriber to this journal, and on more than one occasion was kind enough to express his hearty approval of it. THE WEEK has lost a kindly friend, and England one of its noblest-hearted sons.

**A Question
of Means.**

It was reported in Ottawa on Tuesday night that Mr. Joseph Martin, M.P., had formally announced to Mr. Laurier that he will not be a candidate for parliamentary honours at the forthcoming Dominion election. We doubt if there is any truth in the story that Mr. Martin has had a serious disagreement with the Liberal leader. The true reason for his contemplated withdrawal from political life appears to be that his private affairs demand more attention than he, as a member of Parliament, is able to give to them. It is to be regretted that so few of our men of wealth take an active interest in politics. Wealthy men of public spirit are rare in Canada, for money here seems to beget selfishness and narrowness and a distaste for public life. The result is that our politicians are, for the most part, men of slender means, and are less able, in consequence, to resist the wiles of interested leaders, or to turn their backs on Satan when he suggests little boodling schemes and other attractive but steady enterprises. Verily, our men of wealth will have much to answer for some day.

Dissolution.

After much foolish talk and fuss it has been decided that the present Parliament come to an end on the 25th of April. Many members, it is said, are prepared for a dissolution before that date. It seems evident now that unless the Liberals are willing the passage of the Remedial Bill this session is an impossibility; but the Administration will doubtless make a valiant effort, and leave no stone unturned that may expedite the measure in its tortuous path. For all that, it is more than possible that dissolution is not so far off as the 24th April.

**Insubordination
at St. John's.**

Whilst we have no sympathy with insubordination, and believe in its prompt and effective punishment, the recent case of mutiny of the attached men of St. John's Military Depot seems to us to be one of abundant provocation. The six non-commissioned officers who refused to shovel snow have been degraded to the ranks, and narrowly escaped eighty-four days' imprisonment with hard labour. Though the men should have obeyed commands, it was clearly not their duty to shovel snow. They were not at the military depot for that purpose. It was the work of servants, and should have been performed by servants.

**Mr. Hardy's
Civic Bill.**

The chief fault we have to find with Mr. Hardy's civic bill is that for its successful working a mayor of uncommon wisdom and righteousness is imperatively demanded. Now, wise and righteous mayors are by no means plentiful. Toronto may have had one or two in the dim and distant past, but they only serve to emphasize the general run of commonplace records with which our eminently respectable city hall abounds.

**Oom Paul
Again.**

According to yesterday's despatches, the Transvaal burghers are assuming an alarming attitude. Fortifications are being raised and the Boers are arming themselves to the teeth. The streets of Pretoria ring with defiance of England. Emissaries have been sent to the Orange Free State and to Cape Colony with the object, it is said, of stirring up race feeling, and winning adherents to the Transvaal's cause. What President Kruger thinks of all this it is not difficult to imagine. He has finally

declined to accept Mr. Chamberlain's courteous invitation, though it is only fair to Oom Paul to say that he referred the matter to the Volksraad, and it refused to grant him permission to go. The Rand is much exercised over this refusal. It is feared that it will lead to evil complications. Yesterday morning the London Times, in an editorial, warned President Kruger that the suzerainty of Great Britain over the Transvaal is not a matter for discussion, and that if the invitation to come to England is not accepted, England will have to take measures to support the just claim of the Uitlanders. It is to be hoped that Oom Paul will consider well before he plunges his little republic into a war with Great Britain which can only have one end, and that, for him, a disastrous one, though once upon a time the brave Boers did win a great victory over the Imperial troops. That is not likely to be repeated again. But it is a serious matter for the Empire that two wars should be carried on in Africa at the same time. The struggle in the Transvaal cannot be much longer delayed, we apprehend, whether or not President Kruger should reconsider the declined invitation. But it is an unfortunate time for the struggle to begin. The Nile expedition, we predict, has evil days in store for it; it is not strong enough. But time will show. We hope we are mistaken.

**These
Stirring Times.**

Events of vast importance occur so rapidly these days that one lives in a constant state of excitement and expectation. The alarm and confusion caused by Mr. Cleveland's bombastic message on the Venezuelan boundary question had scarcely abated ere the startling news came telling of the Jameson raid and the danger of war with the Transvaal. The telegram of Emperor William, following hard on the raid, threw the whole Empire into a state of amazement and indignation, and England facing a great European combination in open war seemed to be an immediate possibility. The excitement caused by the telegram had not died away before the American Congress shot off a couple of bombshells in the form of resolutions highly insulting to the Spaniards and their efforts to put down the rebellion in Cuba. In short, Congress appeared to threaten Spain with war, and this menaced the stability of all European combinations, as we noticed last week in these columns. Spanish mobs were still shouting defiance at the United States when the Italian defeat before Adowa stirred all Europe with pity for Italy and with alarm for the fate of Africa. As a result of this catastrophe England is again at war, and this time with a foe so brave and determined and powerful that the war promises to rank with those of the first order. These great political events have all been crowded into less than four months. What fate has in store for us next month who can say?

**The Unlovely
Armenians.**

Mr. Marion Crawford, the novelist, who is thoroughly familiar with the Orient, has recently said some hard things about the Armenians, and now a naval officer in Turkish waters writes to the San Francisco Argonaut more than corroborating all that Mr. Crawford has said. According to this officer the Armenians in general are a most rascally set; far more so than the Turks. They hold a large proportion of the Turkish political offices, and cheat right and left. They are educated by the missions, learn the ways and customs of the Christian world, are Christians in the sense of the word, and all this, combined with the cunning of the Turk, make them dangerous, and a nuisance to the Turkish Government, which they wish to overthrow and rule themselves. As to being Christians, continues the naval officer, as you or I understand it, they are far from it.