

THE WEEK.

Ninth Year.
Vol. IX., No. 21.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd, 1892.

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

THE WEEK:

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance.

Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid on terms following:—One year, 12s. 6d.; half-year, 6s. 6d. Remittances by P.O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.

ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptionable in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4.00 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.

No advertisements charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHIER, *Business Manager*, 6 Jordan Street, Toronto.
European Agents—SMITH, AINSLIE & Co., 25 Newcastle Street, Strand, London.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, *Publisher*.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS—	PAGE
Hon. Alexander Mackenzie	323
Mr. Mackenzie's Education	323
The Military College	323
Those Railway Passes	323
The Superannuation System	323
Canada and Newfoundland	324
A Correction	324
The Gambling Mania	324
A Logical Result	324
The United States and Italy	324
Spelling Reform	325
IN MEMORIAM: The Honourable Alexander Mackenzie	W. 325
OTTAWA LETTER	T. C. L. K. 325
A LOSS TO CANADIAN SCHOLARSHIP	325
THE CRITIC	326
TWO KNAPSACKS: A Novel of Canadian Summer Life	J. Cawdor Bell. 326
AT MURRAY BAY. (Poem)	Duncan Campbell Scott. 328
THE FIRST SHAKESPEARE CENTENARY, A.D. 1664: AN ARITHMETICAL CURIOSITY	E. A. M. 328
CANADIAN LITTERATEURS: ARE THE UNIVERSITIES SO MUCH TO BLAME?	Principal Adams. 329
THE RAMBLER	329
CORRESPONDENCE—	
The Superannuation System	A Greyheaded Civil Servant. 330
AT EASTER TIME. (Poem)	Charlotte Grant Macintyre. 330
LORD TENNYSON'S FORESTERS	330
MY THOUGHT. (Poem)	Mary Morgan (Gowan Lea). 331
ART NOTES	331
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA	331
OUR LIBRARY TABLE	331
LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP	333
PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED	333
SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY	334
CHESS	335

All 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.

WITH the passing of Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, one of the ablest and most incorruptible of Canada's statesmen disappears from the stage on which he had well and faithfully performed his part. With regard to the breadth of his statesmanship and the soundness of his political principles there is, perhaps, room for difference of opinion. With regard to his honesty and incorruptibility, there is happily none. Time was when in the heat of political excitement and party rancour there were found some ready to cast doubt upon the personal integrity of the deceased ex-Premier. To-day, it may with all confidence be affirmed, no such persons are to be found in Canadian public or private life, or if such exist, they are of a class whose utterances carry no weight, and whose baseless suspicions the high-minded amongst Mr. Mackenzie's life-long political opponents would be the first to repudiate. As in the summing up of life's accounts we all both instinctively and deliberately assign to the moral the unquestioned precedence over the intellectual, it is the highest praise which can be bestowed upon the memory of the departed, that, in the course of a long and active public career, notwithstanding the inevitable mistakes and failures which mar all human action, he was betrayed into no intentional wrong-doing, no act of dishonour, "which, dying, he could wish to blot."

TOUCHING the question of ability and statesmanship, any comparison of Mr. Mackenzie with another or others would be lacking in the essential elements of fairness, if it failed to take account of the differences in early opportunities. As is well known, Mr. Mackenzie's school advantages were meagre. It is to his lasting honour that, commencing life with such bare rudiments of education as the public schools of his native Scotland could impart fifty years ago, he, by dint of the most unremitting mental industry, raised himself to a position in which he could stand beside the most intelligent and best educated men in Canadian public life, and give his friends no reason to blush from the comparison. The best test of an educated mind is what it is capable of accomplishing in the way of independent work. Tried by this test, Alexander Mackenzie was easily entitled to an honourable place in the ranks of

the educated. Rising, as is so often necessary for a Parliamentary leader, at a late hour to reply impromptu to the long and carefully prepared speech of a political opponent, he was perhaps seen at his best. Without any attempt at rhetorical flourish, or the glowing periods of the orator, he would proceed to dissect the argument of his adversary with a logical precision, a lucidity of statement, and a clearness and force of expression which very few are capable of attaining under such circumstances, and which had all the qualities of convincing argument. It was but the more to his credit that he was able to accomplish this, not so much by the display of any striking mental brilliancy, as by dint of intense concentration of thought. His vigorous effort showed the working of a well-trained mind obeying the behest of a strong will. An unusually powerful memory was of great service to him on such occasions, but it is doubtful whether this, too, was not more the reward of painstaking culture and previous careful investigation and arrangement of facts, bearing upon all subjects with which it was his duty specially to deal, than the result of any extraordinary natural endowment. In a word, there is reason to believe that the saying that genius is but a special capacity for hard work, had special force in reference to the talent which he displayed throughout a long and honourable public career. Be that as it may, and we have no disposition to detract from the mental endowments, strong and rich far beyond the average, which were his heritage from nature, the result was that the ablest and best educated men that the Canadian schools and colleges were able to produce never failed, when called on to measure swords with the self-trained stone-mason, to find in him a foeman worthy of their steel, while not infrequently they were fain to retire discomfited from the contest with a man who, while by no means their inferior in skill of fence, was often distinctly their superior in the mastery of facts and precedents bearing upon the case in hand. Of the soundness or the opposite of Mr. Mackenzie's political principles we have neither space nor inclination to speak. This is neither the time nor the place for such discussion. The future will decide between him and his successful opponents, for nothing is clearer than that neither the past history nor the present state of the Dominion has as yet demonstrated that he was wrong and his opponents right. Suffice it to say at present, without entering into that vexed question, that his political principles were adopted carefully and intelligently, that they were held as conscientiously as tenaciously, and that repeated defeats never caused him to swerve for a moment from his faith in their soundness and their ultimate success.

WHEN the responsible Minister of the Crown admits on the floor of Parliament that it is a fair question for consideration whether a given institution within his department should not be done away with, it may be taken for granted that the case against its retention is a pretty strong one. In regard to the Kingston Military College the figures are, it must be admitted, rather startling. If the fact be, as is not we believe denied, that each of the eighteen graduates of last year cost the Dominion no less than \$2,666, and that the year was not exceptional in this regard, it is evidently none too soon to enquire carefully whether the game is worth the candle. When there is added to this fact of undue expense in educating, the further fact that of the total of 175 graduates sent out from the College, at an aggregate expense of nearly \$1,000,000, only twenty have remained in Canada, and only eighty in the British service, *i.e.*, that only a little more than half follow their profession in any part of the British Empire, most of the others going to join the military or civil service of the only country against which there is the slightest possibility of the Canadian military ever being needed, the problem is still further complicated. It is, or rather it would be, if we permitted ourselves to contemplate the possibility of our troops ever being called upon to defend their country against invasion by that nation, a rather startling fact that for every officer we train at so great expense for service in the ranks of our own volunteers, we are training two or three for the benefit of the prospective enemy. It seems almost capable of demonstration that, this being so, the College maintained at such

cost is really a source of weakness rather than of strength to the county. While, therefore, it is evident that if the College is to be maintained at all there is need of a searching examination with a view to discovering how the very serious defects under consideration are to be remedied or reduced to the minimum, it is also clear that the time is a favourable one for a reconsideration of the antecedent question of the utility of such an institution in the Dominion. It may require some moral courage to take such a position, but the contingency that would render necessary the use of a military force in Canada seems so very remote that it is, to say the least, an open question whether some much simpler and less expensive system might not safely be relied on to furnish the country with all the military officers she is likely to stand in need of for many years to come. To undertake to provide employment in the public service for the graduates of the College would be a method of meeting the difficulty lying open to so many objections that it may be hoped the proposal will not be seriously made or considered.

THE Ottawa *Evening Journal* had, a week or two since, a strong open letter, addressed to "Members of Parliament and Senators who accept Railway Passes," in which it commented in dispassionate but severe terms upon the impropriety and wrongfulness of the acceptance of such passes by those who are, by the very nature of the position which they occupy as the people's representatives in Parliament, the guardians of the public interests against the aggressiveness of the railways. We have on various occasions commented on the same subject, and in somewhat the same way. We do not propose to go over that ground. We do not see how any unprejudiced person could read our contemporary's article and refuse to admit the conclusiveness of the reasoning employed. The main question is just now, it seems to us, one of fact. Are there Senators and members of Parliament who do actually allow themselves to be placed in the equivocal position the *Journal* describes? The *Journal* does not hesitate to assert that a majority of the members and Senators do hold railway passes. If this is not true, it is distinctly libellous. We have not heard of any action being taken by aggrieved members to compel retraction. If it is true, then—does any reader doubt it?—those who do this thing are guilty of a shameful betrayal of trust. We do not place so low an estimate upon either the intelligence or the moral culture of any member of Parliament as to suppose that he does not know in his heart that in so doing he is guilty of a gross public wrong; in fact, as will presently appear, of two gross wrongs, against not only his own constituents but the whole people of Canada. He must know that, in the first place, as the taker of a gift from a party in respect to whom he may at any moment be called upon to act the part of judge in the interests of the rest of the community, he has placed himself in a position in which it will be very difficult, if not wholly impossible, for him to act independently in the interests of his clients. In the second place, by accepting—as every member of Parliament, so far as we are aware, does—the indemnity allowed by Parliament for the express purpose of paying these very travelling expenses from which the free pass exempts him, he is really accepting money under false pretences. The Canadian Government, through the Minister of Justice, is about to commence, or has already commenced, suits to recover from certain officials the amount of certain rebates on the regular selling prices of goods purchased by said officials for public uses, on the ground that any rebate thus made belongs to the public on whose behalf the officials were acting, and not to the officers themselves. Need we point out the parallelism? What do "honourable" members of Parliament think of it, and of themselves or their colleagues, if they do this thing? What do our readers think of it and of them who do it? Is it not time some step were taken to put a stop to the practice?

WE have not much fault to find with the letter of "A Greyheaded Civil Servant," though he seems to have failed to perceive that THE WEEK's strictures were directed against the superannuation system, not against the members of the Civil Service. From the tenor of his