

## The Week.

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

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### THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

Notice to Canadian Writers.

A prize of

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS

will be given for the best

POEM on the QUEEN'S JUBILEE,

To be competed for by Canadian writers, under the following conditions:

- (1) The poem not to exceed one hundred lines.
- (2) To be delivered at THE WEEK office not later than May 1st next.

A similar prize of

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS

Will be given for the best

ORATION on the QUEEN'S JUBILEE,

To be competed for similarly by Canadian writers, under the following conditions:

- (1) The oration not to exceed three thousand words.
- (2) To be delivered at THE WEEK office not later than May 1st next.

The right of publication of both poem and oration to be reserved to THE WEEK.

The competing poems and orations must bear on them a motto, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked with this motto and the words QUEEN'S JUBILEE PRIZE COMPETITION, and enclosing the name and address of the writer.

THE WEEK will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfilment of the conditions.

THE appointment of Sir Alexander Campbell to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Ontario will give general satisfaction. Even political opponents will not complain. But why the delay? For the political convenience of the Prime Minister. Once more we protest against this use by the leader of a Dominion party, for his own purposes, of an office which belongs to and is paid by the Province. It is the duty of the Governor-General, as guardian of the rights of the Province, to see that these appointments are filled up at the proper time and with proper persons, though he may accept the Prime Minister's recommendation. It is his duty, that is, if he has any duty at all: and if he has no duty at all why should his office be kept up at an expense of \$100,000 a year?

OUR City Council has resolved to get a Bill brought before the Local Legislature extending the municipal suffrage to married women. The Bill had better be entitled a Bill for extending the following of the Mayor. The object may be transcendently excellent, but it might be brought about by means not so full of peril to our domestic peace and happiness. The Legislature might provide that in any contested election the votes of a number of sinners, equal to that of the married women holding property, should be transferred by the returning officer to Mr. Howland's side. The world is full of protests against the influence of the priest in the family. We do not see how the influence which it is now sought to introduce is likely to be less dangerous to the home than that of the Roman Catholic priest. The Roman Catholic priest can say nothing worse to a wife of her husband than that he is one of a party of libertines, sots, and sharpers, an enemy of God and a servant of the devil. Nor, whatever mischief he may breed beside the hearth, does he instigate the wife to appear in public against her husband. The promoters of this measure do. It is not pretended that property held by married women has suffered any special injustice under the existing suffrage system.

As publishers of a literary journal, we have thought that the best way in which we could ourselves do homage to the jubilee was by trying to call out an effort of Canadian talent. What the community ought to do, we

confess ourselves unable to decide. When a feeling is strong, spontaneous, and definite, it finds its own expression. But the enthusiasm which is whipped up, on the ground that we have arrived at a certain date, is apt to be factitious, and to find itself at a loss for a mode of manifestation. We see no reason why the community should overtax itself, either in the way of expenditure, or of effort for a merely chronological celebration. The new Parliament Buildings, or the new Concert Hall, if there is to be one, at the Horticultural Gardens, might be dedicated in some special way to the Queen's honour. A June holiday, with some fireworks, can never come amiss. In England the desire to celebrate the jubilee at all is not unanimous. A good many hissings of Radical opposition are heard, though it is the Conservatives, in truth, that have most reason to complain of the obstinate seclusion of Royalty and its refusal to perform its most important duties during the last twenty-five years. The state of Ireland, unfortunately, is a monument of Victoria's reign, as significant as it is conspicuous. A pure court, on the other hand, calls for national gratitude. However, it matters comparatively little what are the personal merits or demerits of the wearer of the Crown. The nation and the race celebrate the close of an eventful half-century, to which Victoria gives her name.

DR. RUSSELL WALLACE, the great English Naturalist, is coming here to lecture. He shares with Darwin the honour of discovering what is called the Darwinian theory. When so many minds are at work on all the problems of science, simultaneous discoveries are sure to occur. The simultaneous discovery of Neptune by Adams and Leverrier is one case, that of Natural Selection by Darwin and Wallace is another. A survey of the plants and animals of the Malay Archipelago brought Wallace to the same conclusions as to the Origin of Species at which Darwin was arriving in England, and, it is believed, hastened Darwin's publication of his great discovery. Wallace, however, does not hold that Natural Selection explains the moral and intellectual nature of man.

BEFORE the election the shrewdest judges thought that the Government majority would be twenty. It will be thirty at least, and probably more. This is too much for the public good, which, if we are to have party government, requires that there should always be a strong Opposition, and certainly not least when, as we know from signal and repeated disclosures, there is great and constant danger of corruption. But it was sure to be so. Mr. Blake, during his nine years of leadership, has shown great ability as a speaker; but he has made no way; and he has made no way because he has had no substantive policy. This is his really fatal defect. He could do very well without the magnetism, lack of which is commonly said to be his weak point. Neither Peel nor Cavour liquored up with his followers, or slapped them on the back. Peel, in fact, was singularly cold, and the same may be said of Lord Russell, who was also a successful leader. As regards manner, it is enough if a leader is dignified and courteous. The essential thing is that he should lead. Mr. Blake criticises with force, and we are glad to think that we have his voice of power, supported by a character of unquestioned purity, as a check on evils which would otherwise ride rampant. But he moves on no definite line; he offers to the people no intelligible inducement to put the government into his hands. Mere angling for this or that Vote is poor work, and generally fruitless. Even if you are successful you lose almost as much as you gain. By moving resolutions in favour of Irish Nationalism you may, perhaps, gain the Irish; but you lose at the same time all those English who, though not so loud in their demonstrations as the Irish, are unwilling to see the influence of the Canadian Government used for the gratification of Irish hatred against their Mother Country; while even the Irish know your motive too well, and owe you too little gratitude to be very trustworthy adherents. By sacrificing Liberal principles to Roman Catholic separatism and ascendancy, you may gain for a moment the favour of the priests and their liegemen, but you lose probably an equal number of disgusted Protestants, and in this case again are treated merely as a tool by your confederates of an hour. The alliance with Rielism was surely a fatal blunder. Its character could not possibly be mistaken, when it had been condemned in advance, and in the most telling language, by Mr. Blake himself, who, in embracing it, must plainly have yielded, not to his own convictions, but to the voice of the tempter. It was perfectly gratuitous, since the revolt of Quebec nationalism against the Government which had hanged Riel would have taken place, and have given Mr. Blake such strength as it was capable of giving, without any intervention on his part, while by connecting himself with it he could not fail to incur intense odium among the Loyalists of Ontario. Independent men, in fact, were deterred from voting against Ministerial corruption, only by their