

# THE WEEK.

Vol. XII.

Toronto, Friday, April 12th, 1895.

No. 20.

## Contents.

	PAGE.
CURRENT TOPICS.....	459
LEADERS—	
The Future of the Unemployed.....	462
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
Pew and Pulpit in Toronto.—VIII.....	J. R. N. 463
Religious Education in Schools. H.....	Prof. William Clark, M.A., D.C.L. 464
Tariff and Colonization.....	Ernest Heaton, M.A. 465
MISCELLANEOUS—	
The Latest News From Paris.....	Z. 466
At Street Corners.....	Diogenes. 468
POETRY—	
Easter Hymn.....	C. 465
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—	
The Copyright Question.....	John G. Ridout. 468
Dr. Grant's Ultramontaniam.....	W. F. P. Stockley. 469
BOOKS—	
The Confessions of an Agnostic.....	469
Andrews' History of the United States.....	471
Recent Fiction.....	471
Briefer Notices.....	472
DEPARTMENTS—	
Periodicals.....	473
Literary Notes.....	473
Music.....	474
Art Notes.....	474
Personal.....	475

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## Current Topics.

Upper Canada College.  
It is currently reported that notices have been served upon all the members of the staff of this old School to the effect that their engagements must terminate on the 1st day of July next. We understand that this is only preparatory to reorganization and retrenchment. The College finances have not been in a satisfactory condition for some years past. One reason for this has been that the endowment of \$100,000 was locked up in the old College site, known as Russel Square, now vested in the University of Toronto, and that it was unproductive. To give the College an income from this endowment, the bill at present before the Legislature provides that the University shall pay Upper Canada College the present worth of \$100,000 calculated at 4½ per cent. for seven years. If this bill passes the House, the College will be able to pay its debts, and its prospects of success will be better than they have been.

The Newfoundland Conference.  
It is pleasing to note the hopeful tone of the speakers at the banquet given a few days ago to the Newfoundland delegates, at Ottawa. Both the Newfoundland and the Canadian members of the Conference spoke with what seemed to be almost an assurance of success. This relates, we suppose, only to the probability of financial and other terms between the two prospective partners being arranged on a mutually satisfactory basis, but it will be almost beyond the expectations of many, if agreement in regard to these purely business aspects of the question can be so speedily reached. But there can be no harm in saying that there was some reason to fear that the expectations of the Newfoundlanders and their delegates might be pitched on so high a key as to make a harmonious completion of the scale very difficult. It has, unfortunately, to be borne in mind that even supposing all difficulties to be

overcome in regard to the business part of the scheme, the baleful spectre of the French Shore question will still hover in the back-ground. But that is a matter which must, we suppose, be discussed with the Home rather than with the Colonial Government.

Political Methods.  
An "Old Campaigner," writing to a leading Canadian newspaper, condemns and deplores the old methods of raising campaign funds, but despairingly asks how these funds are to be raised if Government contractors are not allowed to "divvy up" their enormous profits with complaisant politicians. One would naturally suppose such a question to be keenly ironical, but our contemporary assumes its seriousness and proceeds to answer it in good faith. Stranger still, in the course of its answer it actually deems it necessary to enter into an argument to prove that stealing is a crime, no matter how the money is to be used, and that squandering a hundred dollars from the public chest in order to get back five for campaign purposes is not only the worst kind of stealing but an act of incredible folly as well. A minister down in the Maritime Provinces, writing to his denominational paper, declares that church members and even church officers wink at, or openly defend, the buying and selling of votes at elections, some of them putting the act under the thin guise of payment for time spent in voting, others excusing it on the ground that it would be simply impossible to elect their man without it. It is now openly said that the Hon. (?) Thos. McGreevy, the man who was expelled from Parliament for dishonest practices as a Government contractor, who was prosecuted by the Government, found guilty and imprisoned for the crime, but soon pardoned because the prison did not agree with him, is to offer himself for re-election, with good prospects of success. Surely it is not so much the Government as the people of Canada who will be on trial at the coming election. If they are ready to condone corrupt methods, wink at the gross dishonesty of public servants, and show by the character of the members they elect that they care nothing for Parliamentary purity, they would be misrepresented should honest men chance to get into Parliament and Government. Like people, like representatives and rulers, is at least as true as its converse.

A Questionable Courtesy.  
Not a few thoughtful electors will, if we mistake not, have read with not a little surprise some of the arguments which were urged in the Legislature, the other day, by members of both parties, against the passage of Mr. Haycock's bill to forbid the acceptance of railway passes by members. They must have been still more surprised to note the defeat of that bill by a majority of 74 to 13, in a House composed largely of the supporters of a Government which prides itself on being "Liberal" and "Reform." "The Bill," cries one, "is a reflection upon honourable members," and the remark is applauded. On the same principle every member should feel himself grievously insulted by the law which forbids members to hold contracts with the Government, and every other provision of the Independence of Parliament Act. And