

THE WEEK.

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The Week,

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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

At last the humiliation of Peru is complete; the articles of peace are signed, and await merely the ratification of the Peruvian Congress. Chili has the right of a conquering power to impose her own terms, and the terms she imposes do not quite amount to annihilation. Like Carthage, once, in a similar evil case, Peru might suffer the bitterness of her rage at the crushing terms dictated to goad her into a renewal of hostilities; but for that she is too hopelessly beaten. It looks as if she might fairly thank America for bringing her to her present plight. American interference, when she was already beaten by Chili's superior energy and resources, maintained in her an attitude of defiance. She was confident, and not unnaturally so, that America would dictate the terms of peace. But American interference lasted just long enough to exasperate the Chilians to the last degree against their beaten antagonist, and was then, on an afterthought, withdrawn. The prolonged resistance put Chili to such expenses as enable her to claim an enormous indemnity; and misguided Peru, who has now learned to put not her trust in princes or in American Secretaries of State, must pay the piper alone. She loses absolutely and forever the wealthy province of Tarapaca. Tacna and Arica, with their rich revenues, she hands over for ten years, and for ever if the inhabitants of those provinces at the end of that time desire it. And a protocol binds her to maintain a Chilian army of occupation, at a cost of \$300,000 a month, until all the terms of the treaty are ratified.

THERE appears to be a new field opening for the Irish dynamiters. The field is a large one, and for the sake of their more temperate fellow-countrymen it is to be hoped these most uncomfortable characters may find it attractive and be induced to withdraw their operations thither. This new sphere of usefulness lies in Germany, and is to be entered by means of an alliance with the Nihilists. It is somewhat strange that an alliance of this sort has not earlier been consummated. Birds of so nearly identical feather are wont to flock together more promptly. The object of

the alliance, we believe, is to wield explosives systematically against the Emperor William and the unhappy Czar. It augurs well for the spread of a truly cosmopolitan spirit when we observe the unselfish readiness with which the dynamiters of two such widely separate countries as Ireland and Russia unite for the deliverance of a third nation from the intolerable bonds of law and order. We doubt if Mr. Parnell and the other leaders of the Irish Nationalists will congratulate themselves upon this Nihilist addition to the already rather unmanageable tail of their party.

ON the heels of the announcement of this alliance comes the news that Prince Bismarck has been officially notified of the existence of a deep-laid plot against the Czar and Czarevitch. If any Irish dynamiters be concerned in this, we may safely predict that none, at least of Mr. Rossa's private brigade, will be found to have gone into anything so perilous as a dynamite operation is apt to prove in Russia. In allying themselves with their Hibernian compeers, we imagine that the Nihilists would draw the line sharply at that Irish-American wing of the explosive party which has the doubtful honour of being led by Mr. Rossa. There is a slight incongruity in the idea of unflinching and desperate men, who carry on their machinations and carry out their designs in the very jaws of death, working as comrades with these fellows, who, in the easy security of their New York lodgings, deriving a comfortable revenue from the pious donations of patriotic and enthusiastic serving-maids, bark, indeed, rabidly enough, but manifest little relish for the hazards which must accompany any attempt to bite.

AN international copyright bill has been introduced in Congress by Mr. Dorsheimer. It is designed for the protection of foreign authors in America and of American authors abroad. At the same time the American Copyright League prints a letter by Mr. Charles Dudley Warner on the subject of authors' rights. The letter is an able and urgent appeal, but it is to be feared that neither logic nor energy expended on this subject will much impress the House, until the people at large are brought to see that this question is one of national morality. The old cry of "cheap books" is not yet dead. When men perceive that they should blush to raise it, then Congress may be expected to lend an ear to the demands of justice in this matter. It is in no way remarkable that stolen goods should be cheap. It really looks, at first sight, strange that there should not be found some statesmen of repute who would defend the stealing of dress fabrics from foreign nations on the ground that the American people might thereby be supplied with the incalculable blessing of cheap clothing.

To the Reform party in the House have been added two able public men: some weeks ago Sir Richard Cartwright, and within the past few days Hon. David Mills. Sir Richard has already begun to lay the lash upon his opponents, and Mr. Mills, it is said, has in course of preparation a strong constitutional utterance. Sir Charles Tupper upon the Government side is in eminent and conspicuous readiness for assault from any quarter whatsoever.

THE first tilt of the session has been between Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Blake. The leader of the Opposition, lured from the modern custom of brief criticism of the Address, delivered himself of a lengthy and, in many respects, a telling speech on the several measures of policy referred to. Sir John replied in one of his most effective speeches, meeting and overthrowing many of Mr. Blake's points, but silently passing by others with which his experience taught him he had better not wrestle. For example Sir John most effectually disposed of the Reform leader's criticism of the Pacific Railway matter, but Mr. Blake, on the other hand gave the rival statesman too hard a nut to crack, when, with bland sarcasm, he marvelled that the ministry this year had departed from the good and time-honoured practice of referring, in the Speech, to recent decisions of the Privy Council.

WHEN mention was made at Ottawa, the other day, of the existence of a soup-kitchen in London, Ontario, members of Opposition beat their desks violently with delight; and Sir John Macdonald, taking advantage of the occurrence, asked with apparent wonder if the fact that destitution made it necessary to found such an establishment was a matter for such heartfelt