

Laws. The more strongly a person feels on any such subject the more he is inclined to insist on his own opinion that the remedy of that particular evil is all that is required to set the world right. The more zealous and more devoted he is, the harder he is to manage and all he can do is to join the chorus of discontent. Then the next element in the ranks of opposition are those men who are Irreconcilables—discontented with everything. They would abolish God as well as Society. Their own allies are afraid of these people. They are political Pariahs, but they are certainly not Conservatives, so in the “valued file” they count as Reformers. Their presence in the ranks of opposition does more to unite Conservatism than even the bond of Conservatism itself. From these men to the average Radical, who wants to see every man as good as every other man, there are all gradations of sentiment. But they are alike difficult to handle and almost impossible to lead—generally very determined and often rather ready than otherwise to suffer martyrdom on occasion. Then, besides these come the antitheses of the average Conservatives—those men who feel that the times are out of joint and that on the whole they were rather born to set them right. From the contrast of these two great opposing forces it is quite plain to see on which side will be discipline and organization. The Conservatives by their very temperament can be and are well led. Reformers are, as a rule, impracticable. It is quite possible that, theoretically, Reform is the nobler aim of man and that Reformers in the end deserve the thanks of the human race more than those who blindly insist on keeping things as they are. But the very nobility and independence of Liberalism are the very qualities which prevent its doing the practical good it might do. On rare occasions a great man of liberal inclinations so dominates all those who are of the same tone of thought that they are dwarfed and must perforce follow. Gladstone is the most conspicuous instance of this abnormal repression of liberal hobbies. But even, in his case, when his theories ran rampant, true Liberalism asserted itself and his oldest and most prominent allies forsook him and fled. *Si licet magnis componere parva* we have in Ontario the example of a Liberal leader who has succeeded in keeping in hand better than Gladstone did the miscellaneous elements which form a Liberal party. That Sir Oliver Mowat has done so for so long is the most conspicuous proof of his ability. He has had a most difficult part to play in balancing against one another the entirely opposite wings of his party. He has done so, and no other man could have done it. The only Liberal leader which the Dominion has seen since Confederation is Alexander Mackenzie. He was the incarnation of stubborn Liberal adherence to a given creed. Honest and straightforward, he was an embodiment of all the best elements of Reform—and his fate is a beacon for other Liberal leaders to take warning by. The sum and substance of the matter would seem to be that Conservatism is the refuge of the average man while Liberalism is the mark of the more advanced type. From its very nature Liberalism best does its duty in opposition and when placed in power must abandon a good many of its theories or surrender office. There is nothing like accession to power to sober a grumbler or theoretical politician. He finds that there are many things not dreamed of hitherto in his philosophy, and most of his castles in the air crumble into ruins. On the whole, the prospects of Conservatism are from the nature of human institutions more promising than the uphill work of even Liberal Reformers. In the latter case, virtue will, as usual, have to be its own reward, and a very meagre one it is to such Reformers as hanker after the flesh pots of Egypt—the sweets of office.

Further Appreciation.

The current issue of THE WEEK is the second number of the thirteenth volume. This journal occupies the enviable position of being Canada's only high-class literary weekly. Its tone is good and the independent and fair manner in which it discusses all political questions has commended it to both parties. If THE WEEK maintains its present standing we predict for it a long life and extended honourable career.—*Woodstock Sentinel-Review*.

With the issue of Nov. 29th, THE WEEK enters the thirteenth year of publication. As a popular medium for the intelligent and able discussion of topics, political, literary, scientific, musical, dramatic, and artistic, this journal is held in high esteem by all Canadians. It numbers among regular contributors the best of Canadian writers and its leaders are timely, independent and strong. THE WEEK has out-lived many ephemeral rivals and its state of excellence is a guarantee that a long and useful future is before it.—*Winnipeg Free Press*.

THE WEEK has passed the threshold of its thirteenth year. It has our congratulations and best wishes for the future. It has gone beyond the day when ill-natured persons styled it the “weak,” and also a stage in its career when its articles were tinged with doubtless, unconscious Podsnapism. Its continuance in the arena of success is a standing contradiction of the theory of those who hold that there is no room in Canada for a high class weekly paper conducted on the lines of the English Saturday Review and the New York Nation.—*Ottawa Free Press*.

THE WEEK stands alone in aiming to supply for Canada a higher class weekly journal, rivalling the famous weeklies of England, and its success is creditable. A publication like THE WEEK, unbound to party, can throw its columns open with a degree of freedom not imitated by many party journals, to discussions of speculative politics of great use in a young community. . . . The position THE WEEK assumes is one eminently useful and deserving practical endorsement from the general public. Our contemporary of late has renewed the vigour which marked its earlier years, and whatever dissent may be felt at times from its views, none can be expressed as to the manner in which they are presented.—*Moncton Transcript*.

We congratulate the editor and proprietors of THE WEEK on feeling “justified in believing that it never stood so high in the opinion of Canadians as it does to-day, whilst abroad it is now generally recognized as a national journal, expressing the educated and independent thought of the Dominion.” We agree with this journal when it says that “THE WEEK has helped many thousands, scattered far and wide over this broad land, to feel a deeper consciousness of the botherhood of the Canadian people, and the great part that is theirs in the British Empire.” The aim of THE WEEK is a most worthy one, one which every Canadian will wish to see crowned with complete success—“To strengthen the ties which unite us to our Queen, to promote Canadian unity and loyalty, to quicken our political and literary life, to make more strong and energizing the fibres of common interests and common sympathies, to unite all who love to work in the service of our country, is the task that is given this journal to do, and earnestly would we appeal, after these twelve years, for the co-operation and hearty support of all our fellow-countrymen in the achievement of so great a task.”—*The Canada Presbyterian*.

With its last number the Toronto WEEK enters upon its thirteenth volume. It is to be hoped the superstition as to the ill-luck attending “thirteen” will be demonstrated in this instance to be unreliable. THE WEEK is a journal of which Canada has reason to be proud. If it does not rival such journals as the Spectator, of London, and the Nation, of New York, it ranks easily in the same class. It has done much for culture in Canada during its twelve years existence. Editorially, it has striven to maintain an attitude of intelligent independence and a high standard of literary expres-