

THE word "Berlin" is the key to this marvellous development. Berlin, according to the plan of the great nation's great guiding minds, is to be the rival of Paris; and to this end tends the present system of art-centralization. In city growth, art growth is a powerful factor, and to the quiet energy and persistency of the past few years in this direction may largely be ascribed the fact that the 250,000 who, forty years ago represented the population of Berlin, have now grown to upwards of a million.

At the recent Royal Academy annual dinner, the President stated that the "absolutely unprecedented" number of 900 new works were submitted to the Council as claimants for the honour of exhibition. Recent additions to the accommodation enabled the Council to accept 278 extra pictures, representing 140 new artists! But the Academy, like all the many other subsidiary exhibitions now existent, is overwhelmed with pictures for which no room can be found. The question arises, what about purchasers? The best of training is now so general and easy to be procured that the days of fancy prices are over. Good work in art, as in anything else, will always find sale at reasonable but not at extravagant rates; but it is to be feared, in the interest of the incompetent, that work of a low standard will not bring bread to its producers. So much of the work submitted at these exhibitions, but rejected for absolute want of space, is of so good quality that it would seem to be an excellent opportunity for municipalities to commence the formation of art galleries.

THE select committee of the House of Commons, England, upon the subject of the restoration of Westminster Hall, have reported, practically recommending the adoption of the design of Mr. Pearson. The decision of the committee, in effect, is the adoption of the principle that the buildings which formed part of the structure in the time of Richard II. and those added in the reign of Henry III., all of which have disappeared, are to be restored, the existing Norman walls, now exposed by the demolition of the law courts, including the buttresses of the great hall, being so far as possible left open to view.

DELTA.

### HERE AND THERE.

THE dinner of the graduating class of Toronto University was materially, as well as socially, a signal success. The tables were most tastefully set out, and charmed the eye with the freshness of appearance in which the tables at a public dinner are usually deficient. The menu was well chosen, and the dinner was admirably cooked and served. In the arrangement of the list of toasts an excellent example was set, the standing toasts, with the exception of "The Queen," being omitted, and the list confined to the toasts of the evening. The graduating class at all events know how to get up a dinner.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH lectures upon "British Rule in India" during his annual visit to Cornell University, N.Y., this week.

THERE are persons in society who, in the formula of a burlesque writer, "have no capacity whatever" for graver matters, but whose *bonhomie* is so infectious that they are usually most welcome guests. A similar diversity of capacity characterizes journals, and though no judicious editor would dare impugn the ability with which the *Montreal Gossip* is conducted, our contemporary is probably hailed chiefly on the score of its vivacity. Close upon a page of the *Gossip* was last week devoted to demonstrating how utterly and hopelessly mistaken THE WEEK is upon some important public matters; but however discouraging that may be to the conductors of this journal, criticism is an amenity not to be avoided, and so far as the *Gossip* fought us with its own weapons it was clearly within professional bounds. But—and here an explanation would be in order—a remarkable fact presents itself. The last paragraph—contesting THE WEEK's assertion, now repeated, that the London papers do not voice English opinion—is, if we remember rightly, word for word the same as one which appeared in a small country sheet published in Ontario some days before *Gossip*. We are the less inclined to think that this is a mere coincidence for the reason that the criticism in question is not couched in the same courteous language as characterizes the remaining portion of the attack. These things, brethren, ought not so to be.

THERE is no earthly use in burking a public question simply because it is unpleasant. Political matters so treated have a habit of obtruding themselves at most inconvenient intervals, and forcing a conclusion by default. It is not to the point to say that those who discuss the manifest weaknesses of Confederation, for instance, are disloyal. There is loyalty and loyalty. There is the loyalty of the Tory and of the Liberal—each to his party; and there is the loyalty of the patriot—which is something altogether different. The number of those who foresee danger to Canadian Federation is daily increasing, nor is he who indicates this danger less a friend to his country than what might aptly be called the ostrich or *laissez faire* politician. The *Bobcaygeon Independent*, usually outspoken and always able, points out some of the difficulties lying in the way of Confederation, and which make the task of creating a Canadian nation physically impossible. This is what our contemporary has to say about the matter: "Let us enquire what are the prospects of the people of the Dominion becoming 'united.' There are about 1,500,000 of English and Scotch descent; of French descent, 1,300,000; Irish, 950,000; German, 400,000. The Irish and German element could easily be assimilated into a British population, but there remains more than one fourth of the whole population

whom it is absolutely impossible to assimilate, their race, language, traditions, and religion being essentially different, and if not absolutely antagonistic, at least so devoid of sympathy as to be unmixable as oil and water. . . . After eight hundred years of mixing the difference between the Frenchman and Briton is still preceptible! And Canadian politicians talk about the 1,500,000 Britons and the 1,300,000 French mixing and assimilating, and becoming a 'united' people, by virtue of an Act of a colonial parliament, and as a result of a high scale of taxation which has been ludicrously designated a 'National Policy.' Could anything be more ridiculous? But it is in the nature of man in his present incomplete condition of development to be subject to spasms of the intellect. . . . It was in one of these spasms that Ontario joined Quebec, and the two embraced, and vowed they would mix, and declared they would ever after be united. The spasm is now nearly over, and the two are looking at each other with the disgust which is the marked feature of recovery from moral stomachache. . . . From such a Confederation Ontario may properly wish to secede, and when politicians talk about a 'united' people, these politicians must be either deeply and profoundly ignorant or otherwise they are artfully endeavouring to delude the people."

THE London correspondent of a Liverpool daily writes as follows:—"Considering how much Imperial Federation is coming to the front, it is surprising more ex-members of colonial Legislatures do not try to win a seat in the House of Commons. That there are constituencies willing to welcome politicians already used to such parliamentary duties, the careers of my Lord Sherbrooke, whose 'poems' have just proved to be far below the standard of his statesmanship, and the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, bear testimony. For it will be remembered that Mr. Robert Lowe gained a reputation for incisive speech in the Parliament of New South Wales, and that Mr. Childers was in office as Commissioner of Trade in the Parliament of Victoria before he entered upon Ministerial responsibilities, as a Lord of the Admiralty, in the Legislature of the United Kingdom. Mr. A. McArthur, too, who now sits for Leicester, graduated in politics in the Council of New South Wales. It is just possible that Mr. Childers and Mr. McArthur may in the next Parliament be able to welcome an addition to the colonial party in the person of the Hon. Howard Spensley, who has accepted an invitation to address the Two Hundred of Central Finsbury. Mr. Spensley for a time represented Portland in the Parliament of Victoria, and has had experience of official life as Solicitor-General of that colony."

WE have read of certain people who "compound the sins they have a mind to by damning those they're not inclined to." No thoughtful person would make a wholesale application of the old saw to all those who desire to prohibit the sale of liquor or to prevent Sunday recreation. But that some of those too conservative souls are open to challenge, as protesting against practices which possess no attraction to them whilst indulging in others of even less questionable morality, there is much reason to fear. The use of opium, morphine, chloral, and the like, is more widespread than is suspected; the abuse of green tea and gluttony in food are alarmingly common; and all these excesses are as reprehensible as even the abuse of alcoholic beverages—besides which, the former are suspected of entering into the daily life of many who can find no extenuation for those who advocate the moderate use of the latter. Nor is it easy for the unbiassed to distinguish between the morality of the man who drives from his suburban villa to church on Sunday, and that of another who rides or sails out of the hot city to a fresher atmosphere on the same day. The power which has been patiently "knocking at the doors of intolerance and prejudice" is becoming too well-informed to submit much longer to such restrictions, and it might be well to remove them gracefully ere they are thrown down in anger.

THE manhood and conscience of the country are gradually being aroused to the iniquity and impracticability of the Scott Act, with the result that a glad welcome is given on every hand to the proposals of the Liberal Temperance Union. There are indications that the domination of Prohibitionists is perceived to redound little to the credit of an apathetic majority, and that the latter are awakening to the absurdity of permitting their privileges to be voted away by agitators with whom they have no sympathy.

A PERTINENT question: What are prohibition philanthropists doing in the way of providing substitutes for the hotels and places of recreation which they have succeeded in closing or hope to destroy?

DOMINION DAY has very appropriately been selected for the opening of the New York Canadian Club, which promises to become a successful, as it may be a useful, association.

THERE were seventeen failures in Canada reported to Bradstreet's during the past week, against twenty-five in the preceding week, and fifteen, twenty-three, and sixteen in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882, respectively. In the United States there were one hundred and ninety-seven failures reported during the week as compared with one hundred and sixty-two in the preceding week, and with one hundred and eighty-four, one hundred and sixty-five, and one hundred and four, respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About eighty-five per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000.