

THE WEEK.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15th, 1890.

\$3.00 per Annum
Single Copies, 10 Cents

Seventh Year.
Vol. VII. No. 37.

THE WEEK:

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00
Subscriptions payable in advance.
ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptionable in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4.00 per line per annum; \$2.50 per line for six months; \$1.50 per line for three months; 20 cents per line per insertion for a shorter period.
Subscribers in Great Britain and Ireland supplied, postage prepaid, on terms following:—One year, 12s. stg.; half-year, 6s. stg. Remittances by P. O. order or draft should be made payable and addressed to the Publisher.
No advertisements charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHIER, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS—	PAGE
The Behring Sea Controversy	579
A Pair of Lotteries	579
The Evil Effects of the System	579
Electrocution	579
The Death Penalty	580
The Treaty-Making Prerogative	580
The Labour Movement and the Soldier	580
Female Post Office Clerks	580
Chinese Superstition	580
Miracles and Faith Cure	580
The Catholic Democracy of America	581
Remedies for Drunkenness	581
Views of Drunkenness	581
A Universal Language	581
THE RACE PROBLEM	581
PROF. GOLDWIN SMITH'S "BAY LEAVES"	John King, M.A., Q.C. 582
PARIS LETTER	Z. 583
ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE (Poem)	Frederick Davidson. 584
ENGLAND AND HER EUROPEAN ALLIES, PAST AND FUTURE.	C. L. Johnstone. 584
A MODERN MYSTIC—VI.	Nicholas Flood Durin, M.P. 585
IDEAL (Roundel)	Hugh Cochrane. 586
THE RAMBLER	586
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Lux Mundi	N. 586
Gladstone and Home Rule	Fairplay Radical. 587
CANADA'S CONSTITUTION	587
THE SONGS OF THE PEOPLE (Poem)	Katherine B. Coult. 588
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA	588
OUR LIBRARY TABLE	588
LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP	589
READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE	590
CHESS	591

All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

TO CANADIAN WRITERS.

PRIZE COMPETITION.

PRIZES of \$50, \$30, \$20 and \$10 will be given for the FOUR BEST SHORT STORIES by Canadian writers only on subjects distinctively Canadian, on the following conditions:—

- 1.—The MS. must not exceed six thousand words and must be TYPEWRITTEN, and on one side of the paper only.
- 2.—It must be delivered at THE WEEK office, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto, not later than 1st November, 1890.
- 3.—Each competing story must bear on the top of the first page a TYPEWRITTEN motto and be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked with the same motto and the words PRIZE STORY COMPETITION, and enclosing the name and address of the writer.
- 4.—All the MSS. sent in to become the property of THE WEEK.
- 5.—THE WEEK will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfilment of the conditions.

THE brief excitement occasioned by the publication of the Behring Sea correspondence has rapidly subsided, and unless some such untoward event as the boarding of a sealer carrying the British flag, by a United States cutter, should again occur, it is very likely that little more will be heard of the diplomatic duel for some time to come. It will be well if this be so. The last published words of the correspondence were not such as to afford hope of any immediate settlement of the difficulty. In view of the apparently irreconcilable positions taken by the British Premier and the American Secretary of State respectively, it is doubtful if any settlement, save by arbitration, is now possible. That arbitration may be agreed to by both parties at some future date is highly probable. There seems, in fact, nothing else for the two Governments to do, as the representatives of friendly, cognate and Christian nations. To quarrel and ultimately go to war about so trifling a matter would be absurd as well as in the highest degree culpable. But so long as Mr. Blaine maintains, on the one hand, that all seals wherever found in Behring Sea are the property of the United States, and that the taking of them by the vessels of other nations is an unfriendly and wrongful act, there can be no hope of mutual agreement. The claim in itself is so preposterous, and the idea of its enforcement on the high seas by the American marine so intolerable, that argument on that basis is or ought to be out of the question. Unfortunately the state of American politics is such that for Mr. Blaine to withdraw that claim after having once put it forward, no matter at

whose dictation, would be nothing less than political suicide. Had the question been one of merely preserving the seals from extermination by regulations mutually agreed to, as was at first hoped, the result might have been very different. Meanwhile, in the present state of the dispute, Lord Salisbury has clearly the advantage, since all he has to do is to insist that British vessels shall not be molested in the open sea by those of any other nation—a position in which he must be sustained not only by the law of nations, but by the views and sympathies of all disinterested powers. The maintenance of this position gives, of course, the Canadian fishermen all they desire. If there is really anything in the natural facts of the case, such as the *habitat* and habits of the seal, which gives the American contention any basis in equity, surely impartial arbitrators could be trusted to do justice in the premises. The British and Canadian case can afford to wait.

THE Province of Quebec and the State of Louisiana seem destined to earn an unenviable notoriety as patrons of the lottery abomination. We have before us a circular advertising "The Province of Quebec Lottery," as "authorized by the Legislature for public purposes such as Educational Establishment and large hall for the St. John Baptist Society of Montreal." The circular parades an extended comparison of the Quebec Lottery with its badly famous rival which has just succeeded in bribing the Legislature of Louisiana by means of the handsome gift of a million of dollars a year for State purposes. So far as we are aware the Quebec affair affords no such guarantee that any considerable part of its ill-gotten gains will go to replenish the depleted coffers of the Province. The great American gambling institution seems preferable to the Canadian also, in that it makes no pretension, so far as we are aware, to philanthropic or religious objects. It is a lottery pure and simple for the benefit of the company which runs it, and proposes to pay the immense sum named for public purposes, simply because it can afford to do so, and could have no hope of obtaining a renewal of its charter on any other terms. There is an unblushing straightforwardness about the arrangement which would compel our respect, could we for a moment forget the character of the enterprise. The case is one in which the old saying, "Vainly is the net spread in the sight of any bird," seems to fail in its applicability to the unfeathered bipeds. One would have supposed that the simple fact thus revealed touching the enormous profits made by the manipulators of the scheme would have proved so suggestive in regard to its real character and working that no one who believes in an honest *quid pro quo* in commercial transactions would have anything further to do with it. It is not reassuring to those who would like to keep a high estimate of human nature that such is not the case. Unhappily the fact or pretence that the unearned profits out of which such enormous bribes are to be paid will come from other states seems to quiet the Legislative conscience, if, indeed, we may charitably assume that it has not been quieted in the persons of some of the legislators by considerations more directly practical. The principle does not, we suppose, differ materially from that on which each individual winner of a prize, no matter how upright he may esteem himself in other transactions, reconciles himself to the consciousness that he has given no equivalent for that which he has received, and that it really represents so much loss to a dozen or a hundred others.

NO argument can, we think, be needed to convince any one who has reflected seriously upon the matter that the lottery is distinctly immoral in principle as well as demoralizing in practice. It is, in effect, but one of the most seductive forms of that gambling which is coming tardily but justly to be regarded as one of the most destructive and degrading vices of the age, albeit it is sanctioned by the example of so many in high circles. That it is a form of temptation against which the State is in duty bound to protect its citizens is also coming to be very generally recognized. The practical question in the case before us, that of the Quebec Lottery, is, How are the other Provinces to be protected against the action of Quebec? We are, to a large extent, believers in the doctrine of provincial rights. We have, on previous occasions,

maintained the right of Quebec itself to a larger measure of home rule than many think should be accorded. If the matter of lotteries is properly one coming within provincial control, and the people of the sister Province choose, through their Legislature, to legalize a practice which is fraught with so much evil to their industrial and moral habits, we do not suppose that the other Provinces have any right to interfere, or to restrict her liberties even in this respect. But they certainly have the right of self-protection, and should be able to avail themselves of that right, in some way, to prevent the spreading of this lottery literature broadcast over the Dominion. Probably no other member of the Confederation would now grant a charter for lottery purposes. It is too bad that the evil which they would themselves refuse to tolerate should be thrust upon them by the Legislature of a sister Province. Surely the Post Office Department, which maintains, rightly enough, so strict a guard against the introduction of demoralizing matter from abroad, should feel itself called upon to protect the people of the Provinces which object to this form of gambling against their less scrupulous neighbour at home. The matter is really a serious one. Those who have had opportunities for observing the operations of the Louisiana Lottery in the United States tell us that nothing is more common than for mechanics and other classes of men with small incomes, and especially young men, to use every dollar which they can spare from their scanty earnings, and often dollars which they ought not to spare, for the purchase of tickets or parts of tickets. No more effective means of creating dissatisfaction with the rewards of honest toil and cultivating the gambling spirit could be devised. The people of Canada should be on their guard if they do not want to see a similar state of things in this country.

IT can hardly be said, we fear, that the first experiment in the use of the electric current as a means of inflicting the death penalty has been a success. Even accepting the most favourable version of the tragedy at Auburn, and assuming that the death of Kemmler was positively instantaneous and painless, it is still evident that the incidents and accompaniments of the scene were such as will not bear repetition or even the risk of it. These have apparently created a decided revulsion in the minds of many, even of those who approved of the substitution of what they hoped would be found a less shocking mode of "taking off" those condemned to die. No testimony of physicians, based either on personal observation, or *post mortem* examinations, as to the painlessness of the process, is likely to reconcile the public to the idea of groans and contortions on the part of the poor wretch undergoing the last penalty of the law. The fact that the scenes are enacted in the presence of a few invited spectators, mainly of the specialist class, does not lessen the popular feeling. Still further, the details of the mode employed suggest the possibility of so repulsive a struggle in the case of a refractory victim, before the necessary adjustments of the electric apparatus could be made, as stamps the method with the stigma of impracticability, in the view of the matter-of-fact public. True, it is not easy to see that the struggle in such a case need be much more objectionable than that which would necessarily take place in a similar case under the old method of hanging. But the people were hoping for the removal, not the reproduction, of the old objections under the new arrangement. It is just possible, but not at all probable, that future attempts may be so much more successful than this one, that the force of the objections now urged may be destroyed. A very different result seems to us much more probable.

THAT result will be, unless we misread the tendency of the times, a powerful movement for the abolition of the death penalty itself in any form. A return by the State which has, after so much delay and difficulty, thus unsuccessfully inaugurated the new method, to the hanging which it has attempted to discard, is in the highest degree unlikely. The state of affairs of which this event is but an indication seems to be this. Everywhere, throughout at least English-speaking communities, there is a growing repugnance to the infliction of the death penalty. This repugnance manifests itself, in the first instance, in the