

# THE WEEK.

Vol. XII.

Toronto, Friday, January 11th, 1895.

No. 7.

## Contents.

	PAGE.
CURRENT TOPICS.....	147
A QUESTION OF JUSTICE.....	149
MODERN MANNERS.....	150
DR. PUSEY AND THE OXFORD MOVEMENT..... <i>Rev. Herbert Spynolds, M.A.</i>	151
CAIRO VIGNETTES: THE EL-AZIHAR MOSQUE..... <i>Alice Jones.</i>	153
RECENT FICTION.....	154
THE DEAD STATESMAN (POEM)..... <i>J. Cardor Bell.</i>	154
THE REVIEWER.....	155
A WEDDING IN NORTH ITALY..... <i>L. S.</i>	156
PARIS LETTER..... <i>Z.</i>	157
MORE ABOUT THE CUT..... <i>Mary Tappan.</i>	158
CORRESPONDENCE	
Principal Grant on Sir John A. Macdonald..... <i>Witplay Radical.</i>	159
Scott and Stevenson..... <i>Outlook.</i>	160
Society and Manners..... <i>Oldstyle.</i>	160
LIBRARY TABLE.....	160
PERIODICALS.....	162
LITERARY AND PERSONAL.....	162
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.....	162
ART NOTES.....	163
PUBLIC OPINION.....	164
SCIENTIFIC AND SANITARY.....	165
MISCELLANEOUS.....	166
QUIPS AND CRANKS.....	167

For Terms of Subscription and Advertising Rates see last page.  
Address all Literary and Business Communications to THE WEEK PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED, TORONTO, CANADA.

## Current Topics.

### The Future of Newfoundland.

Present indications point pretty clearly to a fresh effort, at an early day, to bring Newfoundland into the Canadian Confederation.

The presence of Sir Ambrose Shea in the Island, as the agent of the Imperial Government; the record of the present Premier of Canada; and the desperate condition and necessarily, we should suppose, more pliant attitude of the Newfoundlanders themselves, are all significant. On general principles every Canadian must approve of the rounding out of the Dominion by the admission of this outpost of the British possession in the North Atlantic. But the obstacles are very serious, if not for the present actually insurmountable. We see no reason to suppose that the Islanders would even now regard the proposal of union with favour, or enter in with cordiality, and some of the worst drawbacks in the history of the existing union were the outcome of pressure brought to bear by the Home Government, to bring in unwilling provinces prematurely. Then the price we should have to pay, in view of the present state of things in the Colony, and our own insufficient revenue, would involve a serious increase of our debt, which is already far too large. But worse by far than all other difficulties are those arising out of the French Shore question. It is, to say the least, extremely doubtful whether it would not be the height of unwisdom for Canada to entertain for a moment the thought of union in the absence of some assurance of the early settlement of this difficulty. In the present mood of the French people the prospects of any such settlement, on fair terms, are, it must be confessed, anything but bright.

### The Civic Election.

Though Mayor Kennedy has been elected, as we anticipated, for a second term, the smallness of his majority must have come as a disagreeable surprise to himself as well as to his friends. He will do well to inquire carefully into the causes of the

great change in public sentiment which brought the overwhelming majority of a year ago down to less than half a hundred. Perhaps the fact that he promised in some of his speeches, if again returned, to push forward the tunnel scheme, and other needful enterprises, may be taken to indicate that he was aware of the revolution of popular feeling and of its chief causes beforehand. That promise we deem of the first importance. The danger of contamination of the water supply menaces the city continually. It is a stupendous danger. The possible consequences are fearful to contemplate. The people are prone to forget quickly the lessons of the past, and to pay little regard to the requirements of the future, so long as all goes well in the immediate present. Hence there is the greater need that those to whom the interests, and, to a certain extent, the destinies, of the City are entrusted should be men of foresight and of action; men fit for leadership. We might mention the trunk sewer as another of the pressing needs of the City, admitting of no delay longer than is absolutely necessary. We believe that it is the settled conviction of very many of the most intelligent citizens, including those whose stake in the City is large, that these two great undertakings are absolutely necessary to the safety and well-being of the citizens, and should be commenced at the earliest practicable moment. Of course the Mayor's ability to effect great reforms depends very much upon the character of the new Council. We shall make no guesses with reference to the efficiency of the Council for 1895. That will soon be put to the test. There is, we think, some reason to hope that its *personnel* will be found, on the whole, to be a decided improvement upon that of last year. We shall see.

### A Destructive Fire.

The fire which devoured, with almost incredible swiftness, several large buildings on Melinda and Jordan Streets on Sunday morning, and which resulted in the death of one fireman and serious injury to several, was one of the most destructive in the history of the city. The mention of this fact suggests that we have hitherto been remarkably fortunate in this respect. When we reflect upon what would, in all probability, have taken place, but for the providential circumstances of the neighbouring roofs being protected with a heavy coating of wet snow, we are the better prepared to appreciate the immunity we have so long enjoyed. None the less are we under moral obligation, as wise men, to inquire carefully into the facts, and determine to what extent the appliances at the command of our brave firemen are equal to the demands which may, at any moment, be made upon them. Nothing in such a matter should be left to chance. The property destroyed in a single conflagration such as that of Sunday would suffice many times over for the purchase of the very best equipment the world can furnish. We cannot refrain from adding that such calamities have their pleasing side, in the manner in which they draw out not only exhibitions of heroism on the part of the firemen—and what deed of valour on the battle-field can surpass or even equal, in all the elements of true heroism, that of the fireman who risks his life to save that of another, as is so often done—but manifestations of sympathy and generosity from friends and neighbours and even from business rivals. The spectacle of