

for libel, setting the damages in each case at \$100,000.—The Jacques Cartier link railway, joining the C. P. R. with the G. T. R., has been completed.—The recent by-elections have resulted as follows: Mr. Phelps retained his seat in West Simcoe, Hon. Mr. Ross was returned for Middlesex, Mr. D. M. Cameron was elected for the same constituency to the Commons, and Mr. Hammill was triumphant in Cardwell. The three first-named candidates are Reformers, the latter is a Conservative.—In the case of *Hodge v. the Queen* argued before the Privy Council the validity of the Crooks Act has been affirmed.—A man in Belleville was attacked on Friday night and wounded seriously.—Traffic on the London, Huron & Bruce Railway has been impeded by snow-storms.

FOREIGN.—The French have destroyed several forts in Madagascar.—There is dire consternation among Mormons and their wives about the decree of the United States Government.—Tennyson has been raised to the peerage with the title Baron Tennyson D'Eyncourt.—General Howard thinks it would be a good way to brand U. S. deserters with a red-hot iron.—The Crown Prince of Prussia scattered presents over Spain ere taking his leave.—The Imperial Government has no objection to the Turkish squadron going to the Red Sea, provided that any action taken will be in concert with the British ships.—Arthur's proposed nomination is popular in New York.—The *Standard* thinks that England must put down El Mahdi.—The Boers have caught and hanged an African chief.—It is reported that Indian troops will be sent to the Soudan.—Spain proposes to enfranchise all who can read and write and pay taxes.—Logan is now looming up as a Presidential candidate.—Mr. W. E. Fowler favours an extended franchise for Ireland.—The *Times* says that Parnell has flung defiance in England's face.—A rumour is circulated that the King of Annam has been killed.—It turns out that the French gave no notice before bombarding the Madagascar towns.—It is now rumoured that Hicks Pasha is safe at Hirkett, and that a third of his army still exists.—The Khedive now threatens to abdicate.—The Annamites threaten an invasion of Cochin China.—President Arthur's chances for the nomination are said to be slim.

MATTHEW ARNOLD'S ESTIMATE OF EMERSON.

MILTON says that poetry ought to be simple, sensuous, impassioned. Well, Emerson's poetry is seldom either simple or sensuous or impassioned. In general, it lacks directness; it lacks concreteness; it lacks energy. That poem which shall be a plain, forcible, inevitable whole he hardly ever produces. Such good work as the famous stanzas on the Concord monument is the exception with him; such ineffective work as the "Fourth of July Ode" or the "Boston Hymn" is the rule. I do not, then, place Emerson among the great poets. But I go further, and say that I do not place him among the great men of letters. Who are the great men of letters? They are men like Cicero, Plato, Swift, Voltaire—writers with, in the first place, a genius and instinct for style, whose prose is, by a kind of native necessity, true and sound. Emerson has passages of noble and pathetic eloquence; he has passages of shrewd and felicitous wit; he has crisp epigrams, he has passages of exquisitely touched observations of nature. Yet he is not a great writer; his style has not the requisite wholeness of good tissue. You will think I deal in nothing but negatives. I have been saying that Emerson is not one of the great men of letters—the great writers. He has not their quality of style. He is, however, the propounder of a philosophy. Emerson cannot, I think, be called with justice, a great philosophical writer. He cannot build; his arrangement of philosophical ideas has no progress in it, no evolution; does not construct a philosophy. Some people will tell you that Emerson's poetry, indeed, is too abstract, and his philosophy too vague, but that his best work is his "English Traits." But I insist on always trying Emerson's work by the highest standards. I esteem him too much to try his work by any other. Tried by the highest standards, and compared with the work of the great masters and recorders of the traits of human life—of writers like Montaigne, La Bruyère, Addison—the "English Traits" will not stand the comparison. Emerson's observation has not the disinterested quality of the observation of these masters. It is the observation of a man systematically benevolent, as Hawthorne's observation in "Our Old Home" is the work of a man chagrined. Not with the Miltons and Grays, not with the Platos and Spinozas, not with the Swifts and Voltaires, not with the Montaignes and Addisons, can we rank Emerson. His work of different kinds, when one compares it with the work done in a corresponding kind by these masters, fails to stand the comparison. No man could see this clearer than Emerson himself.

PROSPECTUS OF THE WEEK.

There appears to be in Canadian journalism a field still unoccupied, which can be filled only by a periodical enabled to furnish at the requisite outlay literary matter of the best quality. This field is the aim of the proprietors of THE WEEK to fill. They will appeal particularly to the Canadian public; but they crave no indulgence on this score at the hands of Canadian readers. They are willing that THE WEEK shall be judged by comparison with other periodicals, English and American, of similar scope and price, hoping to gain the favour of a body of readers not limited by the bounds of Canada.

THE WEEK will appeal by a comprehensive table of contents to the different tastes which exist within the circle of a cultured home, and will endeavour faithfully to reflect and summarize the intellectual, social and political movements of the day. The man of business, whose hours for reading are limited, will, it is hoped, find in this periodical the means of easily keeping himself acquainted with the chief events and questions of the time.

Fiction, in the form both of serials and short stories, will occupy a prominent place, and will be regularly and liberally supplied. For this purpose the assistance of acknowledged talent has been secured. Verse will be welcomed as often as it is found possible to procure it of the right quality. Sketches of travel and papers descriptive of places interesting from their scenery or their associations will from time to time appear. Critical essays and short biographical papers will also form features of THE WEEK. Current events, both at home and abroad, will be closely watched, brought carefully into focus, and impartially discussed. It will be the Editor's constant aim to keep his readers well abreast of the intellectual progress of the age.

In politics THE WEEK will be thoroughly independent. It will be untrammelled by party connections, free from party leanings, unbiassed by party considerations. The rule which it will adopt, of requiring every article to bear either the writer's name or some note of individual authorship and responsibility, will enable it to allow liberal scope for the expression of individual opinion, and to present, as far as possible, the best advocacy of the best cause. In Canadian politics its desire will be to further, to the utmost of its power, the free and healthy development of the Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The following are among the attractions which will be offered the readers of THE WEEK in the earlier issues:

"A BYSTANDER"

will contribute, at intervals, reviews of current events, especially of events in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe.

MR. EDGAR FAWCETT,

the well-known author of "A Gentleman of Leisure," "Tinkling Cymbals," "An Ambitious Woman" (just completed in the *New York Tribune*, and attracting wide attention), "A Hopeless Case," etc., is writing for THE WEEK a new novel, entitled "The Adventures of a Widow." This novel deals with New York Society, a field which Mr. Fawcett has made peculiarly his own. The columns of THE WEEK will also, from time to time, be enriched with some of Mr. Fawcett's exquisite verse.

PRINCIPAL GRANT,

in a series of papers, will describe a tour taken by him, in company with Mr. Sandford Fleming, during the past summer, over the route of the Canada Pacific Railway. Dr. Grant and his party traversed entirely new ground, by crossing the Selkirks, which have hitherto been considered impassable. These interesting papers will be entitled "Down the Kicking Horse and across the Selkirks." Dr. Grant will also contribute articles on various important subjects, such as Indian Affairs, Progress in British Columbia, etc.

Contributions in prose and verse may be looked for from J. E. Collins, Joaquin Miller, Louis Honoré Frechette, Dr. C. P. Mulvany, George Stewart, jr., John Reade, Mrs. Kate Seymour McLean, Miss Machar (*Fidelis*), Dr. Daniel Wilson, John Charles Dent, Wm. Houston, F. Blake Crofton, G. Mercer Adam, J. Hunter-Duvar, R. W. Phipps, Wm. F. Clarke, Professor Murray, Sir Francis Hincks, R. W. Boodle, O. C. Auringer, Mrs. J. F. Harrison (*Seranus*), J. M. LeMoine, Frederick A. Dixon, J. G. Bourinot, W. D. LeSueur, and many other writers of note. Art, Music and the Drama will receive abundant and careful attention. There will also be a series of critical essays on "The Younger American Poets," by the Editor.