

her earnest desire; but it ought at least to set Canadians thinking how the present unsatisfactory condition of things may be remedied. So far, they have made little or no effort in that direction. The Liberals, indeed, profess they see a way out of the difficulty. Let Canada, they say, demand the right of making their own commercial treaties with foreign nations without the intervention, even nominal, of the Mother Country. But is this practicable? Granted that Canada has acquired such a right, is she to assume direct diplomatic relations with other countries? Or, in case of any violation of treaties negotiated by Canada under such conditions, what about bringing the offending party to book for it? If Canada is the aggrieved party, is she to bring the offender to reason herself, or is Great Britain to do it for her? Might not Great Britain find herself in the peculiar position of being obliged to enforce, or permit to be enforced, a treaty aimed directly at her own trade interests—such a treaty, for instance, as the proposed Unrestricted Reciprocity treaty with the United States? Whatever the constitutional lawyer may think of such a situation, to the layman it is obviously an absurd one. To an Englishman it would be simply intolerable, and we cannot suppose that he would for a moment consent to play the part it would assign to him. In short, would not a declaration on the part of Canada of her right to an absolute and final voice in the making of her commercial treaties with foreign countries be tantamount to a declaration of independence? The assertion of such a claim would inevitably force England to choose between resisting it and dissolving the connection entirely.

Are the Liberals so very obtuse as not to see these very obvious consequences of the application of their proposed remedy? Possibly, but it is time the people in general were led to see them. If Canadians are really determined upon acquiring the absolute control over their trade relations with foreign countries, there is but one way to go about it. Are they prepared to take that way?

Harvard University.

EDWARD FULTON.

### THE RAMBLER.

MR. and Mrs. G. R. Reid's private view last Saturday was well attended. We have no Picture Sunday as yet in Toronto, but several of our artists are kind enough to give us what we may call Picture Saturdays, and exceedingly enjoyable they are. The Reid studio itself is a bit of high art, a corner of St. John's Wood or the Rue Pavillon squeezed into our prosaic Yonge Street Arcade by mistake. Certainly, an artistic and æsthetic *entourage* does not make an artist, but such environment proclaims the general culture which should, but does not always, accompany the artistic gift. Therefore, Mr. Reid has not only a new and creditable picture planned on large lines to show us, but he provides also additional pleasure in the form of harmonious surroundings.

That is to say, harmonious in themselves and with respect to the general principles of æstheticism, not with respect to the new picture itself, one of those homely Canadian or American interiors, illustrating a sad yet commonplace story which the artist delights in giving us. Nothing more remote from foreign tapestries, glimpses of Paris boulevard or Belgian village, can well be imagined than the rude cradle, the figures of the women, the children, the man propped by pillows. Such a subject Mr. Reid has made his own, but some of us who are Canadian to the core, are nevertheless too familiar with it to thrill greatly at it. It may be, however, that to others and in other parts of the world, the subject may mightily appeal. As for the workmanship, it would be premature to remark, since the work is not completed. It is safe to predict a success for it on this score as well, if Mr. Reid will but endeavour to give additional clearness to his outlines and force and meaning to each detail, qualities needed by him as much as his delightful mistiness and poetic insight are by other Canadian artists, erring perhaps on the side of hardness.

It is not a far cry from the Arcade to Mr. Manly's exhibit of water-colours. These pictures, which have been before the public for some weeks, reveal the artist's conscientiousness and finished style in new lights. There is an occasional tendency to "overtouch," which begets a merliness unfavourable to the broad consideration of nature as a whole. On the other hand, the limpid quality of some of the skies, the drawing of the two figure studies and the general carefulness in choice of subject and treatment of it, are admirable. Mr. Manly is destined to become one of our most prominent painters in a favourite and popular line. It is to be hoped that British Columbia will not allure him away from the paths of virtue in which he now walks so modestly. It would be a terrible fall indeed if he gave us the same stiff black pines—property-pines, I verily believe, which are kept in some monstrous lumber-room for the use of the Royal Canadian Academy and hired out for a trifle—the same snow-clad mountain ridge and the same goat or buffalo at the base of the rocky stream which have figured in so many exhibition pictures.

"How Not to Write a Song" was the title of a clever paper I read some time ago in Mr. Frederick Corder's *Overture*, a musical journal published in the interest of the Royal Academy. Mr. Lang has also recently exclaimed: "It is so easy not to write a sonnet!" Let us hope that

these negative virtues may be speedily adopted. In the meantime Mr. Corder very truly says, some educated composers of the present day complain of the difficulty of finding suitable words for songs, and thinks that modern poetry is unsuited for music. Music exaggerates to distortion the gentle accents of verse; poetry puts a strait waistcoat on to music. The greatest musicians are least happy in their songs, and the greatest poets (English, at least) when they write lyrics, usually make verses so irregular as to defy all attempts at setting. Need we quote Shakespeare or Browning in support of our statement? "Blow, blow, thou winter wind," "Come unto these yellow sands" and "Full fathom five" have never been wedded to good tunes; and as to "There's a woman like a flower," "Nay, but you, who do not love her," or any other of Browning's so-called lyrics, he would be a bold man who would attempt to compose to them. Which is all the more curious as Browning was a musician of some culture himself. It is because of its greater simplicity of language that German poetry is so far more generally suitable to music than English.

The presence of women, and particularly of children, at the Heslop murder trial in Hamilton was significant. People will have excitement, no matter what you say. But what interest could attach to an ordinary Canadian rural murder I fail to see. Hamilton is not rich in exciting situations, I fancy. If there were a properly-equipped Musée or two or three theatres—especially given, like our own this season, to variety and worse shows of ridiculous melodrama—the inhabitants would not pine, as they clearly must, for murder trials and court-room episodes. The taste is low, but it is the natural depravity of the heart which speaketh.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PRESS ASSOCIATION AND REPORTERS.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—Your Ottawa correspondent states that there is a certain amount of jealousy between the Canadian Press Association and the Press Gallery there, owing to the fact that members of the latter body have not been eligible to full membership in the former. A few words in THE WEEK may remove some misconceptions in regard to the C. P. A. All reporters connected with papers whose editors or publishers were members, have always had the benefit of membership in every sense but one. They have received certificates entitling them to the railway privileges secured by the Association, and have been welcome to its annual meetings. Their privileges have been limited in one respect only: they have not had the right to vote. And here it should be borne in mind that the C. P. A. always has been, and is, distinctively a body of provincial editors and publishers rather than a city press club. The restriction referred to was, therefore, a very natural one, and perhaps necessary—in the past, at least—in order to retain the control of an organization representative of the whole Province in the hands of those by whom and for whose special benefit it was founded. We were not aware until about the close of the recent Ottawa meeting that the limitation of privileges referred to had given rise to feeling in any quarter. I am quite safe in saying that if it had been known sooner, in the revision of the constitution explicit provision would have been made for the admission of staff correspondents and some others who have hitherto been classed as reporters, and who are among the brightest and best of our journalistic workers. Indeed, under the changes made at Ottawa, the Executive Committee will be able to carry out what I know to be the desire of the members; but it would be better if the right of such working journalists were made clear in the constitution, rather than that it should be conceded through a liberal interpretation of its provisions. It is matter of regret that the wishes of which your correspondent speaks had not been known before our annual meeting, as they certainly would have been met in a cordial spirit. And it would be pleasant to know that the criticisms to which the C. P. A. has been subjected in some quarters have come solely from a desire to get into its ranks. The nature of some of them rather precludes this agreeable assumption. However, I am sure that there is only one feeling among the active members of the Press Association: to include in its membership every working journalist of the Province, and to exclude every one who is not a *bona fide* journalist. Of late, especially, the Executive has been working rigorously along these lines and with very marked success. In the past many of the city journalists have taken too little interest in the Association—which, in spite of difficulties and some defects, has done good work for its members and for the press of this country as a whole. It is evidence of its increasing strength and usefulness that those hitherto indifferent to the organization now wish to secure the benefits of full membership, to which on merit they are fairly entitled. While it is clear that there must be a limit drawn in the admission of those who are not "editors and publishers of newspapers," I am sure that I speak the feelings of the Association when I say that gentlemen of the Press Galleries at Ottawa and Toronto should be admitted to full membership, and that the accession of such a body of workers would be mutually beneficial.

And now permit me to say, generally, that the Canadian Press Association is a body of active journalists working along practical lines for mutual advantage. So much

is it in earnest that for the present, at least, it has dropped the excursion feature of its annual meetings—which, however pleasant and beneficial in the past, seemed of late years to interfere with the practical work of the Association. And in this connection let me repudiate the unfair and foolish charge that the Association is addicted in any sense to what is termed "dead heading." Such a charge can only come from misconception, or worse. We ask no favours from any quarter, and receive only such courtesies as are accorded all other organizations of equal importance. The character of our present membership and the work done at recent annual meetings is ample evidence of this point. To city journalists the need of such an organization is not so great as to rural publishers, who are isolated from each other. To the latter, our meetings have become in the very best sense a school of journalism. Their social and their business features have alike been productive of distinct good. Unhappily, it often takes time to interest even those for whose benefit a good work is intended; but the increasing interest in the C. P. A. among publishers in every part of the Province shows at once the necessity for concerted action and an appreciation of the efforts of those who have been working for the prosperity and the elevation of the press. The rural editor may be neither a Chesterfield nor a Goldwin Smith, but he is becoming day by day a more distinct influence in the business, political and social life of his own community. His influence in the aggregate is perhaps greater than that of the metropolitan press. The work done by him, both in this country and in the United States, is highly creditable. And it is of vast importance to the country not only that he should be prosperous, but that he should rise to the dignity of his work and his responsibilities. I know of no better means of promoting the prosperity and elevating the tone of the press, especially of the country press, than through the work of the Press Association.

And, as the resolutions passed at our annual meeting have never been published in the daily papers, permit me to cite two or three of them that are of general interest. A resolution was passed in favour of doing away with the credit system in subscriptions, the members agreeing that the time had come when no paper should be sent out of an office until it is paid for. Surely this is a matter of very vital interest to city weeklies. And in this connection, a committee was appointed, and is now actively at work, in order to prevent the insane competition among the big weeklies which has been doing so much to injure publishing interests. The desire is to restore something like legitimate business methods and to secure concerted action in reference to commissions and upon other points. Then a resolution was passed condemning newspaper gifts, premiums and other "fakes," and the fake journals which rely upon such illegitimate means for their existence. Concerted action in this direction would weaken, if not kill off, bogus papers of this class. Then a resolution was passed condemning the publication of advertisements of an immoral or doubtful nature, such as those medical ones which refer to the cure of private diseases. The action taken by the Association on the law of libel has already received wide publicity. Few publishers who have not had costly experience know the dangers they run from the present condition of the law. The Association is fighting the battle of the whole press of Canada when, through its able friend, Mr. King, of Berlin, it is asking reasonable, but very necessary, changes in the law. In this and other directions the work of the Association has been of a useful and practical nature.

And, lastly, it can fairly be claimed for it that its meetings have resulted in a more kindly and fraternal feeling among members of the press; and that not a little of the increasing fairness, courtesy and independence with which public questions and public men are treated is due to its social influences and practical work.

My only excuse for imposing upon your space at this length is that your columns are widely read by journalists and by those whose good opinion journalists prize; and that THE WEEK is the exemplar of that higher journalism to which it should be the desire of the whole fraternity to attain. Fraternally yours,

ANDREW PATTULLO.

Woodstock, March 15, '92.

THE STARVING RUSSIANS.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

SIR,—Is it not passing strange the equanimity with which the Canadian people view the direful famine now unhappily prevailing over large districts in Russia? Now and again the press in a half-hearted and desultory fashion refers to the grim spectre Want, but people shrug their shoulders and ease any quavers of conscience with the self-solacing salve that Russia is a long way off and that famine is usually chronic there anyhow. Show them that a population nearly as large as Ontario's is at the actual verge of starvation, that thousands have already perished or starved to death, that famine fever the hungry camp-follower of Want is decimating the miserable remnant, and still they only obtain an imperfect picture of the hideous whole. Yet as Carlyle said of the French people, follow each unit of that whole to his humble home and you will find infants and wives, daughters and mothers, looking for support, but alas they look in vain in many parts of Russia to-day. When in years to come the whole truth, the whole tale of misery leaks out, as leak it must, despite