

THE WEEK:

A CANADIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

Vol. I., No. 45.

Toronto, Thursday, October 9th, 1884.

\$3.00 per Annum.
Single Copies, 7 cents.

CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

	PAGE.
TOPICS OF THE WEEK.....	705
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	
CURRENT EVENTS AND OPINIONS.....	A BYSTANDER. 707
Here and There.....	710
Toronto Bay: Its Pollution and the Remedy.....	W. C. 711
This Growing Country.....	John Maclean. 712
Provincial Rights.....	Barry Dane. 713
The Psychology of Cognition.....	G. P. Y. 714
CORRESPONDENCE..... 714	
LITERATURE—	
Drifting.....	Fidelis. 715
Sonnet to a Mule.....	H. K. Cockin 715
A Conversion.—Concluded.....	715
THE SCRAP-BOOK.....	716
PERIODICALS.....	717
LITERARY GOSSIP.....	717
CHESS COLUMN.....	718

The Week,

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY AND LITERATURE.

Edited by W. PHILIP ROBINSON.

TERMS:—One year, \$3.00; eight months, \$2.00; four months, \$1.00. Subscriptions payable in advance.

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.

ADVERTISEMENTS, unexceptional in character and limited in number, will be taken at \$4 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.

All advertisements will be set up in such style as to insure THE WEEK'S tasteful typographical appearance, and enhance the value of the advertising in its columns. No advertisement charged less than five lines. Address—T. R. CLOUGHEN, Business Manager, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE counter charges brought against members of the Ontario Government before the Bribery Commission collapsed, as might have been foreseen, on investigation. The defence of the different members of the Government is substantially the same, though Mr. Mowat appears to have paid less attention to the details of the intrigue while it was going on than some of his colleagues. The avowed object of all of them was to complete the evidence of bribery; and this it was thought would best be done by some member of the House accepting the money that was offered and paying it over to the Speaker. If, two of the witnesses agreed in saying, there were nothing to rely on but one man's evidence against another, no conviction would be possible. When McKim was laying in wait for the men who held the money, a criminal prosecution could not have been intended; for the mouth of a criminal is so far closed after he pleads guilty or not guilty that anything he has to say is not taken in evidence. Oath against oath there would not have been in a criminal prosecution, and it must have been intended, in the first instance, that the House should act alone as the guardian of its own honour. That determination was departed from, and proceedings in three different forms were set on foot: an enquiry before a Committee of the House, a criminal charge begun in the Police Court and sent to the Assizes for trial, and a Royal Commission. When the case for the Government had been finished before the Commission, the Opposition in the House was free from any complicity in the acts complained of in the main charges. It is satisfactory to know that the honour of both sides of the House comes out of the ordeal unstained. At no step in the various forms of proceedings that have been gone through was the spectator ever allowed to forget that the political element was a strong ingredient in the case. Everything that could be made to wear the appearance of wrong-doing on either side was made the most of. Some parts of the enquiry were pushed to an extent which, if such proceedings became general, would make it necessary to revise current notions of constitutional procedure. Things commuted in Council might, contrary to the oath of an advisor of the Crown, have to be revealed in the Police Court, and a member of the House might be called upon elsewhere to account for what he did in the discharge of his public duty, and to say why he moved a particular resolution one night rather than another. The members of the Government answered many

questions touching the discharge of their public duties which they might fairly have refused to answer. There now remains the evidence taken by the Commission for the House to deal with, and the criminal trial at the Assize Court; but in political cases, where charges and counter charges have been bandied, it is always next to impossible to get a jury to agree.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER is to stand at the back door of the British embassy at Madrid while the British Minister to the Court of Spain engages in negotiations for a commercial treaty in which Canada is to have a special interest on one side, and Cuba and Porto Rico on the other. For entering into these negotiations the Government of Madrid has the special authority of the Cortes. As far back as February, 1881, Sir Alexander Galt brought the question of a commercial treaty similar to that now proposed before the attention of the Spanish Minister in London. This negotiation has a special bearing on Mr. Solomon's proposal to annex Jamaica to Canada. The two movements are antagonistic. The products of Cuba and Jamaica are chiefly of the same kind; and if Canada come under a treaty obligation to admit the sugar of Cuba at lower rates of duty than she admits the sugar of other countries, the margin of gain which Mr. Solomon thinks annexation could secure to Jamaica would be largely cut off. A commercial treaty would have done for Cuba and Porto Rico what Mr. Solomon aims to do for the island for which he speaks by annexation. He would find himself anticipated in a way to which no objection could be made; the commercial advantages of annexation would be almost nullified, and the political objections would remain. Of the two processes, that of which Madrid is to be the scene is infinitely preferable. A commercial treaty would give Canada an opportunity of extending her trade connections in a way that would be quite unobjectionable, while the annexation of Jamaica would present a political problem which would be almost, if not altogether, insoluble. Sir Charles Tupper finds himself in the anomalous position of an official advocate of the commercial treaty, and, as far as appears, a voluntary advocate of annexation. Success in the first move would tell greatly against the second. In her present mood, Canada is not disposed to assume the responsibility of governing Jamaica, and the politicians who may undertake to popularize the annexation which Mr. Solomon proposes will find that they have a heavy task on hand. But that the attempt may be made, should the Colonial Office press the fatal gift on the Government of Ottawa, is not at all improbable.

THE commission enquiring into the proceedings on the Jacques Cartier election protest has reached its last and worst stage. The friends of M. Mercier have undertaken to cover M. Trudel with a thick coating of black, in the belief that M. Mercier will by contrast present an appearance of angelic whiteness. M. Trudel, whatever else he may be, was the fast friend of M. Mercier, and assisted him in the extremity of his fate. And the obligation was not discharged according to promise. It was through M. Trudel, too, that M. Mercier received the \$5,000 which caused the proceedings for the disqualification of M. Mosseau to be dropped. The receipt of the money M. Mercier at first denied; and now, when denial is no longer possible, M. Mercier's friends have discovered that M. Trudel is a conscienceless scoundrel whose greatest amusement is to laugh at the sanctity of an oath. At the next stage in the mutual recrimination, M. Trudel may be expected to strike back, with all the force at his command, in the internecine struggle which has assumed a thoroughly destructive character. Such is the vengeance of party.

THE commercial treaties which the Washington authorities are desirous of forming with the States of Central and South America, without including Canada, serve to show which way the wind is blowing. A treaty in which Canada would be a party beneficially interested would only be an extension of the principle proposed to be applied to Central and South America, though the schedule would present a very different complexion. The rule which Secretary Frelinghuysen has laid down as a basis for the proposed treaties would, with some modification, find acceptance in Canada. He wishes to exclude from the free list manufactures which come into