

THE WEEK.

Seventh Year.
Vol. VII. No. 36.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 8th, 1890.

\$3.00 per Annum
Single Copies, 10 Cents

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.

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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.

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WE quite agree with Mr. Andrew Lang (in *Longman's Magazine*) that the people who have the greatest reason to complain of Congress having thrown out the Copyright Bill are the Americans themselves. The English author certainly has a grievance. He is prevented from reaping the otherwise possible fruit of his labours. He is deprived of what might be his own property. We are careful to put the matter in this way. It is absurd to speak of robbery and piracy where no real property exists, and it is absurd to speak of property which has not the sanction of law. To the English author, therefore, although there may be a grievance, it can hardly be said that there is an offence. It is different with the American author. "Many of the Americans," says Mr. Lang, "including all the literary class, are not only harmed in their interests, being undersold by our unremunerated labour, but are outraged in their honour." In one respect there are some advantages in the American method. People buy their novels in cheap editions instead of sending to the circulating library for three-volume editions of them. But then this republication of cheap editions of English books of necessity keeps low the price of all books of a popular character, and thus the trade of literature is made a poor one. Whether the American people are of opinion that they have among them very few who ought to be encouraged to devote themselves to literature, we are not competent to decide. Perhaps it would be well if the writing of books could be kept within narrower limits in all coun-

tries. But then the better might be lost and the inferior might flourish. One real grievance of the English author is pointed out by Mr. Lang. In one respect, he says, "the American pirates are really too bad. They not only steal our books, to which we are accustomed, like eels to skinning, but they 'duff' them, as the Australian cattle-robbers say. They alter, compress, expand, to suit their market, or they crib a book from the periodical in which three-fourths of it has appeared, and send it into the world with a forged conclusion." This really is much "too bad."

MR. CHAUNCEY DEPEW, who is now in London, is a man of a fine vein of satire and wit. In conversation with some friend or interviewer the other day he remarked that this was hardly the moment to impress the English people with the blessings of republicanism, when all the republics from Mexico to Patagonia were in a state of explosion. Even an Englishman, he remarked, would probably see the joke in a suggestion of the kind under the circumstances. Certainly the rising in the Argentine Republic (a very large territory, with a very considerable population) is a remarkable event. We all know that a rising which is successful is called in history a revolution, and that one which fails is called a rebellion; and it seems that the latter description must apply to the outbreak at Buenos Ayres. The whole matter, as reported through the telegraph, is at present slightly confused and unintelligible. It seems clear that the *émergée*, after appearing to have succeeded, has suddenly collapsed; but the whole of the reasons for its initiation and its collapse are not yet quite intelligible. In a somewhat similarly nebulous condition lies the whole meaning of the war between Guatemala and San Salvador. It appears that the latter was to be forced into a confederation of the republics in the Mexican peninsula; but there are wheels within wheels, and disaffected citizens of one republic seem to have aided in stirring up the bellicose propensities of the other. Some allowance should perhaps be made for the hot blood of the Latin races; but, at any rate, here as elsewhere we learn that a republic is not of necessity a panacea for all the ills that flesh is heir to.

IT is one of the miseries of our party government, that we can never be quite sure whether a speech delivered by an opponent of the ministry expresses the real judgment of the speaker or is only a device to embarrass the party which is in power. This reflection is forced upon us by reading the denunciation by Mr. Gladstone of the mission of General Simmons to the papal court. In the opinion of many sober men, it has been a mistake on the part of the Government of Great Britain, to have had no communication directly with the Roman See. This is a matter which, like most doubtful questions, might be argued plausibly both ways. But the aim of Lord Salisbury's Government in entering into communication with the head of the Latin Church, seemed at least a very reasonable one. Lord Salisbury's Government professes to be sincerely desirous of doing the best possible for the Irish people, and they know perfectly well that, unless they have the Pope on their side, there is little chance of their having the Irish clergy or the Irish people. Mr. Gladstone has not hesitated to appeal to the passions of the Irish peasantry. He has denounced the men, English and Irish, who brought about the union as scoundrels and much besides. This seems quite legitimate to Mr. Gladstone. When, however, his opponents enter into communication with the man who rules Ireland, then Mr. Gladstone declares that "every one regards the matter with misgiving and suspicion, with doubt and indignation, and even with disgust." We have no doubt Mr. Gladstone is very much disgusted at the idea of Lord Salisbury obtaining the influence of the Pope against Home Rule, whereby Mr. Gladstone may be kept out of power; but it is not quite apparent that these are the sentiments of impartial spectators.

THE recent rejection of the compensation clauses by the English Prohibition party has produced a good deal of discussion in the United States. Nothing, we are told, could be more significant of the strength of the temperance sentiment than the "wrath and indignation which meets the

proposal of the British Cabinet to grant great pecuniary advantages to the sellers of intoxicating liquors." This, of course, is arrant nonsense, and we do not for a moment believe that the ordinary educated Englishman feels any indignation on the subject except at the proposal to disestablish the "publicans" without giving them any compensation for the loss which they sustain. According to the *Andover Review*, the licensing of the sale of intoxicating liquors "means protection. It removes competition. It gives liquor sellers a secure trade. It is a virtual monopoly supported or sanctioned by the State." As it stands, this is utterly misleading. The purpose of licensing is to restrict the sale of liquor and to protect the public. The consequence of permitting the sale without any such restriction would be the engaging of a number of persons in the trade who would carry it on in the worst possible manner. By imposing a tax upon the selling of liquor the worst of this class are got rid of; and if the whole of them are not, the fault is not wholly with the nature of the traffic, but in some measure with the very people who wish to restrict or prohibit the sale. If, however, the worst of those who might engage in the liquor traffic are shut out, there is of necessity a certain raising of the character of those who are engaged in it. Of course, too, there is also a certain "protection" for the licensed; but this is a necessary result of the restriction imposed. It is, however, utterly ridiculous to speak of this indirect privilege as being in any way the aim or object of the licensing system. "Politicians will find it less and less to their advantage," we are told, "to count on the support of the liquor interest." Is it possible to write greater nonsense? Politicians may, at one time, have to reckon with the liquor-seller, and at another time with the prohibitionists; and both of them are powerful influences. But the idea of politicians having anything to do with the creation of the publicans is too ridiculous. The whole system, whatever its merits and defects, has arisen out of the public need; and each generation has modified this system according to its requirements and circumstances. Whatever may be done in the future, at least there are two evils ahead which must be avoided. In our zeal for "temperance" we must not be guilty of dishonesty ("robbery for burnt offering"); and in our anxiety to promote sobriety we must beware of introducing a tyranny which will lead to all kinds of deception and evasion of the law.

AT a recent meeting for the distribution of prizes in the English metropolis Mr. Gladstone made some excellent remarks on the education of women which are at least as much needed here as they are in England, and deserve as much attention from ourselves as from those to whom they were originally addressed. Speaking of his connection with the Burlington School, as stretching back nearly sixty years—to the year 1833—Mr. Gladstone remarked on the "enormous difference" between our present methods of education and those which were prevalent half a century ago. Among these differences he places in the forefront the change from a mode of government which, he says, would be better adapted for an army or a prison, to the method which assumes that the education of the mind is best effected through the heart. He next refers to the changes which have taken place during the last sixty years, and to those which are yet likely to take place, in the position of women, legal and otherwise, speaking with perhaps pardonable exaggeration of "the gross injustice, the flagrant injustice, the shameful injustice, to which, in certain particulars, they were subjected." Whilst, however, Mr. Gladstone gratefully recognizes what has already been done, he points out the possible dangers connected with some proposed changes in the future. He declares his belief that anything which attempts or affects to alter fundamentally the relation which the Almighty Himself has established and the design which He has marked out in our constitutions and capacities—to alter that relation, to draw woman essentially out of her own sphere, and to expect her to exchange it for the sphere of man, or to act in both, with the presumption that she can act in both the one or the other with equal efficiency, is a matter which, in his most sanguine anticipations, Mr. Gladstone does not think will succeed. At the same time he rejoices to think that they are relieved from many disabilities under which they formerly suffered, and particularly that the great English