

This Number Contains: A Day on Board the "Challenger," by George Johnson; Our Educational System, by A. C. Galt; How to Get Rid of the Manitoba School Question, by John W. Dafoe; The Canadian Historical Association.

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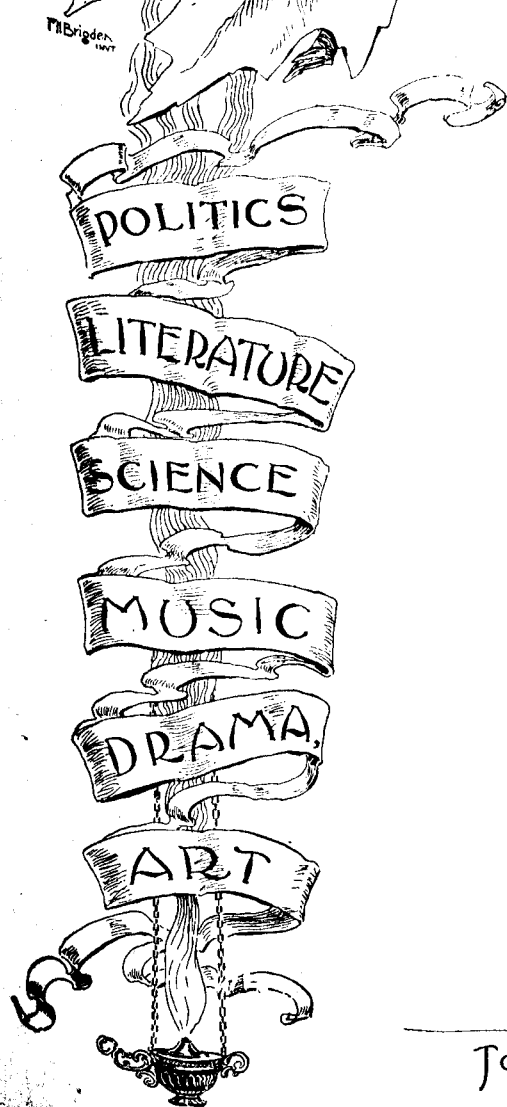
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THE WEEK.

Vol. XIII.

Toronto, Friday, April 24th, 1896.

No. 22

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NOTICE.

A Special General Meeting of the Shareholders of THE WEEK PUBLISHING COMPANY will be held at the Office of THE WEEK, 5 Jordan Street, on Wednesday, May 6th, 1896, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

By order,
CARTER TROOP.

Current Topics.

The Accident to Lady Aberdeen.
Lady Aberdeen has had an escape from what might have been a tragic fate. When the Princess was at Ottawa she was thrown out of her sleigh and suffered serious injury. It is unfortunate that Lady Aberdeen should have met with a somewhat similar disaster. We trust that the results of the unfortunate occurrence have already passed away, and in common with all Canadians we offer Lady Aberdeen our respectful congratulations on her escape.

The Floods.
The great quantity of snow which fell during the Winter is now showing its effect as the warm sun of Spring commences to thaw it. The lakes and rivers are rising all over the country. The people of Toronto are delighted at the prospect of the water rising in the Bay. The people of Montreal have been dreading a repetition of the great floods which so often devastated Griffintown. Those who remember the flood of 1861 when the water reached far up McGill Street will know what loss such a flood can occasion. Lower down the river great damage has been done. But at Sherbrooke and Richmond in the Eastern Townships there has not only been damage but loss of life. Landslides on the North Shore may also be expected. The powers of nature still assert themselves and man's puny helplessness is made painfully evident in the face of these catastrophes. People have become so accustomed to the astonishing triumphs of science that they are apt to forget that God still reigns in the Heavens. When they are face to face with some great calamity then they appreciate that there are powers in the universe which compel even their self-sufficient arrogance to pause and think.

**Grit vs. Tory
Tory vs. Grit**
The date for the Dominion elections is fixed. The candidates will next be nominated, and soon they will be at it hammer and tongs. The Conservatives have on their side two strong points. The trade policy of the party appeals to the material interests of Canada. The strong maintenance of the Cana-

dian sentiment, and their striking out an anti-American policy has given them the hearty support of young Canada. The Liberals have on their side the disunion in the Conservative ranks over the school question. The Liberal leader is a French Canadian and can count to a certainty on French Canadian sympathy. He has studiously avoided committing himself on the school question for he has not said one word to show he will not, if elected, give his fellow-religionists in Manitoba what they ask. His followers can safely say one thing in Ontario and he another in Quebec. The weakness of the Liberals is their tendency to look to Washington. It shows itself even in trifles. Sir R. Cartwright, for instance, says that the R. M. College, at Kingston, was founded after the model of Westpoint. It was no such thing. It is on the model of Sandhurst. These evidences of American leaning make the Canadian people hesitate. If the Conservatives can make it clear to the Ontario electors that if they return Laurier he is very likely to give Manitoba Separate schools, which is what they object to, and that Laurier is certain to overturn the trade policy in deference to Cartwright's notions, they will win. If the Liberals can satisfy the electorate that they will not alter the trade policy, and will convince the people that they will no longer look to Washington, they will turn their opponents out of power.

The Canadian Parliament.
No one can feel very sorry that the term of the present parliament is almost run out. The dead lock is not without precedent in the Imperial Parliament. Perhaps we might say that the Irish members behaved worse in London than the worst of the obstructers have done in Ottawa. Still the sight is not pleasant to contemplate. Why has not an attempt been made by both sides to put an end to the Manitoba difficulty? It is the fault of the Government, say some. It is the fault of the Opposition, say others. However this may be, we do not ourselves believe that the Opposition will have advanced their cause an inch by the course which they have taken. It is possible—we do not think it probable—that they may gain a majority at the next elections. If they do, their troubles will only be beginning; for this question must be settled not by a denial of a grievance in Manitoba, or a refusal to remedy such grievance; but by a settlement in a manner that will give reasonable satisfaction to all parties in the country and thus bring about peace.

Campaign Rumours.
The *quidnuncs* are now having their fling. In many cases, the wish is father to the thought. The latest rumour is that Sir Mackenzie Bowell is no longer Premier and that Sir Charles Tupper has been called upon to form a Cabinet. The most satisfactory report is that Chief Justice Meredith will lead the Ontario contingent in the new ministry. It is to be hoped that this last report is true. The Chief Justice is the kind of man sadly needed in politics and hard to replace. On the Bench without any disrespect to his legal attainments the vacancy can be well filled. But it will give the same confidence to the Tupper ministry to see W. R. Meredith the Ontario representative that it does to the Ontario Ministry to see Sir Oliver Mowat the Premier, and no man can say more than that. On the other side they say that the Minister of Education is to join the Liberal ranks at Ottawa. If he does he will undoubtedly give them strength. The composition of the Quebec contingent is, as the late lamented Lord Dandreaire used to say, something "no fellow can understand." Their ways in the French Province are peculiar. They are governed by influences that other Canadians do not clearly follow. They work out their own salvation in political matters to suit themselves. Mr. Chapleau seems to be their trump card. Whenever they get tired of one of

their prominent men they bury him at Spencerwood—not the cemetery, but Government House. Then when they require him, there he is ready to be resurrected.

Canada's
Defences.

Mr. Foster's resolution authorizing a loan of \$3,000,000 to be used in the defence of the Dominion came in for a large share of the House's attention on Tuesday and was adopted but not until the Opposition had said a good many severe things in criticism of the expenditure of a large sum of money without consulting Parliament. The Finance Minister in speaking to his resolution explained that between \$1,800,000 and \$1,900,000 worth of material had been already ordered from the War Office in Great Britain and would be delivered by the middle or end of October. This material, he said, comprised 40,000 Lee-Enfield rifles, 2,300 Lee-Enfield magazine carbines, four batteries, each consisting of six twelve-pounder guns, and an adequate supply of ammunition, all the material being the best that can be procured. It had been originally intended to buy fifty Maxim guns, but upon the advice of Lord Wolseley this order was cancelled the money being reserved for the purchase of artillery. Of the remaining \$1,100,000 about a fifth will be spent on equipment. A loan of \$3,000,000 more will be required next year. We congratulate the Government upon this substantial strengthening of the country's defences. In future emergencies there must be no ground for the feeling of helplessness which was ours during the crisis of last winter. Self-confidence alone will enable us to preserve that dignified demeanor that befits us in trying times. Prompt action was required and, therefore, we think that the strictures of the Opposition were uncalled for. As to the disposal of the \$900,000 yet to be spent, we would suggest that it be applied to giving the militia battalions more drill. No matter how excellent may be their weapons, unless they know how to use them they are likely to be more formidable to their comrades than to the enemy.

The Alaskan
Boundary.

We rise to enquire how it was the Canadian Commissioner on the Alaskan boundary question came to agree to a surrender wrongfully of three millions of acres of Canadian territory and how it came to be left to the English civil servants whom Canadians are so fond of sneering at for their ignorance of Canada to find it out? There should be the strictest enquiry into this matter. We in Canada are always complaining of how we have lost territory through English bungling. Here we are losing territory through our own bungling. If this Alaskan boundary business is a specimen of how Canadian interests are looked after it would seem as if we were unfit to handle them. An English Commissioner is to be appointed to correct our mistakes—can this ignominy not be avoided? Surely, we ought to be able to procure men who can do their business properly.

The New Ontario
Statutes.

The Statutes of the last session of the Ontario Local House have just been issued as a supplement to the Gazette. They will form, when completely issued, a bulky volume, for they contain the consolidation of the school laws and one or two other long Acts. The most important novelty is Mr. Hardy's County Councils Act. It reduces the number of county councillors. Any movement in the direction of taking people out of the political or municipal arena, and thereby compelling them to mind their own business, will be gladly welcome. A reduction of the number of members of the Local House itself would not be out of order. As might be expected, the matters dealt with by the other

statutes are more or less of a domestic nature. The Municipal and Assessment Acts receive their annual amendment. On such points the Local House is like the Village Blacksmith, always at it, although Longfellow expresses it more poetically. The active and energetic Mayor of Toronto being on the right side of politics has had several useful Acts passed in the interests of the city. Each one, we are happy to say, is in the direction of saving of expense. It shews the advantage of having a friend at court.

The Board
of Control.

The principal Act in which we who live in Toronto are interested is that establishing a Board of Control. The Council have chosen good men. Messrs. Lamb, Graham, and McMurrich have all business capacity and could be trusted to be directors of a loan company or manage a financial concern. That is the kind of man the citizens wish to see put in charge of the city affairs. The Board has great power confided to it. It will make out the estimates, look after the letting of contracts, and have control of civic officials. Seven hundred dollars is a small salary to pay men who have such a responsibility put on their shoulders. Seven thousand dollars a year would be cheap to get really good work done. Meantime, we may congratulate ourselves on the appointments made. One of the most important points in the new régime is that the school trustees must submit their estimates to the Board of Control. We would suggest that the first thing the Board should insist upon is a comparative return showing the increase of expenditure in the last six years, say, coupled with a statement of the number of pupils attending the schools. The comparison will astonish them. Mayor Fleming has so far justified his triumphant return. He and the Board of Control have now a fair field—let them show no fear, favour, or affection and the citizens will back them up.

The Venezuela
Question.

By the latest cable messages we learn that the English people are coming to understand precisely the drift of matters in the Venezuela question. The situation has really never changed since last December. The Americans have said to England: "We intend to look into this matter, and if, in our opinion, you are wrong, we intend to stop you." The English people have patiently submitted to what they thought a bit of bounce. But the report of the American Commissioners will soon be issued. What if it is adverse? England has given in a great deal in pausing at all. If she still pauses in her plans as they were proposed before the announcement of the American determination to investigate her claims, then the Americans may justly cry: "Check to your Queen." The English people now thoroughly understand what they are facing. Stranger things might happen than the despatch of the flying squadron to American waters. The American navy is stronger than the North American squadron, and an immediate reinforcement to that squadron would be necessary if the war cloud came rolling up again. It is not about Venezuela the conflict is. It is—Shall Britain any longer have a foot-hold in America? Shall Canada retain her independent existence or lose it?

England
in Africa.

We are no jingoes; but we feel ourselves in deep sympathy with Great Britain in the attitude which she is now taking towards African questions. In the North and in the South alike, it is not only the interests of the Empire, but the interests of humanity at large, which are in question; and there can be no doubt that a bold and decided line of action is the best alike for Great Britain and for the native tribes

of Africa; although it must be confessed that, according to appearances, some serious work is cut out for the people of Great Britain.

In North
Africa.

The party of peace at any price and those who envy the greatness of England are joining in protest against the proceedings in the Soudan. But those same people are equally ready to complain of the English occupation of Egypt, and would counsel her to get her gone from that reign with all possible despatch. And why? Not for the good of the Egyptians, who are wise enough to know that they are, perhaps for the first time in all their history, governed justly and prosperously. Certainly the unhappy people who held Egyptian bonds and found their dividends becoming invisible are not desirous of any change which would bring back the old miserable state of things. And the whole of Northern Africa needs to be placed under a certain degree of European control, if any part of it is to be safe. There is the explanation of the English and Italian co-operation. We argue the most advantageous results from this union, and hope it may long remain.

In South
Africa.

In South Africa, Great Britain has a double difficulty on her hands; and she may now understand a lesson which she might have learnt at an earlier period. As far as the Matabeles and other uncivilized tribes are concerned, the general policy of England has been generally wise, if the conduct of her generals has not always been all that could be wished. But the Gladstonian cave in, after the calamities in the Transvaal, was neither magnanimous in itself, nor beneficial in its consequences. Dear Mr. Gladstone was afraid that he might be chargeable with blood-guiltiness if he allowed the war with the Boers to go on. If he was right in this, he was wrong in permitting so much blood to be shed before; and certainly those admirable Boers, those lovers of liberty, have a peculiar manner of displaying their devotion to freedom. Few will approve of Dr. Jameson's invasion. But it seems only too probable that England will have to pass through some painful experiences with savages and (comparatively) civilized Dutch Boers before a second peace can be established.

Mr. Gladstone
Again.

Many of the old admirers of Mr. Gladstone rejoiced when he abandoned (practically at least) Home Rule; and retired into private life. Many have warmly admired and commended his grand edition of Bishop Butler. Now we are startled by a curious and partly incredible rumour that he has written an extraordinary letter to Dr. Playfair, who, the other day, was condemned by an English court to pay the sum of £12,000 for divulging the confidences of a patient, and even misrepresenting the case. According to the report received by telegraph Mr. Gladstone has expressed his approval of Dr. Playfair's conduct! This is astounding intelligence. If men and women cannot consult their pastors, their lawyers, and their doctors, with the perfect assurance that their confidences will be secure, there is not only an end to all such confidential intercourse, but a very strong argument will be discovered for the celibacy of the clergy, and for the extension of that state to the other professions. We have not sufficient knowledge of the details of the case to determine whether the fine imposed was excessive or not. But the public conscience will demand that a very severe punishment be inflicted on those who are guilty of such offences. Perhaps that of a medical man is the worst of all. People,

even in great troubles, can get on without a parson, and very often without a lawyer, but they cannot do without a doctor; and if the doctor abuses the privileges which such necessities entail, no one will pity him if he is severely punished for it.

Our Educational
System.

That the system of Education in Ontario is both costly and disappointing is a fact which we have long realized. But we must confess to a feeling of amazement at the figures given by Mr. A. C. Galt, in his criticism of the system which we publish in this number. Over seventy-nine millions of dollars within the past twenty years for Public Schools, High Schools, and Collegiate Institutes alone, without taking into account the cost of ten other Educational institutions! And what is the return we are obtaining for our money? The system aims at producing scholars and great men generally, but fails to produce them. It affects to create a taste for high intellectual progress throughout the Province, and it has converted us into mere newspaper readers.

The objections to our costly system which Mr. Galt selects are doubtless the most glaring ones, and are quite sufficient, in our judgment, to condemn it. But they are by no means the only ones which could be raised. We think that the system is largely responsible for many other tendencies which are observable throughout the province, and steadily increasing. Amongst them we may name

- (1) The general decadence of respect towards superiors, whether in age or in position.
- (2) The aversion to honest toil amongst young men.
- (3) The tendency of numbers of those who receive whatever benefits the system affords to live by their wits.

We shall welcome further light on this important subject.

The Opium
Traffic.

The London Standard of April 8th has an interesting editorial on the Indian Opium Question based on the Report of the Royal Commission on Opium, issued last year. The Report was sent to the Governor-General of India by Sir Henry Fowler, then Secretary of State, with the request that the Indian Government would express their judgment upon it. "Having perused the Report of the Royal Commission, the Viceroy in Council, in a despatch to the Secretary of State, points out that the result of the inquiry is a tolerably complete and convincing vindication of the policy steadily pursued in India—a policy which, in the judgment of a number of possibly well-meaning, but certainly misinformed, persons, was a disgrace to the English name. Lord Elgin, who, when he was appointed to the Governor-Generalship, was supposed to be starting with a fixed resolve to abolish the unholy traffic, has come to the conclusion—and the evidence taken by Lord Brassey's Commission would justify no other—that the opium revenue ought on no account to be abandoned. The Indian Government concurs with the Commissioners, who, with only one dissentient, reported that the evil effects of the use of opium had been grossly exaggerated; that the prohibition of the drug would be impolitic, to say the least; that its use cannot, in any circumstances, be prevented in the native States; and, above all, that prohibition, or even restrictive legislation, would lead to far worse consequences than any arising from the system under which the State is responsible for the production and distribution of the drug. Therefore, the Indian Government considers that its interference is uncalled for; and, with the assent of the Secretary of State, Lord Elgin will adhere to the wise policy of letting things be."

Sublime Folly.

Sublimest folly!—from their camps uprise
 Two mighty armies, eager for the fray;
 The drum-beat rolls, the brazen trumpets bray,
 And guns and bayonets flash against the skies.
 Now shall be shown on which side victory lies;
 Swords gleam, the booming cannon hurl dismay,
 The quick, sharp rifle-shots for death make way,
 On high the bird of evil omen cries.
 Men fall as in the field the full ripe grain
 Where bending reapers swing the sickle's blade.
 In ranks they fall, never to rise again—
 But wherefore the dread holocaust thus made?
 That past all doubt man may make this truth plain,
 On honor, more than life, his heart is stayed.
 —Bishop Spalding's "Songs, chiefly from the German."

Canadian Historical Exhibition.

AN important meeting of the committee of this Association was held on Thursday, 16th April, at the Canadian Institute. The object of the meeting was to present reports of progress to the Honorary President of the Association, His Excellency the Governor-General, and to the Countess of Aberdeen.

Their Excellencies and his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario were attended by Capt. Bretherton, A.D.C. They were received and conducted to the dais, erected in the library of the Institute, by the Executive Chairman, O. A. Howland, M.P.P., the four secretaries, David Boyle, Ph.D., Miss FitzGibbon, Eustace Smith, and J. Castell Hopkins, and by the other members of the committee in attendance. The spacious library of the Institute was filled with a large audience among whom were Rev. Chancellor Burwash, Rev. Prof. Clark, D.C.L., Mr. Archibald MacMurchy, Rev. Father Ryan, Mr. James L. Hughes, Prof. A. B. MacCallum, ex-Mayor Kennedy, Alds. Hallam, Scott, Graham and Preston, James Bain, LL.D., J. C. Copp, E. H. Morphy, Rev. Provost Welch, Mr. Hamilton MacCarthy, Prof. Wrong, Mr. E. M. Chadwick, Mr. Willison, Mr. Wetherston, Mr. Corelly, Mr. McLean, Mr. Challoner, Mr. E. Wyly Grier, Dr. Bryce, Mr. Tilley, Government Inspector of Schools, and others. Among the ladies in the audience were: Mrs. Maclaren and Miss Maclaren, of Perth, Mrs. Wm. Merritt, Miss Merritt, Mrs. H. K. Merritt, Mrs. Farrer, Mrs. Willmott, Mrs. Winstanley, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, Mrs. Willison.

The Countess of Aberdeen, on taking her seat, was presented with a beautiful bouquet of white roses by Miss Maclaren, daughter of Senator Maclaren, of Perth.

After his Excellency had taken the chair, Mr. Howland as executive chairman of the committee, after a few introductory remarks, begged His Excellency's permission to commence the business of the meeting by asking Mr. Boyle, the Secretary, to read the following address and report of the work of the Committee:—

"May it please your Excellency,—The members of the Committee of the Canadian Historical Association have the honour to report to you the progress that has been made in the undertaking to which you have so kindly lent your countenance and aid.

"May the Committee at the outset be permitted to express their sense of the consideration you have shown them in consenting, in the midst of your numerous duties, to be present on this occasion, and preside in virtue of your office as Honorary President of this Association. They would desire at the same time to repeat the assurances of their appreciation of your kindness in acceding at an early stage in the movement to the request of the Committee to accept the position of Honorary President, thus giving the project at that early stage the great benefit of your sanction and invaluable co-operation.

"The Committee also desire to express their indebtedness to her Excellency for the encouraging interest she has constantly exhibited in the cause, and the expression of her willingness to bring her influence to bear upon those Associations of which she is the honoured head to also become co-operators.

"The Committee are gratified to be able to report that the progress made under these encouraging auspices, is

even greater than it would have been reasonable to expect at this period in the history of so large an undertaking, and one so novel to the experience of this young country.

"Your Excellency is aware from previous reports and communications of the widely-extended expressions of sympathy and approval that the committee of the Association have obtained from the universities and learned societies of the Dominion. The list has recently been so far completed that the Association has the full concurrence, and is assured of the active aid of these institutions, representing the learning and historical zeal of all the provinces of Canada. Not only so, but we have had proofs by personal and written communication from many quarters in the United States that we may depend upon hearty co-operation from similar bodies in that quarter. Among those from whom such assurances have been received are the President of Michigan University, professors of Harvard University, the director of the Field Columbian Museum at Chicago, and active members of the historical societies of several of the Western cities in the United States. I might state that one of these, the city of Cleveland, is preparing to hold this year a celebration of the anniversary of its foundation, and no doubt many interesting collections will be gathered together on that occasion, which may be contributory to the more complete historical collection to be presented in Canada in 1897.

"Your committee take particular pleasure in referring to a letter received from an eminent and influential American statesman, General Butterworth, in which he states that should the Association receive the recognition and support of the Dominion and Ontario Governments, he has no doubt that the authorities at Washington will be pleased to render whatever assistance lies in their power in furthering the interests of the Exhibition.

"We have now fortunately arrived at the position indicated in the foregoing letter. An Act has been passed at the recent session of the Legislature of this Province providing for the constitution of an incorporated public commission, to consist of two members nominated on behalf of the Government of Canada, two representing the Province of Ontario, two by the city of Toronto, and six to be nominated by this committee on behalf of the Association, of which your Excellency is President.

"To lend further dignity and importance to the commission so provided for, an Act has been introduced into the Parliament of Canada, and has already passed the Senate, ratifying the authority to your Excellency-in-Council in respect to the two appointments to be made upon the commission, and confirming on behalf of the Parliament of Canada the authority of the commission to invite the presence of a Royal personage and of other official and representative guests and delegates from the Empire and foreign countries.

"In respect to the financial prospects and programme contemplated by the committee, it may be shortly stated that the Act, in addition to placing at the disposal of the committee all the accommodation required for its purposes in the Provincial and University buildings in Toronto, enables it to obtain a revenue from entrance privileges and other sources usual in such cases.

"It further provides for debentures being issued by the commission to the amount of \$25,000, chargeable on these expected receipts. The plan of the commission to ask a moderate proportion of this issue of debentures to be guaranteed by various Governments and authorities interested, probably to the extent of \$75,000. This guarantee will be applied to a deferred portion of the debentures, leaving a reasonable amount to stand as a preferential or first charge upon the anticipated receipts.

"Preliminary communications have already been had with the railway companies, with the result of obtaining a favourable expression of opinion towards this scheme of finance and towards the proposal that the various classes of debentures should be accepted by the railways in payment of the services to be asked of them in travelling expenses of the officials of the commission and in the transport of exhibits. Those employed as secretaries and other assistants of the commission it is expected will accept debentures as remuneration for their services. A reserve out of the daily receipts for carrying on the exhibition is provided for of \$50,000.

"The next step will be to make formal application at the right moment to the various Governments which will be interested in the success of the project. The Committee do

not feel that they will be in a position to fairly present the project to such authorities or to the public until they have had an opportunity of placing it before them more fully. To this end the Committee have resolved to take the necessary steps towards an effective propaganda on their views and aims by publications of their own or through the press.

"Steps will be immediately taken to establish with the aid of the concurring universities and societies of the different provinces, secretaries and agents throughout the Dominion properly qualified and instructed to collect information and material and prepare it to be forwarded at the proper moment.

"Contemporaneously communications will be sent to learned societies and universities throughout the Empire and in the neighbouring republic and other countries, inviting their systematic assistance and ascertaining terms upon which it will be possible to obtain it.

"This would appear to cover the ground which presents itself for the Committee's operations in its own field within the limits of the Dominion.

"Your Committee respectfully submits this report for your Excellency's consideration."

An address was then read by Miss FitzGibbon, assistant Secretary, expressing the Committee's indebtedness to Her Excellency, the Countess of Aberdeen, for the warm interest she was taking in the work of the Association, and referring to arrangements for obtaining the co-operation of the Woman's National Council of Canada, under Her Excellency's Presidency.

His Excellency:—I thank the Chairman and Committee who have so carefully prepared the report which I have just had the pleasure of hearing.

I also express sincere thanks on behalf of the Countess of Aberdeen for the statements which have been made in the report addressed to her.

I did not expect to have the pleasure of finding so large and representative a body this afternoon. Called together on so short notice, I imagined a small committee sitting round a table and having a simple informal conversation. We are only too pleased to have this opportunity of meeting the Committee.

I would now like to put a question. The report says that it is desirable to present the scheme in some more full light than has already been done. It occurred to me that already a good deal has been done in that sense, and there may be some special project in the minds of the executive, with a view to further setting forth the advantages and prospects of the movement, in order that it may be favourably considered by the Governments.

Mr. Howland:—Your Excellency, what we feel is that an enterprise of this kind, having so many elements of novelty and interest, cannot be adequately developed without something very nearly approaching a press of its own.

We have been placed in possession by the Provincial Government of a small fund, which we hope will be multiplied from other quarters. Small as it is it will enable us to commence a programme of publication through a journal of our own. Thus our special plans may be communicated to those who are working with us, and we shall also be able to scatter seed broadcast, especially with the benevolent assistance, as we hope, of the daily press, with their extended circulation and influence. We prefer not to ask any one Government, Provincial, Dominion or Municipal, to use its representative power to grant even so small a sum, compared with the great objects and benefits we expect to grow from this enterprise, as \$25,000 without giving the assurance not only that the public judgment will uphold their act but that a wide spread public zeal is prepared to make that act bear the best possible fruit. For that purpose we wish to have this channel of communication between us and the public, and the authorities we may have to communicate with, before we lay these plans and projects fully before them.

His Excellency:—Now as to the endeavour to be made to secure the presence of a member of the Royal Family. As far as I have been able to gather, with a view to the prospect of a favourable reply, it might be expedient to consider whether the time of this proposed Exhibition could be made to coincide or nearly coincide with some of the other events of next year. We all know it is likely to be a year peculiar in the matter of exhibitions and events. I believe that the Annual Industrial Exhibition, which is usually held in September in Toronto will be next year on a large scale. It is

to be a Dominion Exhibition, and it will be on a large scale, if the present plans are carried out. That has to be taken into consideration in the hope of getting the member of the Royal Family here. The invitation to be favourably considered, will require to be sent under as wide auspices as possible. The Dominion Government would naturally be looked to to endorse the proposed invitation, and in doing so, they would be bound to give consideration not only to one movement, or one Exhibition, but to all. While they might wish to give every consideration to the movement of this Historical Exhibition, they would feel equally bound to consider the interests of the Dominion Industrial Exhibition, which would be opened at a later date. The British Association meeting is also an important event in prospect. That I fancy would not be until the end of August or beginning of September.

Mr. Howland:—Our plan has always been that the period of this Exhibition, at whatever date it may be commenced, shall extend over the period at which the British Association will be meeting here, and also the period at which the Industrial Exhibition is taking place. That of course has derived added force from the intention of the Industrial Association to enlarge the scope of that exhibition and convert it into a Dominion Industrial Exhibition for next year. The first of July, 1897, was contemplated for the date of opening our Historical Exhibition with the idea that its concurrence with our national natal day would stimulate the imagination of the people and become a point for loyal enthusiasm. Hitherto the observance of Dominion Day has been chiefly as a holiday; the mere statute book event it commemorates cannot be said to have sufficiently struck the chord of patriotic sympathy. A celebration of the day next year in connection with the opening of our first National Historical Exhibition would be an event long to be remembered. The presence of Royalty would be an additional event, itself of great importance and interest. But the convenience of Royalty is an overbearing consideration, and I am sure every one will fully concur in the suggestion of His Excellency that there might be a combined occasion for the presence of a member of the Royal Family. It may not necessarily be at the actual opening of this Exhibition. It may be some date which will include a visit to the Exhibition, a visit to the Industrial Exhibition and some connection with the presence of the British Association.

Ald. Scott:—As a representative of the city in the City Council, I may say that I take a deep interest in the exhibition of 1897, and I think that it would be of great advantage, not only to the city of Toronto itself, but to the country at large, if a member of the Royal Family could make it a point to visit Canada at that period of time. The British Association will meet in Canada and the Royal Agricultural Association of Great Britain proposes to hold a meeting here about the same time. By gathering these people from Great Britain about the time of the Industrial Exhibition they would get a much better impression of the country and its resources and its capabilities than at any other time. Our people would have the benefit of visiting Toronto at a time when these worthy and exalted personages were present, and I think that it would be unfortunate to divide the events of the season so as to prevent our visitors and citizens from joining together in one great celebration of all the events in contemplation.

His Excellency:—We all recognize the force of what Mr. Howland has said, but I wish to ask whether it is looked upon as a settled thing the exhibition should continue for several months. I think it would be much more likely that one of the Royal Family could come later than July than during that month because their engagements in England are in that period. August or September would be better.

Mr. Howland:—In reference to His Excellency's question as to the reasons for the duration of the exhibition, of course we recognize that the longer the proceedings go on the greater the expenses must be. But there is the consideration that this exhibition cannot be properly prepared without a good deal of preliminary expense, and of consequent expense. There must be, first, the collection of the exhibits, then the arrangement of them, and afterwards their re-distribution. A single month for the exhibition itself would seem to be a very short period to reap the fruits of so much labour. By extending it over a greater period it would have the opportunity of being made better known

and it would have the advantage of the best travelling season on this continent. In summer people are attracted to these great lakes and our grand St. Lawrence river with its treasures of scenery and interest. From end to end, from Niagara Falls to the battlements of Quebec with their historic memories, they find the St. Lawrence valley a continuous pilgrimage of delight. We are very glad indeed that His Excellency should present these matters for careful consideration and discussion. Perhaps the precise dates can be better determined some time next year, still several months before the exhibition would be opened.

Chancellor Burwash:—I am sure we have all been impressed with the value of the suggestions which have fallen from His Excellency this afternoon. We must concentrate all interests and all means of awakening interest. In that way we shall elicit the sympathy and co-operation of the whole Dominion and make the Exhibition really worthy of the event and of ourselves and our country. I understand the British Association will be here about the 11th of August. The Toronto Dominion Exhibition is expected to open immediately at the close of the meeting of the British Association. There will be no very serious difficulty, I apprehend, in combining our times so as to meet those suggestions.

Rev. Father Ryan:—Your Excellency,—On the part of His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto, I may say that he wished me to come here to express his great appreciation of the interest Your Excellency shows in coming here and taking part in this historic work for our country. He told me to assure the Committee and those present at this meeting that the work now begun and going on under such happy auspices will have his hearty co-operation. He takes a great interest in this historic work. He told me to tell the Committee that whatever he with his people could do, he would like to do, to awaken a great enthusiasm. The idea of the president, Mr. Howland, of making the opening of the Historical Exhibition a centre of Agricultural, Industrial and Scientific interest on Dominion Day, is an important one. The Historical Exhibition should be an Exhibition of history and all its offshoots, grouped about a Canadian centre and giving the event a Canadian stamp. His Grace wished to enter into the complete spirit of the idea and make it a great Canadian success.

Prof. MacCallum:—Your Excellency, the subject of this meeting has been pretty well discussed. I believe all who are present understand it fully and its aims. As President of the Local Committee of the British Association, so far as the duties of that post are consistent with those of the Exhibition I will do what I can to assist, and I believe the British Association, when it comes here, will assist, also, in making this Historical Exhibition a success.

His Excellency:—We have advanced to the point where all that can be said with advantage has been said regarding the general aspects of the question. It seems that that we are pretty well agreed this scheme is a good one and one that should be gone on with heartily. In order that it may be a complete success we must have the practical support of the bodies which have been referred to, more especially the Government of the Province and the Dominion. We should let it be fairly understood this Exhibition is not merely a celebration of one event, the discovery by the Cabots, but the exhibiting of the chief features of Canadian History in the widest sense of the word, throughout the period which has elapsed since the discovery. Also it should be Canadian in a comprehensive sense of the word. The French explorers are to be celebrated not less than any others, perhaps more than any others, because they have been very prominent. The movement will go on hopefully and steadily. The turning point will be when it is ascertained to what extent the Dominion Government and Provincial Government, and especially this Municipality, will not only say "Go on and prosper," but say, "Here is the means to go on and prosper."

Dr. Welch, Professor of Trinity University, seconded by Chancellor Burwash, then moved a resolution, offering the thanks of the Committee and the meeting to His Excellency the Honorary President for his kindness in presiding on this occasion, and also to Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province for their presence. This was carried with applause and the meeting closed by singing "God Save the Queen" with great enthusiasm.

Our Educational System.

THE recent meeting of the Ontario Educational Association has emphasized the popular belief that Ontario possesses about the best system of education in the world.

So orthodox has this belief become that people are willing to be taxed almost to death in order to maintain their faith.

The statistics and comments recently published in the Evening Telegram are calculated to shake one's faith, if not to make us avowed heretics on the subject.

Perhaps the most practical method to adopt in order to form an opinion upon the value of our system is to see what answers can be given to the two questions, What does it cost? and, Is it worth the money?

Firstly, then, what does the system cost? Some twenty years ago the schools of Ontario were placed under the control of the Minister of Education, whose annual reports are easily accessible. Under our system it has been deemed advisable to equip and maintain the following institutions: (1) Kindergartens; (2) Public Schools; (3) High Schools, including Collegiate Institutes; (4) Night Schools; (5) Art Schools; (6) County Model Schools; (7) Normal Schools; (8) Schools of Pedagogy; (9) Teachers' Institutes; (10) Mechanics' Institutes; (11) Industrial Schools; and (12) Separate Schools.

To attempt to discover the cost of all these would involve the labours of an expert, as the reports are voluminous, and no adequate index is provided.

Present purposes, however, will be quite sufficiently served by confining our attention to the second and third above named institutions, namely, Public Schools and High Schools.

During twenty years, commencing with the year 1875, we have expended upon the Public Schools of Ontario, the sum of \$69,173,855, and upon High Schools and Collegiate Institutes the sum of \$9,898,045, making a total of *over seventy-nine millions of dollars.*

The annual expenditure upon the above two branches of the system naturally increases year by year, so that our Public Schools, which cost us somewhat less than \$3,000,000, in the year 1875, now cost us over \$4,000,000 a year; and our High Schools which cost us \$332,013 in 1875, cost over \$800,000 in the year 1893.

Thus, out of a dozen educational institutions, we find that *two of them alone are costing us, at the lowest estimate, over four and a half million dollars a year.*

Secondly, is it worth the money?

The principle which underlies our system is two-fold. It adopts the view that all the children in the Province must be educated, and it aims at providing a means whereby the children of the poorest classes may compete on equal terms with the children of the well-to-do for all the places of distinction which art, science, literature, or the learned professions afford.

Few will deny the advisability of providing a means whereby every child in the Province may be taught the three R's, at the public expense if necessary. A child so taught is forever free from the imputation of being illiterate, and may increase his store of knowledge *in infinitum.*

But why should the public be taxed in order to provide a free education in such subjects as music, temperance, drill, bookkeeping, algebra, geometry, botany, physics, and agriculture?

Costly as our system is, and far in excess of the requirements of a comparatively new country, we might still be justified in maintaining it from a feeling of honest pride, if such a feeling could exist alongside the facts.

The theory of our system is that we should provide every facility for the production of scholars and great men. The fact is that it does not produce them.

Half a century has elapsed since the system was inaugurated by Dr. Ryerson, and every year it ought to have produced a few leading lights in the shape of scholars—men who might be pointed to with pride, and known outside the confines of Ontario.

Has it done so? There may have been, and may be, some few, but who are they, and where are they?

Even if half a dozen notable names could be mentioned, extending over half a century, would that indemnify the burthened taxpayer of to-day for the vast expenditure he is labouring under?

The system, in truth, attempts too much and accomplishes too little. Experts who have made a study of mankind inform us that the physical well-being of a community largely depends upon the kind of food they eat. The Irish, as a nation, occupy a low place in the scale by reason of so many of them being almost exclusively potato-eaters. This conclusion is not affected by the fact that many individual Irishmen live differently, and attain the highest results.

Similarly, the mental well-being of a community may be fairly gauged by the kind of literature which forms its daily diet. How do we stand in this regard? Is it not a fact that the vast majority of us read nothing but newspapers? Every bookseller will tell you so. "Oh, but you forget our Mechanic Institutes and Lending Libraries." Not by any means. The evidence afforded by these useful institutions only serves to further illustrate my point, for it establishes that the only books which are really in demand amongst the educated classes are novels and general light literature.

There is no use in shirking facts, even if they be disagreeable. Most of us are potato-eaters pure and simple, and nearly all the rest of us are, at most, only vegetarians.

The best proof of the narrowness of our market even for works of fiction, is that when we do produce a Gilbert Parker—an out-and-out Canadian too—he is compelled to become an exile in order to make a living.

The general distaste for anything more substantial than newspapers and fiction must, in large measure, be caused, directly or indirectly, by our system of education. Which of us has not, as a child, indulged in a surfeit of something or other, and thereby acquired a life-long dislike for that particular article of food? Is it not possible that school children, under our system, instead of acquiring a taste for knowledge only get a surfeit? It is all very well to content ourselves with believing that we are doing our utmost for the cause of education, and that we are spending more than most communities do upon it.

The truth is we are spending far too much, and are obtaining a very poor return for our money.

The intention is good, the mode of carrying it out utterly wrong.

Under our system we have a dozen different kinds of educational institutions, while one or two would be sufficient. All the requirements of free and compulsory education could be attained in the Public Schools alone.

Look at the list of institutions which our present system maintains as given above.

Is it any wonder that a country so deluged as this should have a lasting aversion to water?

We are carrying too much sail for the size of our craft, our bow is almost submerged, so that instead of leading in the race we are hopelessly behind, and stand a much better chance of being swamped.

If our present system is costly, which nobody can doubt, and if it fails to produce adequate results, which is equally apparent, why not let us try a less ambitious scheme.

By restricting our efforts to Public Schools only, and by making the course of study more interesting and less pretentious, we would impart a much more thorough education, and would stay the annual expenditure of millions of dollars which heretofore have been worse than wasted. There would then be some scope for individual effort, and our really first-class colleges, which are now languishing for want of funds, would receive a fair measure of support from those who, by their own means or by means of scholarships, would be encouraged to attend them.

A. C. GALT.

* * * A Strauss Concert in Vienna.

THE visitor to Vienna who neglects attending a Strauss Concert, must lay to heart the sad conviction that his experience of that city is deplorably incomplete. For "Strauss" and "Vienna" are two words, which are inseparable to a vast number of people in the civilized portion of this globe, and the name of the river, which sweeps past this city, is seldom named without there being an inclination on the part of someone who hears it, to hum or whistle the first few bars of "The Beautiful Blue Danube," sweetest and most immortal of waltzes.

It is many years since its dreamy strains first echoed through a ball-room; the gilded youth who first kept time to

it were gloriously fashionable in tightly-strapped down trousers, high stocks, and watch-fobs, and they danced with young ladies, who were chiefly remarkable for very much crinoline and side-curls of wonderful stiffness. Many a night has come and gone since those dancers danced their last, and Strauss, who was then the centre of the gay life of Vienna, has now so many rivals in the field of catering for public amusement that his influence is now but the shadow of what it once was. Yet still the old waltz holds its own, and will do so as long as there are light, young hearts in the world to throb responsively to its suggestive sweetness, and still the name of Strauss is among the best beloved of all the Viennese public holds dear.

And so the announcement that Johann Strauss was to conduct a portion of a concert for the benefit of his brother Edward was enough to pack the Musik Vereins Saal to its fullest capacity. It may be stated *en passant* that Johann is the favourite. A report, which gains popular credence here, accuses Edward of paying some obscure composer for the music which appears under his name. Being an excellent conductor, a thorough musician, and, above all, bearing the magic name of Strauss, much is forgiven him—if there be anything to forgive—but he naturally fails to obtain anything like the public affection which falls to the share of his celebrated brother.

The Musik Vereins Saal is what Mr. Swiveller would describe as a "hall of dazzling light," at least that is the impression as one comes from the winter dreariness into an interior all aglow with much gilding and red plush, and starry with incandescent lights. Street dresses are the rule among the ladies, but a fair sprinkling of delicately tinted blouses and light dresses aid the smart uniforms worn by the numerous officers, in producing an effect of much colour and brilliancy. Conversation in many different languages, with its incessant accompaniment of laughter, fills the air with a merry buzzing, and a crisp holiday humour pervades the whole place and effects everybody, save the venerable but truculent ushers, who, clad in decent black, with the addition of a scarlet ribbon looped around the left shoulder, magisterially conduct each one to his or her seat, and remonstrate harshly with those who, either by accident or design, have got into the wrong places. A faint refined odour of coffee prevails—in Vienna, a coffee is always the most refined of essences—and it comes from a railed-in space in front of the buffet, where groups of merry folk sit around the marble topped tables, drinking the delicious beverage and eating the dainty pink and brown nüss and chocolate Törtchen. It is altogether perhaps as merry, bright, and innocent a scene of pleasure as great Vanity Fair has to show.

Johann Strauss' wife—his fourth, 'tis said—radiant in a purple and crimson hat and a gray silk gown all sparkling with cut steel, sits in a side box beaming with "nods, becks, and wreathed smiles" as one friend after another comes up to speak to her. She is small, plump, and dark, rather Jewish in appearance, a contrast to Fraulein Strauss who sits beside her. She is a large fair girl in buff and white, who might be mistaken for an English girl. They are easy enough to recognize, for there is not an art shop in the town that does not display an engraving entitled "An evening with Johann Strauss," in which the numerous members of that celebrated family are seen grouped effectively in a magnificent drawing-room, in the centre of which the composer himself sits at a grand piano, while his wife leans gracefully over the back of the chair. Seeing the picture after seeing the originals is to gain a revelation of the skillfulness of flattery, and one is inclined to exclaim, like the spiteful lady in "Punch" upon beholding her dearest friend's portrait, "How beautiful, and yet, how like!"

The trampling of many feet and the appearance of an imposing number of black-coated forms on the platform cause a sudden cessation of the conversation, and then a burst of applause greets the entrance of Edward Strauss, who mounts rapidly into his place, and stands for fully two minutes bowing his acknowledgements to a most enthusiastic reception. He is, however, a man of business, and the echoes of enthusiasm have hardly died away before his small, much-be-diamonded hand is swinging the baton, and the low rippling prelude to Thomas' delicious "Mignon," exquisitely played by the harpist—the only lady in the orchestra—fills the expectant silence.

The feelings aroused by a miscellaneous concert of instrumental music are difficult to describe, especially when

the programme is so varied. But it seems as if everybody must feel the same over the perfect rendering of "Mignon." "Connais-tu le pays?" Whether one does or not surely it is plain to all how the melody seems to express in its dreamy sweetness the spirit of that land "where all is golden." And then the ending—warm, dusky twilights in Naples, just about the time when the golden sunsets have faded, and before the great white moon has gained its full power. Vesuvius holds aloft its lurid torch in the near distance, and the light-houses, fortifications, and low buildings along the shore, contributes each its quota of light; till the curving brink of the wonderful bay looks as if beset with jewels. And by the open doors of the wine shops, where the light streams out into the street, there is the sound of singing, a melancholy-glad Italian street song, and the rattle of castanets tells of the dancing that accompanies it. Ah me, "*c'est là que je voudrais vivre, oui, c'est là!*"

A burst of applause, and the music has ceased. The bay of Naples retreats once more into one of the great silent spaces of memory, and the gilding and red plush, a gravely bowing Strauss, and an enraptured public take its place. What things a few sweet sounds will do! The rest of the programme is very much besprinkled with the compositions of Edward Strauss, which, whether owing to popular suspicion against him, or a decided lack of originality in any one of them, which the public is clever enough to detect, gain but slight applause. It seems, indeed, to be a discriminating audience altogether. Liszt's second Rhapsody, a magnificent thing, indefinitely sweet in the beginning but mounting to intense grandeur of sound before the end, is highly appreciated, and so is an "Abendlied," by Schumann, an intricately sweet melody with a deep organ accompaniment. An "Entr' act," by Ernst Gillet, charmed with its dainty gavotte-like movement, which carried one back to the Rococo times of powdered wigs and flowered silk gowns; but Mendelssohn's "Spinnerlied," arranged for the orchestra, is rather disappointing, the melody being too sharply divorced from the accompaniment, which sounds husky on the many violins. Then there is a flute solo, a valse concertante, by Godard, which, in spite of a rather uninteresting motif, is so skillfully executed that one loses all thought of the piece in admiration of the performers' technique, and it provokes hearty enthusiasm and a double encore.

"Overture zur Oper Waldmeister" comes just after a piquant minuet by Paderewski. A movement of expectation stirs the audience, and hands are placed in readiness to clap. They have not long to wait. With a step as light and agile as that of a boy, Johann Strauss mounts the platform and stands waiting for the deafening storm of applause to subside, and has to wait some time. We who see him for the first time sit awed into silence by the grotesqueness of his appearance. It is not so much his plainness as the weird unusualness of his aspect that strikes us, but, nevertheless, the face looks pleasant as he bows response to an enthusiasm that has so much heart in it. One may not be able to say that Johann Strauss is good looking, but it is certainly true that he is one of the men who can afford to look ugly.

The "Waldmeister" is a new operetta by him, now being performed in "das Theater au der Wien." It is, perhaps, after hearing the whole work, that one is better able to judge of the overture. As it is, it produced the effect which most light operas do, that of consisting of what may be described as much meaningless musical verbiage. But, of course, it was enored, and in response he gave one of his own old polkas. There was no doubt about the satisfaction with which that was received: again and again he was recalled to repeat it, and each burst of applause after every repetition seemed heartier than the last. Young girls leaned forward with a glow on their pretty faces and displayed so much enthusiasm that their dainty gloves were endangered; and as for the old men, those who doubtless remembered what Strauss was in his young days, how their strong old hands clapped together, and with what hearty enthusiasm did the bravos thunder forth from their gruff throats! It was a pretty scene. Smiling and enthusiastic the old favourite retired to his seat beside his wife, and was instantly surrounded by his friends.

An incident like that warms one's heart towards the Austrians. They are in the habit, in Germany, of describing the Viennese as light-minded and fickle, but the Germans, who never seem to warm up except in anger,

would, it is to be feared, be incapable of so much honest, kindly courtesy, merely for the sake of Auld Lang Syne. Frivolous they are, perhaps, but that "*die lustige Wiener*" have an undercurrent of strong, enduring tenderness, no one will ever doubt who has the opportunity of witnessing just such a display of feeling, and so getting a glimpse into the Viennese heart.

N. L. JONES.

* * *

Silver and Gold.

MR. F. G. JEMMETT, in a couple of articles that appear in *THE WEEK*, Mar. 27th and April 3rd, makes an effort to controvert the conclusions previously arrived at by me in reference to the effect on prices of the demonetization of silver. In doing so he rather broadly insinuates that I have approached the subject in a partizan spirit. I am sorry if I have given offence to his sense of fairness, or to that of any reader of *THE WEEK*, but I must confess that, viewing it as I do, it is difficult to contemplate the misery produced by the cool and calculating manipulators of our monetary systems without a slight feeling of indignation. This may have been reflected in what I said, but I can nevertheless assure Mr. Jemmett and the readers of *THE WEEK*, that if they, in studying this question, as fully divest themselves of preconceived ideas and prejudices I am not without hope that we may yet see "eye to eye."

Before proceeding to the argument Mr. Jemmett propounds a brace of queries. He wants to know, first, whether there is any proof of the existence of the efforts that have been put forth by the Governments of money-lending countries to force up the price of the standard by which the values of commodities are measured; and, second, whether it is an historical fact that the crisis of 1893 in the United States was precipitated by the closing of the Indian mints.

In discussing subjects of general interest in a journal like *THE WEEK*, it is presupposed that readers will be fairly well informed, and it is not usually regarded as necessary to stop to explain well understood facts or conditions. A very little study of the economic history of Great Britain from, say 1815 to 1850, or of that of Western Europe during the early seventies, should have convinced Mr. Jemmett that his first question was entirely uncalled for; or, if he still had doubts, a glance at the agglomeration of States to the south of us, where the struggle between the borrowing and the lending communities is still going on would surely have set them at rest.

As to his second question it would be about as pertinent to ask whether President Cleveland's Venezuelan message had anything to do with the recent disturbances in Wall Street, or whether the advent of Blucher precipitated the defeat and flight of the French troops at Waterloo. It is true that as at Waterloo, there were other causes operating: Austria-Hungary had just been putting her currency on a gold basis, and had absorbed over 150 millions of dollars in the process; Russia during the preceding year, with the same object in view, had added to her stock of gold about 250 millions, and the Sherman silver purchase Bill was about being repealed. All of these were factors in the considerable rise in the price of gold, and corresponding decline in the prices of other commodities that were then taking place, and were inevitably tending to a crisis; but the closing of the Indian mints to silver came like a bolt from the blue. As fast as steam and electricity could carry the news prices went down with a rush; silver was, of course, most directly affected, and within a few hours after the announcement was made in the British House of Commons it had fallen from 82 to 68cts. per ounce. But other commodities followed in quick succession; the shrinkage in values was simply incalculable. The results fill the most striking page in American history, and are too recent and too notorious to need repeating here.

Mr. Jemmett admits that the fall in prices is in a great measure responsible for the "hard times," so, for the purposes of this argument, we may regard that as settled. He also admits that the monetary changes of 1871 to 1878 did raise the price of gold somewhat; but he still appears to hold that the demonetization of silver has not reduced the exchangeable value, or price of the ordinary products of labour, and produces a formidable array of figures, presumably to sustain his contention. But do they do it? do his premises warrant his conclusions?

An examination of his tables giving the world's gross

product of silver and gold during the last four centuries, shows that the ratio of the production of the two metals in ounces (omitting fractions) was as follows:—

| | | |
|--|----|------------------------|
| From 1493 to 1600..... | 31 | of silver to 1 of gold |
| “ 1601 “ 1700..... | 34 | “ “ “ |
| “ 1700 “ 1810..... | 32 | “ “ “ |
| “ 1810 “ 1850..... | 17 | “ “ “ |
| “ 1851 “ 1870..... | 6 | “ “ “ |
| “ 1871 “ 1890..... | 17 | “ “ “ |
| “ 1891 “ 1893..... | 22 | “ “ “ |
| Average during the four centuries..... | 19 | “ “ “ |
| Average 1871 to 1893..... | 18 | “ “ “ |

It will be seen that during the first three centuries, estimating 15½ oz. of silver to one of gold the coin value of the silver was rather more than twice that of the gold. During these centuries the two metals were freely coined and were equally money in all countries, and it was while these conditions prevailed that the coin value of about 15½ of silver to one of gold was fixed. Yet at this ratio silver was the favourite metal, and appears to have been relatively the dearest until Great Britain in 1816-19 demonetized it and adopted a single gold standard. This increased the demand for and raised the price of gold, and it was conceded, even by Sir Robert Peel, the author and great defender of the measure, that it lowered prices and bore heavily on the debtor class. Relief was often sought in Parliament, but, the moneyed interest was too strong. And none was granted until it came through the enormous yield of gold from 1850 to 1870, which was five times greater than that of the two metals combined at any previous period of equal length. This increased the world's money supply and raised prices; that is, it cheapened the standard by which prices were measured. It is probable that the addition to the world's money metals during these years was greater than that to its other products. And as this increase was not fully maintained during the next decade it is possible that in any event there must have been a decline in prices even had silver been retained as money; for the ratio of commodities is after all but the expression of the ratio between the goods for sale and the money available to purchase them.

These tables show in brief that when the relative value of the coins was fixed the production of silver was twice that of gold; and that since that time the disproportion between the two metals has been continually diminishing until now the excess of silver over gold is little over 15 per cent. What reason then exists for the present disparity in the relative prices of the two metals if not in the deposition of silver from its place as a money metal and the elevation of gold to the position of sole standard of values and measure of credit? Everyone knows that each legislative act hostile to silver and favourable to its rival has increased this disparity.

Reasoning *a priori* we would infer that the quantity of money available for the purchase of goods would affect their price or value as reckoned in money; and that, with a steadily increasing quantity of the one and a stationary or diminishing quantity of the other, the relative values or prices would change.

We do not much care to quote authorities but the opinion of John Stuart Mill—given at a time when this was not the burning question it has since become—may be of interest.

In Cap. viii, Book iii, of his Political Economy he says: “The value of money is inversely as general prices, falling as they rise and rising as they fall. . . . As the whole of the goods in the market compose the demand for money so the whole of the money constitutes the demand for goods. The money and the goods are seeking each other for the purpose of being exchanged. They are reciprocally supply and demand to one another. If there were less money in the hands of the community and the same amount of goods to be sold, less money altogether would be given for them, and they would be sold at lower prices; lower too in the precise ratio in which the money has diminished.”

Mr. Jemmett's second set of tables are a striking confirmation of this. From these it appears that in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, Austria, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Belgium, the Scandinavian Union, and the United States the proportion of gold coin to the total foreign trade was:

| | | |
|--------------|----|-----------|
| In 1850..... | 26 | per cent. |
| In 1884..... | 28 | “ |
| In 1890..... | 26 | “ |

While of silver coin it was:

| | | |
|--------------|----|-----------|
| In 1850..... | 36 | per cent. |
| In 1884..... | 12 | “ |
| In 1890..... | 15 | “ |

Thus in 1850 when silver and gold were both money metals, and freely coined in all these countries but one, the coined money bore the proportion of 62 to 100 of goods, but in 1890, when gold was the only money in most of these countries, it was but 41 to the 100—a pretty strong confirmation of the contention that the degradation of silver has relatively reduced the quantity of money and raised its exchangeable value.

According to the report of the United States monetary commission 1877-78 and to that of the directors of the United States mint 1892 the world's stock of gold and silver coin value was:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| In 1848, Gold | \$2,626,000,000 |
| “ Silver | 5,705,000,000 |
| Total | \$ 8,331,000,000 |
| In 1872, Gold | \$5,453,000,000 |
| “ Silver | 6,751,000,000 |
| Total | \$12,204,000,000 |
| An increase in 24 years of..... | \$ 3,873,000,000 |
| Being 46½ per cent., or 1.93 per cent. each year | |
| In 1892 it was, Gold | \$7,610,000,000 |
| Silver | 9,007,000,000 |
| Total | \$16,617,000,000 |

An increase in 20 years of.....\$ 4,413,000,000
Being 36 per cent., or 1.80 per cent. each year

It is not possible to give statistics of the commodities at the other end of the balance, but it is extremely probable that the increase of goods seeking this money was proportionately as great as that of the silver and gold combined, perhaps greater, so had Governments not interfered, and both gold and silver been retained as money metals there might still have been a decline in prices, but it would not only have been slight, but it would have come about gradually and but little practical inconvenience would have resulted. But when silver was arbitrarily withdrawn the supply of money was lessened, and this in the face of a rapidly increasing demand. No other result could reasonably be expected than the one we all agree has followed, with consequences that even Mr. Jemmett joins with me in deploring.

ADAM HARKNESS.

Mr. Jemmett's 3rd paper, in THE WEEK of the 10th April, has just reached me. I may have something to say in reply later.

A. H.

* * *

A Day on Board the “Challenger.”

A RECENT reference to H. M. Ship “Challenger” in a chance paragraph in a daily newspaper, coupled with the fact that at the time I was reading Jules Marcou's “Life of Agassiz,” recalled to my mind a day I spent on board of the ship when she arrived at Halifax on her way to England, laden with spoils collected by the band of scientists under whose direction she had been traversing the ocean for three years, with an energy and activity that may be appreciated from the fact that 40 big volumes, containing the results of the investigations, have been issued by the British Government, beginning with the initial volume published in 1874 and ending with the final volume issued in 1892.

On the “Challenger's” arrival at Halifax, Dr. Wyville Thomson favored me with an invitation to come on board and examine the apparatus which the British Government had supplied to enable the scientific corps to roam over the Atlantic and Pacific; to advance our knowledge of the ocean, its streams, its animal and vegetable life, its depths, and the thousand side lights this knowledge throws upon many problems, rich in beneficial results, such as the nature and extent of the currents; the colour and the transparency of sea water; the temperature at various depths; the surface zones, Arctic and Antarctic, circumtropical and intermediate; the formation and dimensions of waves; the effect of rivers upon the bed of the ocean; the best beds for Atlantic cables to rest on, etc.

I was very glad of the opportunity, for the science of oceanography was then in its infancy. The English vessel,

the "Porcupine," had ushered in the era of deep-sea research only a few years before—in 1869; a great stimulus to such investigations having been given by the laying of the Atlantic cable between Ireland and this Continent.

Following the "Porcupine" came the "Challenger" in 1871, next in the now long list of ocean investigators. She held a precious cargo as she lay at the end of Cunard's wharf—precious in the eyes of science, though there were no bales of costly silk from China, no bars of gold from California, no seal skins from the Pribyloff Islands, no spices from Sumatra, no furs from Canada. Her cargo consisted of mud, dust, and curious specimens of animal and vegetable life. The mud and the dust, however, were from the bottom of the ocean; the curious specimens included animals and plants never before seen by human eyes. In addition to this assortment, there were even more precious diaries and journals, recorded in which were the soundings of the depths of the ocean, from which, with subsequent additions (the results of the researches of a score of special expeditions) we can construct a plaster cast, a glance at which would show the very bed on which the oceans rest, as moulded by the sculptor-power of water, or upheaved by subterranean fires, even as our own "Rockies" have been shaped by the force of the elements,

"That in quaternion run
Perpetual circle multiform and mix
And nourish all things,"

and shape and fashion the solid ground into deep canyons and lofty mountain peaks and serrated edged fiords.

Besides these treasures the "Challenger" had dried specimens of vegetable life found in the dark caves of ocean, and rows upon rows of bottles and jars containing preserved specimens of deep-sea fishes—both highly interesting.

Let us look around the "Challenger." Here in this corner is the dredge by means of which the bottom of the ocean had been made to yield up her long accumulated treasures. Here are coils of rope four or five miles long—there other coils of different lengths. On this side is the apparatus for obtaining water from any depths; near it an aquarium. On one side a chemical room—a miniature laboratory with all possible apparatus. Near it, a chart room full of maps and charts of all parts of the world bordering on, or surrounded by, water. Opposite, the work room where the gatherings of the dredge were examined. Here are jars filled with the curious carnivorous animals which manage to live in the bottom of the deep sea where no vegetable life can exist. This is a bottle which contains a specimen of what the bottom of the ocean looks like four or five miles below the surface—a vast expanse of very minute shells, the former occupants of which fed the animals whose habitation is the still depths of old ocean where no movement disturbs the perfect calm and where no light of sun penetrates. Near this bottle is a thermometer whose fellow was sent down to the bottom of the ocean and subjected, on account of the great depth, to such pressure, that the glass-bulb, though specially protected, burst *inward*, and, when drawn up to the "Challenger's" deck and dried, appeared like sand that had been ground by powerful machinery into impalpable fineness. Here are blanched, delicate specimens of plants with long names, whose original hues were emerald green or brilliant red or bright blue, but which could not bear the sun and had turned white when bared for a moment in the rays. Here are specimens of animal life from the bottom of the ocean never seen by human eye till seen by the savants of the "Challenger" grubbing eagerly over the contents of the dredge—animals without eyes and at the time nameless, because before the "Challenger" expedition only six kinds of deep sea fishes were known, while to-day, such has been the activity of oceanographers, about ten times as many forms of deep sea life are familiar to them. There are long slender animals with stems or legs, as long as a giraffe's neck and legs tied together, many of them so gossamer-like in their extreme delicateness that the wonder is how they live in a region where the pressure upon them is as great as it would be upon a man if he had a couple of Her Majesty's heaviest ironclads—say the "Royal Sovereign" and the "Empress of India"—resting upon his chest. Here are bottle after bottle, jar after jar, of beautiful animal structures which even Adam was not permitted to see, and whose dwelling-place the swiftest and strongest of upper ocean's animals have never been able to invade, shut out by a barrier of impenetrable water stronger than any prison door of oak and steel—more effective to resist attack than the best

steel safe ever constructed. A Harveyized plate of Sudbury nickel and Carnegie steel could be more easily penetrated by a modern shot from a modern cannon than these depths of ocean by any animal that disports itself in the surface of the ocean.

"What is this?" we ask, as we bend over something which looks like the *dissecta membra* of a human being blown to atoms by a dynamite explosion. It is in reality the remains of a deep-sea animal whose structure enabled it to resist the enormous pressure of the far-down depths but was incapable of holding together when taken out of the water, and, therefore, burst open *outwards* with a loud noise on being brought up into the air. It could resist any amount of pressure from the outside, but went to tiny fragments when the outside pressure was removed. We can form some idea of the enormous pressure exerted on this animal when in its home at the bottom of the ocean from an experiment recently tried in Lake Michigan. A diving bell was prepared by a mechanic named Schon. It was in shape nearly a cube six feet in dimensions, made of phosphor-bronze five-eighths of an inch thick—the whole apparatus weighing 23,000 pounds. It was lowered down. At 228 feet the telephone attachment and an enormous bubble of air indicated collapse. On being drawn up the heavy oak timbers were found splintered to matchwood. The inch plate glass was pulverized, the bronze metal was ripped and torn as one would tear a piece of government blotting paper. It was twisted and torn as though it had been a man's top hat under the sportive influences of a tornado; and this is what happened to this seemingly invulnerable phosphor-bronze cone at 228 feet below the surface. We have from this some notion of the pressure exerted upon a hungry, and therefore partially empty, fish three or four miles below the surface.

We can form some idea of the abundance of life existing in some regions of the ocean at a depth of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the fact that a single short haul of the innocent looking dredge of the "Challenger," already mentioned, brought up over 150 specimens of the higher forms of deep-sea life.

Every thing that goes down to such depths from the surface waters is dissolved. The hardest timber and the finest steel of the modern steamship disappear under the rending force and digestive powers of the ocean. The treasures that have been poured into her ravenous maw from many thousands of shipwrecks have been resolved by the dissolving force of salt water. Seemingly nothing but India rubber can resist the corroding liquid; for there is on record the fact of a rubber doll having been brought up from a great depth as perfect as the day when the baby hand grasped it and carried it down, down, far down, in the cabin of the wrecked ship whose stout timbers had turned into nothingness in the dense darkness of these lower depths.

Far away down there, no need of eyes is there for the fishes which nose their way about. These deep-sea creatures have curious arrangements for vision.

The ocean, like the future (according to some) is divided into three zones, the upper, the nether and the intermediate state. The upper zone is, perhaps, 1,200 feet in depth. The nether is about 360 or 400 feet in depth from the bottom coming upwards towards the surface. Between the upper zone of 1,200 feet and the nether zone of 400 feet lies the intermediate state. This is without life. The others abound in life. The eyes of the animals in the upper zone vary greatly; from the ordinary eye that we all know as the "fish eye," to the enormously big eyes sometimes seen in the Halifax fish market when some denizen of a lower quarter of the upper zone has been captured while on a "randy," as the fishermen say, into near surface waters, and, guileless of the fishermen's hook, has investigated too curiously and too closely the bait that concealed the barb.

At the extreme bottom of the 1,200 feet zone there is but little, if any, daylight. Eyes are useless and have largely disappeared. Long delicate feelers have taken their place. Some of these fish have arrangements which suggest that they can at will produce a phosphorescent light, enveloping their bodies with it, either for the purpose of avoiding collision or of attracting their prey.

The away-down animals in the nether zone have no eyes at all and feel their way about entirely by their sensitive bodies alone, touching the surface of the bottom now and then to make sure of their whereabouts, just as a blind man touches here and there the pavement with his stick to ascertain where the crossing is.

In some waters there is no life at all within a comparatively short distance from the surface. Thus the Black Sea below 600 feet has no organic life—the lower stratum being too much impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen for oxygen-needing animals to live there.

Among other curious things I learned from the conversation, on board the Challenger that day, was that the greatest depth or nearly so that they had sounded was near the Bermudas: four miles and over was the depth, as I recollect.

The Coral animal only works in comparatively shallow waters. The theory, therefore, that seemed to commend itself at that time to the savants was that the Bermudas were a Coral formation which had perched upon the tops of the highest peaks of a subaqueous mountain range that had been pushed up from the ocean bed by volcanic action, till they were near enough for the industrious little animal to begin to make his shell by extracting the lime from the salt water with some hope of secure anchorage on the tops of the mountain peaks. The structure, as a stem-like form, like the trunk of a tree, rose nearer and nearer to the surface as successive generations of these insect chemists added their pile of lime, and the nearer to the surface of the water it got, the more active became the Coral animal, and so stretched out its graveyards laterally on all sides till, as one described it, Bermuda was like an immense cabbage or cauliflower held to earth by a comparatively small stalk fastened by coralline cement to the narrow peak of a submerged mountain and widening as the corals multiplied and died, the dying animals withering in their homes, and the living making the new homes for themselves.

I have mentioned Jules Marcou's life of Agassiz as being one of twin influences recalling the day I spent on the "Challenger."

Agassiz's enthusiasm as a truth-hunter had brought him from Boston to Halifax, there to see for himself the treasures, the savants of the "Challenger" had garnered from the deep sea pastures. He was the most inquisitive man I ever met. He was a human interrogation point. He wanted to know everything. He saw at a glance the relations of species to genera, and was wonderfully ready to theorize from what he saw and heard. He must have been a charmer of men, for as I look back he seems to me the centre and chief of the group of eminent men on the deck or cabin of the "Challenger." On that day, naturally the talk was largely on fishes. He told us how he used to be a frequent visitor to the fish market of every place he visited, and, of course, more than any to the Boston fish market, where he bought every sort of fish that could in any way contribute to his knowledge of the finny tribes.

What most distinctly remains in my memory is his narration of a visit he made to Halifax when on his way for the first time from England to this continent. He had left Liverpool for Boston in the autumn of 1846. While on the voyage he heard one of the passengers tell about a great flat rock at Point Pleasant near Halifax, upon whose surface were many parallel scratches which seemed to bear testimony to the accuracy of Agassiz's glacial theory. His work on "Studies of the Glaciers" had been published half a dozen years before. He had just finished in Paris writing the results of observations of the glacier of the Aar, and had sent the first part to the printer. He had a few months prior to sailing discussed before the Geological Society of France the influence of glaciers on the polishing and striation of rocks and the transportation of boulders, etc., and had won a signal triumph for his glacial theory, then much contested by geologists who had held for many years the theory of the transportation of boulders by great mud currents in connection with the universal deluge of the Mosaic tradition.

When he heard of the great rock in Halifax he was overjoyed, and was still happier, rising into a condition of ecstatic joy, when the captain informed him that the steamer would call at Halifax and remain there a few hours.

The moment the wharf was touched Agassiz jumped on shore, hailed a cab, and in his broken English—most of which he had picked up on board during the unusually long voyage—he told cabby to go as fast as his horse could take him to the "Round Tower" at Point Pleasant. On arriving at the spot, he directed the Jehu to give him all the time he could but not to let him miss the steamer. Then down he went on his hands and knees and for the few hours he had at

his disposal he studied the smooth rock over which the icebergs of the last glacial period, 2,000 centuries ago, had scraped and, with the rocky points imbedded in them, had scored it with parallel lines as they were swept on by some polar current of an era long gone by. He found there, in his belief, abundant confirmation of the truth of his glacial theory. The time was all too short, but he made the most of it, and returned looking as if he had been on an awful "randydan" just in time to get aboard the steamer, which indeed had waited for him. As he told the story, his enthusiasm seemed rekindled by the recollection. His naturally brilliant and searching eyes assumed a depth of intensity. To use a simile taken from a recent discovery, the light that flashed from them was a Röntgen ray that appeared capable of piercing through and through his listeners. As I recollect him he was a man slightly above the medium, of stocky build, broad shoulders, well through his sixth decade, bald and short of neck. His head was magnificent. His manners were charming, and though he was almost fiercely aggressive in supporting his theories, he listened deferentially to the observations of those with whom he was conversing on board the "Challenger." He made such an impression on me that I got all his works I could get and studied them closely. I remember reading of him that when some one approached him to show him how he could make money out of his projects, his answer was the remarkable one that he was "too busy to make money," a reply that so much astonished the individual to whom it was made, that he told it everywhere as evidence of the unpractical character of scientific men.

Agassiz himself was no mean deep-sea dredger. He had been on a deep-sea dredging expedition four years before his visit to the "Challenger" in 1873, with the object of ascertaining to what extent further researches than had to that date been made, were needed.

He had sailed from Boston in the closing month of 1871 on an expedition directed by himself, and had before starting written a remarkable letter, which shows with what marvellous accuracy the man of genius—reasoning from the known to the unknown—could forecast what would be found in the lowest depths of the ocean. With all his rich experience in deep-sea soundings it was natural that the old man—then not far from his grave—(he died the following December) should show himself in such a favourable light as he did on that day on board the "Challenger."

Ottawa, April 13th, 1896.

GEORGE JOHNSON.

Parisian Affairs.

THE home troubles in France appear to be thickening; some observers assert they smell revolution in the air, and not a few journals hint that misfortune is quite on the cards. As usual, internal strife dominates all other questions. The issue now is very interesting, very complicated, and not free from alarm. It is the Senate against the Chamber of Deputies; in other words, the House of Lords *versus* the House of Commons. The Senate claims, or rather pretends, to be *ex æquo* with the Chamber, even to the point of turning out the Ministry with a bumper majority behind it of 96; the Senators score a majority of 67 against Ministers. The Senate counts but 300 members, elected by the second suffrage vote; the Chamber has double the number of members, that are elected by the direct manhood vote. By the Constitution, the Senate, aided by the President, can dissolve the Chamber of Deputies; but the Senate cannot be so touched. Now that sting is the primary cause of the collision. The Chamber claims the right to be dissolved only by the Minister following the nature of its possession of power as in other countries. Hence the agitation for the revision of the Senate.

The Senators are slow coaches, what are now called Tory, or fossilized Republicans, who will neither initiate reforms nor vote those sent up from the Lower House. The only way to revise the Senate, save overthrowing it by a revolution, is to secure a majority in the Senate favourable to its own revision, and as one-third of the Senators retire triennially, and that epoch is near, hence the importance of the coming municipal elections, whose mayors vote for the election of Senators, and possess the majority when the electoral college meets. The Bourgeois ministry, now in office, will see that the pending municipal elections shall not

be falsified by anti-Republicans or the sympathisers with the "old gang." The latter comprise the Opportunists who have had the "running" of the republic, up to the present, all in their hands, and on whose shoulders rests the disgrace and responsibility of the Panama and other corruptions; they have systematically burked social reforms and administrative ameliorations. Thus it can be readily perceived why they are so unpopular, why they are in a state of frantic hate against the advanced Republicans, and why they are ready to toast and roast M. Faure for requesting M. Bourgeois to form the ministry which he has, and now wish to devour the President because he will not arbitrarily dismiss the Premier, who has a majority of well nigh 100 at his back.

This irreconcilable split between the antique and the up-to-date Republicans is too splendid an occasion for the relics of Orleanism and Bonapartism not to improve by coalising with the Opportunists. This *triplice* would be rejoiced at M. Faure executing a *coup d'etat*, just somewhat after the lines proposed by the Duc de Broglie to MacMahon. Only the Duke wished the Marshal to accept all the consequences, as he would reap all the glory. But MacMahon declined the responsibility of provoking a civil war, and did not covet the glory of keeping a seat warm for a king. The Senators are very unpopular, and the monarchical coalition, as it is called, is commencing to rouse the masses for the defence of the threatened overthrow of the Republic. Organized defence reunions and committees are being everywhere formed to demand the abolition which is synonymous with the revision of the Senate and have but one Parliament, a national assembly. The country will soon be in a high fever, as the odious treatment given by the "classes" on the grand stand at the Autenil race course on Sunday last to President Faure will only intensify the hate and widen the cleavage between the ins and the outs. The Rubicon has been passed, and the patricians and plebs must settle the quarrel hilt to hilt.

The French now perceive that they have suffered not a check-mate, but a hopeless defeat, in their Egyptian ambition to eject the British from the Nile valley, in order to take their place. They would be quite content if Lord Salisbury would make the promise to quit Soudan after the British shall have reconquered and civilized it; his lordship is not likely to be caught by that chaff, as the French proverb says, and Madagascar is the latest illustration of the truth, "what is good to take is good to keep." Whether by effluxion of time, or as the result of the next general war, Egypt, both Lower and Upper, is certain to become British, and will have for ally and neighbour the Italians, for the latter may count upon Tripolitana and the Protectorate of Abyssinia. Russia will be very shy to dabble in the sphere of Italian influence in Oriental Africa; to touch Italy means henceforth not only to have an account to render to the Triple Alliance, but also to England. King Menelik is not such a fool as to have the British helping to wipe him out. France has lost the Khedive and the sympathy of the Egyptian people.

The Dongola expedition has shown to the world that Russia cannot afford material aid in Egypt to France, and is not prepared to open a European war, which she would find it difficult to close and the settlement of the bill heavy. Her western provinces—and they are the richest and peopled with Teutons—would pay Germany if forced to combat the Czar. Austria and Roumania have not their eyes closed at what Prince Ferdinand is doing. Here the belief is general that having scored such a splendid triumph in Egypt, the next great *coup* of England may be expected in the Far East? Why not England bid for German support as did Russia and France. The Japs are ready to march with her; Germany has only to join in and Russia is muzzled. France, apart from its home risks, can send no aid to the Muscovite in the Chinese seas; where he may invade he will find the Anglo-Japs have arrived as soon as himself. The Chinese know how the cat jumps. Their last loan taken by England and Germany is the proof.

The relations between the United States and Cuba will affect only Spain; no European power dreams of interfering. Any collision will have for effect to hasten the definite settlement of the Venezuelan question, which, though no conflict is anticipated, drags its slow length along, too long. Should Spain suffer seriously from her contest with Uncle Sam, the Philippine Islands may become a question of great

importance. If Spain be weakened she may not be able to guard them; and Japan and Germany are the only rivals for the legacy. Spain could inflict much injury on the trade of the States and the sea board of the country, but in the end she could not expect to be victorious; and she must not forget that no "liberating" power now-a-days makes war for sentiment. Napoleon II. set out to free Italy from the Alps to the Adriatic; he partially did so, but occupied Rome, till compelled in 1870 to evacuate the Eternal City—besides taking over Savoy and Nice as part settlement for the expenses of expeditions. The French in return have made a "little heaven below" of Nice, for which the sturdy invalids of all nations feel grateful.

Madagascar continues to be full of difficulties for the French. The credits voted for the organization of the Island by the Deputies, are expected to be rejected by the Senate so as to bring the legislature to a standstill. That may be dangerous, for the nation, now becoming so excited against the "Fathers," will not tolerate the bringing the official machinery in Madagascar to a full stop for want of funds. To pass over the assent of the Senate would be a violation of the constitution. Then there is the foreign difficulty to settle; France intends to arbitrarily abolish the treaties that the United States, Germany and England have with the Island, and these powers will not accept that way of proceeding. Besides France must not forget that England has turned over a new leaf with respect to her future foreign policy, and remembering Egypt, may find Lord Salisbury difficult to stroke down the back. Merchants look after purses, and being also human, are not inclined, when possessed of the right to oppose, to submit their imports to be taxed with a protective tariff, while those of the French themselves are admitted free. That's the Irishman's reciprocity—all on one side. What concessions can France make to Germany, etc., as compensation to act as she pleases with the custom dues to be levied at Madagascar. France had only nominal rights at Zanzibar, but she exacted the utmost farthing from England for their sale. Like case, like rule.

Eastertide has passed over quietly; a good many people were out of doors, but the crowd seemed to lack gaiety, or indulged only in a kind of mechanical animation. The weather was nipping and the festival falling rather early in the year, not many new toilettes were visible. The bulk of the serious "Outlanders" ran down to the country to see to the waking up of their villas after hibernation period; many also seized the occasion to rent ingrans and shake-downs for the summer. Contrary to habitude, the travellers on their return, were not able to show flowers or green branches; proof that vegetation is not so advanced as was rumoured. The markets are not the less well supplied with every new vegetable, thanks to the Canary Islands and Algeria, and next to Southern Spain, Italy and France. Farmers and gardeners are both satisfied so far with the season; a seeds' merchant, and one of the first, told me a few days ago his firm never received so many orders as this Spring; their hands have occasionally to work all night.

From Easter till the close of next December, that is a good spell to devote to the holding of a fête in honour of a celebrity. Yet that is so. King Clovis is accepted as the first Christian King of France; his conversion means the introduction of Christianity into the country; this happened 1,400 years ago, hence, the celebration of the fourteenth century of that most Christian Monarch, who undertook "to burn what he adored, and to adore what he burned." It was at Rheims the conversion is accepted as having occurred, hence, why that coronation city will have stirring times till the close of the year. But bother them; only think of the Dry-as-dusts producing mouldy scrolls of manuscript to establish that Clovis was not baptized in an ancient church, on whose site the present Cathedral stands; or, still more conclusive, that the ceremony did not take place at Rheims, but at Tours. Other learned men attest the baptismal drama took place at the village of Attigny, the then Versailles, the favorite residence of the Mérovingian Kings. It is a nasty German *savant* who has killed the legend of Rheims.

The International Woman's Rights Congress is sitting, but serious people do not give much heed to these kind of proceedings of late; not that they are opposed to according woman relief from all disabilities from which she may suffer,

but solely from a disbelief in the efficacy of the rhetoric indulged in by the screeching sisterhood members. Practically, the best plan is, to take one grievance at a time, slap-bang the legislature with it, and when carried, take up another. Such is the way concessions so far have been scored. This session the legislature will alter the code by repealing the clause, which gives the husband the right to kill his wife if he takes her in adultery. The Congress objects to "Christian" ladies joining the body; ladies must be emancipated first from religion, be "free thinkers," ere they be allowed to work out their salvation—here below. Imagine woman-kind without religion!

Z.

Paris, April 7, 1896

* * *

At the House of Commons.

THE last days are dragging drearily away up in the buildings on the hill. Speculations are scarcely worth speculating upon. The vainest member in the House has forgotten his vanity, the fiery member has lost his fire, the quizzical member, the man who wants to know the wag of the House, the prince of obstructionists, and the gentleman who has a temper are all longing to be out of the frying-pan and into the fire. The whole House is in a turmoil of impatience to be off. The elections are engaging the attention which the dying old Parliament now fails to hold. Members are collecting material for use "on the stump." They are sorting out their chances, and the queer thing is, that in spite of their long face and uncertain words, they, one and all, expect to come back. In many respects the new Parliament that is to be is of far more interest than that which will soon be "laid out" with the other dead of history, where few honest men will care to take a fair look at its corpse.

The leadership of the Conservative party is no longer a myth. There is a leader, though he may be blind, and the party may be blind, and there may be a ditch ahead. To all intents and purposes Sir Charles is the head of the Conservatives; though, literally, the fact is that Sir Mackenzie has not yet handed in his resignation. It was expected to-day. The prophets promised it as the political tid-bit for this afternoon. Now they say to-morrow, on the next day or the next.

The social balloon has been punctured. The coming and going of sessional people, the packing, the home-going, the farewelling, has tamed down the fervid gaiety, and so far, indeed, as the Parliamentary papa and his wife and daughters go the week has been dull.

Excitement ate itself out, in the long days of that long week, when tired, stubborn men slept and ate and—so say the gentlemen themselves—drank, according to rule. Relays slept while others held the fort and popped the guns of everlasting twaddle from one side or another of the House. Nothing more dreary could be imagined than the droning of the men who stood up and held the floor. The floor was all they did hold. Attention was never with them, save when someone was very angry or very cross. During the day, and until three a.m., a certain amount of business was, in the nature of things, disposed of, but through the dead hours, through the dawn hours, and the early breakfast hours, there was little, save an occasional joke or a passage-at-arms between two unusually frisky honourable gentlemen.

When the people rose in the morning they looked up to the tower. There were the lights still burning as they had burned Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

"Is the House still sitting?" one asked another in place of good morning.

"At it yet," was the answer—good for five mornings.

"Will it never end?" thought the wives of men who worked. "How long can they stand it?" people said, as they looked at the Hansard men.

The clocks measured out the minutes; suns rose and set; men passed in and out, and still, back and forth, to and fro, wagged the unceasing tongues, until twelve o'clock on Saturday night. Then the lights were put out and the men went home, because this country has yet left to it enough decency to observe its Sunday.

Down in the Rideau River Valley there is a wide, muddy lake and trees are standing in it, houses too, and barns and sheds, while roads are under its waters. Many houses were quite inaccessible save by boat, the other day. The one double plank footway leading beyond Cummings' Bridge was the only dry walk in the little settlement. A fine strong stream with a ripple in its current ran over the road, under the footway, through a garden or two, over the flats beyond, and then, crowding between the river banks, fell over the precipice down into the Ottawa below. Quite like a curtain the Rideau Falls look in summer, as the water streams over in a limpid arch, foaming a little and then losing itself in the River Ottawa. Now it frets long before it reaches the bridges, storms over the rocks, churns itself into an agony of foam and whitens the strong dark current far below the Point. The Gatineau river is rising too. The houses are built on a curving ridge of land. Behind stretches, in summer, a luxuriant green meadow and swamp, in winter a vast snow-field, in spring a lake. They are busily getting their moveables out of the river's reach. Yesterday the water was encroaching on the doorsteps, to-day many of the ground floors are flooded. To-morrow, the poor inhabitants may be making speedy journeys through the upper windows or from the house tops. They do not expect it, though. The Gatineau does not usually treat them so badly. They prepare for the flood, and, when it is not too bad, take it as it comes, somewhat as the house-mothers amongst us, take spring housecleaning and unforeseen company.

Ottawa, April 21st, 1896.

* * *

Art Notes.

CHARLES DANA GIBSON has been known to the American public for several years, but it is only within the last few months that his work has been properly appreciated by the art-world of England. The American magazines have a good many readers in the old world, and through this medium Gibson has gradually become recognized on the other side of the Atlantic as a force in art. But the exhibition of the artist's work which is being held in London has introduced him to a much wider circle than heretofore; and, from all accounts, he is winning laurels.

There is a great temptation to compare him to Du Maurier because both men are the illustrators of the comedy "High Life." Both, moreover, are possessors of a mortgage on a particular type of beauty. Any signs of disloyalty to his chosen type of pretty women, on the part of either artist, would be looked upon with suspicion by the artist's admirers; and it would be felt that he was not living up to his principles nor acting in a becoming manner as the exponent of the class of beauty which he had originally discovered, and for which, by constantly delineating it, he had won a host of admirers besides himself.

In point of unmistakable good breeding Du Maurier's "beauty lady" is superior to Mr. Gibson's. She has that indefinable aristocratic air which, amongst the human species, is as closely associated with a reputable genealogy as is the case amongst horses. That this type may be present in America is, I think, eminently possible, but Mr. Gibson has not discovered it. His lady is the pretty, vivacious representation of a family whose fortunes (probably huge) were built up by some sturdy plebeian of Dutch origin. She is splendidly dressed. Unlike Du Maurier's lady, she knows it. The young men of both these artists may be criticised on almost the same line as the women; but, in the case of the men, Gibson's trick of giving them large heads and small legs tapering to a patent-leather vanishing point has created a type in marked contrast to the languid young Apollons of Du Maurier.

Looked at from a purely artistic standpoint, however, it must be conceded that the delightful pictures which are so forcibly suggested by the masterly pen of Gibson are on a much higher plane of pictorial art than the flimsy compositions of the Englishman. Gibson's pictures would *paint*—to use the studio phrase; indeed they frequently suggest the idea that they were originally drawn as studies for an oil picture. The masses of light and shade are well studied and consistently realized. In his more elaborate drawings

a degree of tone is arrived at. A fine old picture, a mirror, an oak-panelled wall forms a strong setting for his group of gay idlers frivolling over a cup of tea. His "still-life" is admirably clever. A strong incisive stroke characterises all his drawings, and they give all the more pleasure to the spectator for looking as though they had been easily done. With a swift sureness of touch he passes rapidly from figure to figure. He does not wait, like Du Maurier, to elaborate the pattern of the lace or embroidery, but, with a few strokes he indicates the dominating lines and larger masses and folds of the dress. He suggests the character and action of a hand, but he does not count the fingers. In short he is just as great a master of the noble art of omission as he is of realization.

E. WYLY GRIER.

Music and the Drama.

MISS ELLEN BEACH YAW, soprano, supported by Mr. Maximilian Dick, violinist, and Miss Georgiella Lay, pianist, appeared before a Toronto audience for the second time last Friday evening. Miss Yaw has but recently returned from a sojourn in Europe—for rest and study—so that more detailed comment on her singing would seem to be necessary than would otherwise have been the case considering the comparatively short time that has elapsed since her first appearance in the city. Her voice is certainly phenomenal; not merely because such exceptionally high notes are reached but because at the same time low tones are also produced—tones of fair power and excellent quality. The compass actually displayed at the concert was nearly three octaves in extent, from B (below the treble staff) upwards, and throughout all this range the tone produced was uniformly mellow and sweet, not becoming shrill even on the highest notes. Miss Yaw has her voice under excellent control, the clearness and rapidity of her execution being remarkable, while her delicate portamento is an unusual delight. In regard to the limitations of such a voice little need be said. One who considers the matter with due deliberation realizes that there are certain styles of music in which so light a voice would be unsatisfactory. But since we are not accustomed to find fault with a rose because it lacks rugged grandeur or to complain that a child's laugh is wanting in pathos, why should we expect a single voice to possess all possible attributes? The music of the evening was carefully chosen, but even had it been otherwise it would have been a very difficult matter for a critic to retain throughout the concert that calm, judicial attitude which is necessary for the proper observation of defects. There is something so ingenuous and winning in Miss Yaw's manner and in the expression of her finely modelled face that almost anyone would have fallen under the spell in her first number, even without such a bias as the mind of the writer had previously received during a short conversation with the charming vocalist. Perhaps some aged cynic, especially if he were a bachelor or were living separated from his wife, might have been able to resist the combined influences; but for any man who is still taking Father Time's favourite prescription of eight hours three times a day for the cure of a chronic attack of youth—verily for such an one there was no escape. An unconditional surrender was inevitable. Miss Yaw responded generously to the demands of the audience for encores. Mr. Dick was also recalled after two of his numbers, as a tribute to his spirited playing; and Miss Lay proved herself thoroughly efficient in her double capacity as soloist and accompanist.

Owing to the unavoidable absence from the concert given on the 16th inst. by the choir of the West Presbyterian Church (W. J. McNally, conductor), assisted by several soloists from outside, I am unable to give many details in regard to the performance. A competent musician, however, informs me that the choruses were sung with precision and such expression as showed that their spirit was properly felt, and that the work of the soloists was also good. Considering that the choir was organized only last autumn and contains no paid soloists and that no choir music was ever permitted in the church until four months ago, Mr. McNally has good reason to feel gratified at the substantial progress which has been made. The success of the concert will, no doubt, prove a healthy stimulus to the choir.

C. E. SAUNDERS.

Letters to the Editor.

NORTH-WEST IMMIGRATION.

SIR,—As we have been favoured through the columns of THE WEEK with several theoretical articles on the subject of immigration I beg leave to make a few observations from the practical standpoint of an actual settler with fourteen years experience in the ups and downs of pioneer life in the North-West.

Our public-spirited men who propose to develop an active immigration policy might profitably give some of their attention to the present depopulation of the Province of Alberta. It has been too much the fashion to ascribe the decrease in population of the Province to the few bad years the farmers have had, but there are other causes far more potent to drive settlers from the Province. Let me give you an example: An intending settler came to Alberta in 1890, purchased a quarter section (160 acres) from the Railway Company at four dollars per acre, on the ten year payment system, but through failure of crops was unable to make his payments. In the meantime he has improved the place to the value of \$1,000 by fencing, cultivating, and building, etc. The Railway Company, not being a band of philanthropists, now steps in with their policy of my bond or pound of flesh, and the unfortunate settler must abandon his land and home, representing years of hard labour and seek elsewhere for a location. This is but one out of hundreds of similar cases of actual experience.

The average North-West settler is frugal and industrious, and I believe could, if allowed to do so, make comfortable homes and build up the country on a sound economical basis. In all new countries there are adverse natural conditions for the pioneer to contend against, but experience in other countries proves that man adapts himself to those conditions and ultimately prospers. But too often, as in the case of the North-West settler, he is handicapped by artificial conditions, such as exorbitant railway rates making more than the bare necessary articles of life unattainable. Land companies who do business on strict business principles, or rather according to the system of Shylock & Co., charging so high for land along the railway that, to a man of small means, the acquiring of a title to land near a market is an impossibility; also no markets, no local markets through lack of public works, mining enterprises, etc., no distant markets through high railway rates.

When the above adverse conditions are added to those which nature provides we must cease to wonder why the intending emigrant does not gladly avail himself of the good things of this great country. For this is a great country and no doubt has a great future before it.

Thousands of emigrants are prevented from coming here every year by discouraging letters from disappointed settlers. There is a growing feeling that something is wrong with a land policy which burdens a pioneer with a land debt at the outset of his career, leaving him, after the labour of years, unable to acquire the deed of his land, and discouraged from trying again to take a home in the country.

We are all interested in populating the broad square miles of the North-West, however much we may differ as to the means used to attain that end. The plan of assisted immigration has been tried and found wanting, much public moneys have been spent to start a few thousand pioneers, with the result that those pioneers now hinder immigration by discouraging friends from coming to the country.

I would suggest that those connected with the development of a new immigration policy should spend their energies making the condition of the present population of the North-West more prosperous, by lowering rates on railways and also lowering the prices of lands in the vicinity of the railways. After all the best immigration agent is a prosperous and successful pioneer for he brings others in his train.

ALBERTA RANCHER.

Calgary, N.W.T., April 8th, 1896.

HOW TO GET RID OF THE MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

SIR,—You have several times lately expressed an earnest desire to see the Manitoba School Question disappear from Canadian politics, and in this wish most Canadians will heartily join. To-day it is unfortunately the greatest of all political issues, made so by the course which the Government has taken, and it will continue so to the exclusion of other

matters of greater real moment, until a settlement, definite in its nature and honourable to all in its terms is reached. It cannot be taken out of politics by ignoring it, for it is a question that cannot be ignored; and surely the history of the last fourteen months demonstrates the futility of trying to remove it by ill-considered legislation to which large and influential sections of the people are bitterly hostile. The spectre can be laid in only one way by considerate and careful action based on indisputable facts determined upon by a tribunal of accepted authority. By the fortunate failure of the attempt to drive the Remedial Bill through Parliament with a club, this course is yet open; and if the Government that will be charged with the conduct of affairs of the next Parliament does not follow it, you, Mr. Editor, will hear much of the Manitoba School Question for the next ten years, however weary you may be of it; and not much of anything else.

The Government put itself in an indefensible position by the precipitancy which marked the passage of the Remedial Order; and its apologists have ever since been trying to justify it by begging the question. Perhaps the most daring attempt yet made of this character is that of "G. T. B." in his remarkable letter to THE WEEK. In this he held that Parliament by "refusing to redress which the law requires should be given" (by this meaning no doubt its unwillingness to bolt the half-baked Remedial Measure) is "inculcating the doctrine that we are to abide by the law only so long, and in so far as it comports with our own wishes," and is thereby "debauching the masses from their allegiance to law and order." "G. T. B." furthermore warns all laymen off the premises by telling them that they are not acquainted with the documents bearing on this "purely legal" question, and that they should accept the judgment of lawyers. It might be pointed out that if it is a legal question the lawyers seem unable to agree upon it: and that the weight of eminent legal authority in Canada is against the doctrine of irresponsibility which he elaborates in his letter. But the question is not a legal one; rather it is one eminently fitted to be dealt with by sensible laymen. The fundamental facts which govern the case are easily ascertainable to those who desire to learn them. Among the "documents" of the case, which I fear "G. T. B.," despite his reflection on the laymen, has never read, are the speeches of Edward Blake and Sir John Macdonald in Parliament in 1890 on the resolution introduced by the former, and the judgment of the Privy Council in 1892. It passes comprehension how any intelligent man, fresh from the reading of these utterances, could hold the views expressed by "G. T. B.," and by such other apologists of the policy of coercion as Mr. Hughes, M.P., the editor of the Victoria Warder, who tells his readers that "the question is forced on the Dominion Government by law," and that some of the Cabinet Ministers are not in love with the Remedial measure, but have acted in championing it as a sheriff would in executing a condemned criminal. These are extreme utterances but they indicate the line of defence to be taken in places where it would not be profitable to display the side of the shield now being held up in this Province by the Government's friends. Even those who are too intelligent or too honest to assert boldly that the Government had no power to do other than it has done, seek to create the same impression by a more subtle argument. Thus Mr. Dickey admitted to Parliament that it had freedom to do as it pleased in the matter; but in the next breath he said that if it didn't act precisely in the way the Government wanted it to it would be as guilty of dishonour as if it had repudiated its bonds. There is practically no difference in effect between the statements of Mr. Dickey and of "G. T. B.;" for to be bound in honour is more than to be bound in law.

Now against this bold assertion, which in its various forms, is the one bulwark of defence which the Government has, let us put Sir John A. Macdonald who knew something of law and of the duties of the advisers of the Crown as well. When in 1890 Mr. Blake suggested the resolution under which the reference to the Supreme Court and afterwards to the Privy Council was made Sir John accepted the proposal but in doing so made it perfectly clear that he had no intention of subordinating Parliament or the Executive to any court. He said: "Of course my hon. friend (Mr. Blake) in his resolution has guarded against the supposition that such a decision is binding on the Executive. It is expressly stated that such a decision is only for the information of the Government."

The Government may dissent from that 'opinion' and it will be their duty to do so if they differ from the con-

clusion to which the court has come." The italicised sentence is in the last-degree destructive of Mr. Dickey's argument. Sir John Macdonald would never have uttered it had he wanted to hide behind the dictum of a court, as men who were his colleagues when he uttered those words are now trying to do.

Therefore if we accept Sir John's statement as interpreting the sense in which the Parliament of Canada accepted Mr. Blake's proposal, it follows that even if the Privy Council had been specifically requested to pass judgment as to whether an actual wrong had been done the Manitoba minority its decision would have been open to review and reversal by Executive and by Parliament. Then, how much stronger is its right to claim entire freedom of action in the present case where the Privy Council had not been asked to disentangle the mass of conflicting statements and determine what are true and what are false. Mr. W. S. Fielding Premier of Nova Scotia, it seems to me was well within the mark when he recently wrote: "I most emphatically say that the legal proceedings before the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council were not a 'proper inquiry' into all the facts of the Manitoba School Question. Those proceedings did not pretend to be such an inquiry. The judgment was given, on assumed facts which did not cover the whole subject but only touched so much of it as was necessary to the consideration of the questions submitted to the court as to whether the case was one which the Dominion authorities could hear an appeal." Furthermore there is ground for the contention that the Privy Council used the word "grievance" in a technical sense; for it must be remembered that it had already in 1892 expressed its opinion of the Justice of the Manitoba legislation of 1890 in these words: "But what right or privilege is violated or prejudicially affected by the law? It is not the law that is in fault; it is owing to religious convictions, which everybody must respect, and to the teaching of their church that Roman Catholics and the members of the Church of England find themselves unable to partake of advantages which the law offers to all alike."

It has been established to the full that the privileges which the Roman Catholics of Manitoba have been deprived of were those granted to them by the legislation of 1871. In the original case before the Privy Council the counsel for the minority suggested that these privileges were virtually irrevocable; and their Lordships in their judgment remarked on this contention with a good deal of dry humour: "If the views of the respondents were to prevail it would be extremely difficult for the Provincial Legislature, which has been entrusted with the exclusive power of making laws relating to education, to provide for the educational wants of the more sparsely inhabited districts of a country almost as large as Great Britain, and that the powers of the Legislature which on the face of the Act appear so large, would be limited to the useful but somewhat humble office of making regulations for the sanitary conditions of school-houses, imposing rates for the support of denominational schools, enforcing the compulsory attendance of scholars and matters of that sort."

But mark and behold how the dogma of "automatic action" smashes the finding of the Privy Council. The Privy Council says that the Manitoba Legislature has the power of repealing its own school laws. Granted, says the Dominion Government, they have the power to repeal them; but if they do we shall be obliged, owing to our devotion to the Constitution, to compel them to promptly re-enact them under penalty of our doing so if they do not.

This is absurd enough in all conscience; but it is not so absurd as the commentary which the Government's actions make on its words. The "automatic action, no responsibility" theory breaks down when tested by the Acts of the Government itself. The Remedial Bill differed radically from the remedial order which was the first manifestation of this unique "automatic power;" and the proposition to the Manitoba Government, made by the Dominion Commissioners last month, has little resemblance to either, in that it abandons the claim for separate schools, excepting in towns and villages, which in effect means excepting in Winnipeg. It should need no demonstration that if Parliament in honour or in law has no functions but to register on the statute book the opinion of the Privy Council, the Government was guilty of either illegal or dishonourable conduct in drafting the late lamented Bill and in amending its demands on Manitoba. The explanation of the divergence of the Government's actions and words is, of course, that its

members know perfectly well that they have the widest discretion in the matter however much they may seek to humbug the country by their words.

Those who claim to be friends of the minority—and well might the minority in their case say “save us from our friends”—have been building their case on assumptions, some of them palpably unwarrantable, and all of them disputable. They will never accomplish anything in this way beyond prejudicing the popular mind against the real case, which wiser advocates might make out for the minority if they were given a chance. The question has been bedevilled by the clumsy fingers of bungling politicians; but not hopelessly. There is still open the way of enquiry, conciliation, arbitration, settlement with honour, and peace. If it is adopted, even at this late hour, in twelve month's time the school question will be a vanishing haze on the horizon; if it is rejected we shall see Canada's political sky darkened with sectarian and sectional issues for a decade at least.

Montreal, April 20th, 1896. JOHN W. DAFOE.

* * *

Dictionary of National Biography.*

THIS is a very interesting volume of the great dictionary. Passing over the Pooocks, among whom are several names of importance, we note among the Pooockes that one who is best known, the celebrated orientalist, of whom a full and excellent account is here given. The next name we stop at is one of greater interest, Reginald Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury, brought into the place of the martyred Cranmer in the reign of Queen Mary. The name of the writer, Mr. James Gairdner, is a guarantee for the accuracy of the work; but he has also produced a most interesting and valuable article.

An important name, belonging to later times, is that of Pollock—representing a very distinguished family. And near this the name of Pollok, hardly known to the present generation, yet remaining to remind us of the uncertainty of the public favour. For there are a good many still alive who can remember the time when Pollok's “Course of Time” was thought to be of the same class with “Paradise Lost”; and now we should like to know how many men or women, under the age of forty, have read it. Ponet or Poynt, Bishop of Winchester, who helped in the translation of the collects of the English Prayer Book, receives notice, although without certain difficulties of his history being cleared up. Of the Pooles we may note two, John, the dramatist, and Matthew, the commentator, whose book (Poli Synopsis) is still of value.

But here we come to a more remarkable figure “the great Mr. Pope,” who was once thought to be one of the greatest of poets, and whom some profane persons now deny to be a poet at all! When we mention that the writer is Mr. Leslie Stephen our readers will know what to expect. Those who remember Pope's deformity and general disagreeableness will be surprised to learn that in childhood he was called the “little nightingale” from the beauty of his voice. As regards his claims to a place in literature Mr. Stephen remarks: “He had qualities which would have enabled him to give an adequate embodiment in verse of the spirit of any generation into which he had been born. He might have rivalled Chaucer in one century and Wordsworth in another. As it was, his poetry is the essence of the first half of the eighteenth century. . . . Warton first proposed to place Pope in the second instead of the first class of poets”—a sign of the change in literary sentiment.

Under Popham, Chief Justice, we have an allusion to the story of “Wild Darell,” but a practical denial of its truth. We are not quite sure. An excellent article on the great Greek scholar, Porson, written by one no less distinguished, who now occupies his chair, Professor Jebb, will give most people a great deal of information, and convey a much pleasanter impression of Porson than most of us possess. Everybody knows that he was a great giant in Greek scholarship, and most have heard that he drank too much; but we learn here how that, as a companion, Porson seems to have been “delightful when he felt at home, and liked the people to whom he was talking,” and other pleasant things.

* Dictionary of National Biography: Edited by Sidney Lee. Vol. XLV1. Pooock-Puckering. Price \$3.75. New York: Macmillan. 1896.

Anna Maria Porter is here chronicled briefly, and it is enough. Jane, her sister, gets quite properly a larger space. Yet who that reads the “Scottish Chiefs” as a man can understand how he should have tolerated the story as a boy? Passing on we come to Porteus, Bishop of London, and then to Baden Powell, in his day an eminent man of Science, also a participator in “Essays and Reviews,” so long forgotten, and a Professor at Oxford. A very pretty article by Mr. Leslie Stephen is devoted to Praed, who deserves, on many accounts, to be had in remembrance. A very different person, yet one no less worthy of notice, was Josiah Pratt, one of the founders of the Church Missionary Society and also of the Bible Society.

Two Prices should be mentioned, very different men, yet both of eminence, Bonamy Price, Professor of Political Economy at Oxford, and Richard Price, still famous as a contributor to Ethical Science and for his correspondence with Dr. Priestley. Priestley himself is here suitably commemorated, and the story of his life makes us understand some of the horrors of intolerance and suggests feelings of gratitude for the happier days in which our own lot is cast. We should note a very good, fair and interesting memoir of the poet, Matthew Prior, by Mr. Austin Dobson. We have also short but good notices of Miss Proctor and her father, B. W. Proctor (Barry Cornwall). The celebrated Puritan pamphleteer, Prynne, is well described. Wood says of him: “I verily believe that, if rightly computed, he wrote a sheet for every day of his life, reckoning from the time he came to the use of reason and the state of man.” He is said to have published about 200 books and pamphlets. The last name we are to mention is, in some ways, the strangest of all, that of the man who called himself Psalmanazor, whose real name is unknown. For years an impostor, he lived for years and at last died a saint. These are but samples of the rich contents of this volume.

* * *

BRIEFER NOTICES.

The Child Voice in Singing. By F. E. Howard. (New York: E. S. Werner. 1896.)—No one will call in question Mr. Howard's statement, that “the singing of children is more often disagreeable than pleasant. We put up with it, however, he says, in the case of children, when we should not tolerate the same in adults, because we make allowances. Such allowances, the author of this book says, are not necessary. The reason why children sing unpleasantly is that they are not properly taught, especially because teachers forget the difference between the qualities of the child's voice and the adults.” Mr. Howard here undertakes to describe the physiological characteristics of the child-voice and to give some practical hints for its management. We have examined these hints, and find them sensible and practical. They can hardly fail to do good.

Municipal Home Rule: A Study in Administration. By Frank J. Goodnow, M.A., LL.B. (New York: Macmillan. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co. 1895.)—There are very few subjects of greater or more immediate importance than that of municipal government. No one denies the unsatisfactory state of things in this respect; but most people seem to have settled down into a feeling akin to despair. So many plans have been tried, and there is little chance of any other being more successful. It is with the hope of contributing something for the improvement of municipal affairs that the present writer has produced the valuable volume before us. One great point that the author has set before him is what he calls the “delimitation of the sphere of action” of our municipal organizations. In doing this he eschews mere theory or *a priori* reasoning, and first endeavours “to find out exactly what is, by the present American law, the sphere of action of municipal corporations, which is recognized as local and *quasi* private, and in which, therefore, these bodies should more largely be uncontrolled.” The author considers the subject from both the legal and political points of view, and cites an immense number of cases which have been decided by the American courts. It would take too long to enumerate the different subjects here considered; but we can assure those who are interested in these questions, as all citizens ought to be, that they will find here much valuable matter for study.

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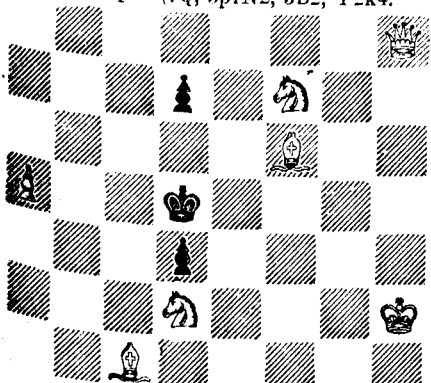
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Chess

DAVIS' THREE-MOVER: NO. 734 A.

3 black - 18 pts. (7Q, 3p1N2, 5B2, P2k4.



3p4, 3N3K, 2B5, 8) 7 white + 18 points.
734, -white to play and mate in three moves.

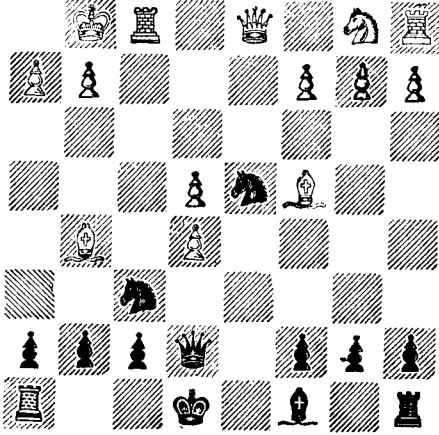
DAVIS' TWO-MOVER: NO. 734 B.

7 black - 6 points (8, 5n1K, 5Q2, R3p1.
4k1p1, 1Nr3n1, 2P5, 1BbN4) 7 white.
734, -White to play and mate in two moves.

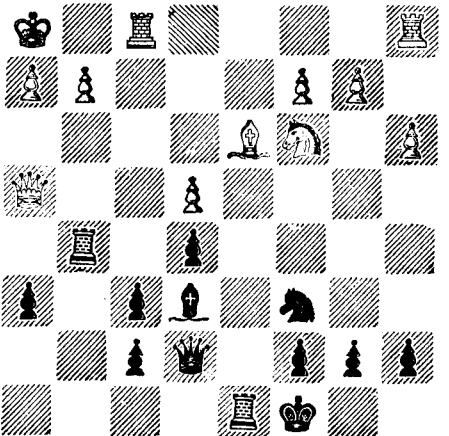


F P X
E O W
D N V
C M U

From Rostow-on-the-Don. (game 734) :-
Steinitz Schiffrs White Black
1 P K4 P K4 B1 GE,
2 K Kt B3 Q KtB3 SM rx,
3 B B4 B B4 Jv Rw,
4 P B3, Kt B3, 5 P Q4, PxP, second game.
4 Castle Kt B3 AS ZP,
5 very dangerous line.
5 P Q4 B xP 24 w4.
5... (Kt xP, 6 Kt Kt) P xP, 6 P Q4, PxP, 7 BxPch.
6 Kt xB Kt xKt M4 x4,
7 P B4 P Q3 KN 76,
8 nothing any better.
8 P xP P xP NE 6E,
9 B Kt5 Q K2 sW 8G
(1KR1Q1NR, PP3PPP, 8,3PnB2.



1B1p4, 2n5, ppp1ppp, r2k1b1r)
10 avoiding Q Q4 reply.
10 K R1 B K3 S11 zF
11 B Q3 Castle QR v3 Hz,
11... correct course.
12 Q K1 Kt B3 1A 4x,
13 cannot allow Kt Q Kt5 safely.
13 P QR3 P KR3 bc 7766,
14 B xKt P xB WP YP,
15 Q B2 or Kt Q2 much superior.
15 Kt B3 KRKt1 ju 88Z,
15... grand attack commenced.
16 Q R4 R Kt4 A44 ZW,
16... most aggressive play.
(K1R4R, PP3PPI, 4BN1P, Q2P4.



1r8p4, f1pb1n2, 2p1ppp, 4rk2)
17 KtK2 more promising.
17 R B2 P Kt4 JK 6655,
17... shutting up adverse Queen.
18 QR Kt1 QR Kt1 aJ 8Z,
19 Kt K2 seems feasible.
19 P Kt3 Q Q1 TU G8,
20 worse than R xP, R Kt5, 21 Q xP, R KtK4.
20 Kt Q5 P B4 u5 PO,
20... really decisive.
21 Kt B3 P B5 5u ON,
21... fine pawn play.
22 Kt K2 Kt Q5 uB x4,
23 Kt x t Q xKt B4 84,
24 R K... would prolong ending.
24 P xP R Kt5 UN WV,
25 Q xP, Q xR, threatening mate.
(K1R5, P1R2P1, 4B2P, QrPPq3. p2p4, 3b4,
2p2ppp, 1r3k2)

Bikes.

(With apologies to Rudyard Kipling.)

Of all the vile inventions, misbegotten by mis-
take,

The thing they calls the bicycle does surely
take the cake:

'E's ugly and 'e's vulgar, and 'e's dangerous
to ride,

An' 'e fills the man as rides 'im with a sort
of beastly pride.

O the Bike, O the Bike, O the scarin', tarin'
Bike!

'E's jist a 'oly terror goin' scorchin' down
the road;

With a grinnin' idiot clingin' to the 'andles
monkey-like

'Is shoulders 'unched above 'im like
a 'umpy sort o' toad

You thinks you'll learn to ride 'im coz it
don't look 'ard at all,

But you've got to get acquainted just with
hevery kind of fall;

You've got to learn 'ow gravel feels a stickin'
in your jaw,

An' what it is to 'ave your knees and
knuckles always raw.

O the Bike, O the Bike, O the wobblin',
hobblin' Bike!

A-reelin' and a-staggerin' to an' fro across
the road,

You may 'it 'im if you're fast enough and
cuss 'im if you like,

But 'e picks you out the 'ardest place and
then 'e sheds 'is load.

An' when you've learnt to ride a bit and
thinks afield to roam,

The blasted thing collapses 'bout twenty miles
from 'ome,

With 'is bloomin' bellers busted, or it may
be somethin' wuss,

An' you 'as to wheel 'm 'ome again, an' lor!
'ow you does cuss!

O the Bike, O the Bike, O the stumblin',
tumblin' Bike!

The wily, 'ily spider-wheel a-grinnin'
where 'e lies;

Oh, ain't it jam to shove 'im when 'is works
is on the strike,

An' every 'arf a mile or so you stops to
'damn 'is eyes.

They say it's lovely hexercise, you'll think so
pretty soon,

Same as a railway haccident, a hearthquake,
or typhoon;

When you turns a slipp'ry corner an' 'e slides
and falls down dead,

And you finds you're takin' hexercise a-stand-
in' on your 'ead.

O the Bike, O the Bike, O the thumpin',
bumpin' Bike!

'E'll shake your mortal soul out when 'e
gets on stony ground,

You 'ave to shove 'im up the 'ills an' down
'em both alike.

For i' 'e runs away with you, you might
as well be drowned.

The 'orse 'e goes by rein an' bit, the coster's
moke's a moke,

The 'ansom cab's a daisy, and the rickshaw's
just a joke;

But the bike's a 'orrid mixture, as on 'is face
'e shows,

Of a treadmill and a 'brellar frame and a length
of garden 'ose!

O the Bike, O the Bike, O the lanky, cranky
Bike!

'E's twenty ways of fallin' down an' can't
stand up alone,

If there's a stone within a mile you bet
your life 'ell strike,

'E tumbles down and chucks you, and it's
odds you breaks a bone.

'E takes the bit between 'is teeth, a-goin'
down a 'ill,

And you loses both your treadsles an' you
comes a hawful spill,

An' you breaks your knees and noses, and wi'
luck you breaks your neck,

And that there blessed bicycle's a 'ideos
tangled wreck.

O the Bike, O the Bike, O the rustin', bust-
in' Bike!

You leaves 'im in the duck-pond lyin' on
'is slimy bed,

'E may rot 'isself to pieces just as quickly
as 'e like:

And you thank your stars an' garters it's
'im, not you, that's dead!

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Literary Notes.

Mr. S. R. Crockett, whose "Cleg Kelly" has already sold an edition of 20,000 copies, is having his portrait painted life-size by Mr. Whistler, who intends it for exhibition at one of the galleries this season. A similar compliment is being paid to Mr. J. M. Barrie by Mr. Leslie Brooks.

The tendency towards international publications is growing. Holland will shortly be the birthplace of a periodical which will be published in English, French, and German. Janus is the proposed title, and medical geography and history will be the principal subjects dealt with in it.

Literary Russia is agog just now over a new writer, a simple villager, who, in depicting scenes of village life and character, has shown a natural genius that will class him with the leading contemporary authors. Details are very meagre, but before long we may expect full and profuse items concerning the new star.

It is rumoured that Mr. Hall Caine is living a secluded life in the neighbourhood of the Mile End-road for the purpose of getting local life and colouring for the new story which he announced last week as being in preparation. If the rumour be true Mr. Caine has precedent for this method of studying the East-ender as he is. Mr. Rudyard Kipling adopted similar tactics before he wrote his "Badalia Herodsfoot."

The fifth volume of Mr. Traill's "Social England," now in the press, will contain an exhaustive paper on the literature of the age, to which Professor Saintsbury has contributed, in accordance with Mr. Traill's decision to obtain the assistance of specialists for special subjects. In the same way Dr. John Brown has taken us "Nonconformity and the Wesleyan Movement" in the same volume, and Mr. R. E. Prothero "Agriculture"

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. announce a complete edition of the works of Robert Browning, in two volumes, containing historical and biographical notes of the author that are included in no other edition. They will publish, also, Miss Betham-Edwards's forthcoming story, "The Dream-Charlotte: a Story of Echoes"; and, in connection with Messrs. J. M. Dent & Co., of London, a translation of the works of Alphonse Daudet, to be published monthly, beginning with "Tartarin of Tarascon"

The first of the series of papers on South Africa which Professor James Bryce, M.P., is to contribute to The Century, appears in the May number. He corrects the general impression that the country has little natural beauty. Portions of the highlands he compares to Switzerland and the White Mountains, and he says that one can never tire of the charm and variety of colour in the landscape. Professor Bryce says that the Boers have retained to this day a passion for solitude that makes them desire to live many miles from any neighbour.

The announcement is made by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons that they have purchased the books of Robert Louis Stevenson heretofore published by Messrs. Stone & Kimball, including the "Vailima Letters," "Ebb Tide," "The Amateur Emigrant," and "Macaire"; and that they have also concluded arrangements for the publication of his posthumous works. "Weir of Hermiston" they expect to publish the latter part of May, and "St. Ives" at a later date. The Scribners will thus be the publishers in this country of all of Mr. Stevenson's works.

An interesting coincidence, or an example of mental telegraphy, is that just at the time when Professor Rontgen was perfecting his discovery of the X-rays, but before the results were made known, there was published in "Stella," by Charles S. Hinton, a romance, the plot of which was based on the fact of the permeability of the human body to rays of light. "Stella" was published in November of 1895, and it was not until some months later that the condition stated in the book, and seemingly so far beyond any likelihood of conjecture, became a scientific and demonstrable piece of knowledge.

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Personals.

Mgr. Laurent, priest in charge of St. Mary's Church, Lindsay, has been created a Roman Prelate by the Pope.

Lloyd Osborne, stepson of the late R. Louis Stevenson, was married in Honolulu on the 10th inst., to Miss Katharine Durham, of Springfield, Missouri.

The installation of the new Bishop of Ottawa takes place on the 30th inst. The Anglican community of the city promise His Lordship a hearty welcome.

The funeral of the late Sir John Schultz, ex Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, took place from the Legislative chamber at Winnipeg to St. John's Cemetery. It was attended by the military and official bodies.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, of Pittsburgh, Pa., has authorized the trustees of the Carnegie Art Gallery to offer eight thousand dollars for the best two paintings by American artists, the word American to include Canadians.

In Coburg, on Monday last, the wedding was celebrated between Princess Alexandra, third daughter of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (the Duke of Edinburgh), to Hereditary Prince Ernest of Hohen-lohe-Langenburg.

The death of Sir John Schultz, says the Montreal Gazette, adds another to the already long list of members of the Royal Society of Canada that have passed away in a comparatively short period. Of more than twenty of the original members of the Society, whose names are in the list of deaths, about one half have died during the last five years. The first in the death list is Mr. George Barnston, who was a very old man at the time of his nomination, and died in the first year of the Society's existence. He had been for many years an officer of the Hudson's Bay Company, and had been all his active life a diligent student of botany and entomology, and a careful collector of specimens. Some of his entomological specimens may be seen in the British Museum. His essays and papers were mostly published in the Canadian Naturalist. His son, Dr. James Barnston, was the first to occupy the chair of Botany in McGill College and also held the office of Curator and Librarian to the Natural History Society. I had the pleasure of hearing him read a paper on the study of nature in the year before his death, and, so far as I can remember, he was somewhat tall, rather thin, slightly stooped, of a dark complexion, and of a grave and even sad expression. Morgan's Bibliotheca Canadensis contains notices of both father and son. The latter was born at Norway House. Between Mr. Barnston and Sir John Schultz there are many well-known names. Dr. Todd, after a too short interval, followed Mr. Barnston, and the Rev. Dr. Honeyman, Dr. Fortin, M.P., Mr. A. Murray, C.M.G., Mr. Herbert Bayne (R. M. Coll.), Mr. Oscar Dunn, Prof. George Paxton Young, Abbe Bois, Mr. J. C. Dent, Mr. F. N. (Gisborne, the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Mr. John T. Lesperance, Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, Charles Sangster, Sir Daniel Wilson, the Hon. Senator Tasse, Mr. Carpmael, F.R.A.S., Mr. A. Lusignan, Mr. J. Marmette, Prof. Lawson and a few others have swelled the list.

* * *

Publications Received.

- Harriet Prescott Spofford. A Master Spirit. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
- Ila M. Tarbell. Madame Roland, A Biographical Study. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
- Eugene Field. The Home. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
- Julian Hawthorne. A Fool of Nature. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.
- Paul Carus. Religion of Science. Chicago: Open Court Pub. Co.



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Literary Notes.

Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. have just published in their Riverside Literature Series [No. 93] Shakespeare's "As You Like It," and [No. 94] Milton's "Paradise Lost," Books I.—III., in paper covers at 15 cents each. The "As You Like It" is from the Riverside Edition edited by Richard Grant White, with Additional Notes and Suggestions for Special Study. Cooper's "Last of the Mohicans" will soon be issued in the Riverside Literature Series in four parts as Numbers 95—98. Each part, in paper covers, 15 cents. The four parts also bound together in one volume, linen covers, 60 cents.

A book embodying some highly interesting original research will be published by Macmillan & Co. under the title "London Burial-grounds." Most of these burial-grounds have passed away and even the traditions as to their sites are of the most fragmentary description, but to the antiquarian, no less than to the man of letters, such traces as can be verified are replete with interest. The author starts with the British and Roman burial places; and treats in turn the graveyards of priories and convents, the Cathedral and Abbey, The Temple, and The Tower; then goes on to a consideration not only of the graveyards connected with churches, but of all of which anything can be known, whether public or private.

People who are fond of being taken behind the scenes will enjoy Mr. G. B. Burgin's readable and entertaining paper, "How Authors Work," in the current *Idler*. Speaking of Mr. Zangwill, Mr. Burgin remarks: "Most of his work is done away from London, but when at home he writes at a large table (in his study) covered a foot deep with litter, amid which each page of copy gets lost as soon as written. A great search is thus entailed at the end of each sitting. Once the search was prolonged for four hours because an important page could not be found. At last, when the grey dawn came creeping in, making the gaslight tawdry, and his own and his brother's anxious faces looked weird and haggard, it was discovered that he had inadvertently written on both sides of a sheet; on the bottom side of this sheet was the thing for which they had been looking. Mr. Zangwill's brother, who is well known as the author of 'A Drama in Dutch,' sits at the other end of the same table. He is a methodical, business-like person, who stipulates that the litter is not to encroach on his own clear space. With this object in view he makes a line of demarcation; but, alas! as Mr. I. Zangwill warms to his task the space becomes smaller and smaller, and Mr. L. Zangwill's work is driven on to the floor. Then he resists and begins to recover lost ground, only to be again dispossessed. The two brothers chop metaphysics whilst working—an unnatural taste at the best—and their busiest time in the study is from ten p. m. to three a. m."

* * *

Publications Received.

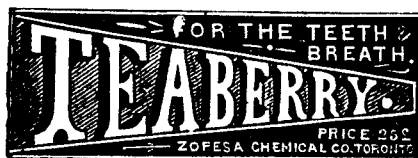
- F. Max Müller. Science of Language. Chicago: Open Court Pub. Co.
- Bradford Toney. Spring Notes from Tennessee. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
- F. Hopkinson Smith. Tom Grogan. Illustrated by C. S. Reinhart. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
- F. J. Stimson (J. S. of Dale). Pirate Gold. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
- Capt. Chas. King, U.S.A. Trumpeter Fred. New York and Chicago: F. Tennyson Neely.
- Robt. Buchanan. A Marriage by Capture. London: T. Fisher Unwin.
- Rudyard Kipling. Soldiers Three. London and New York: Macmillan & Co.
- Rudyard Kipling. Wee Willie Winkie. London and New York: Macmillan & Co.

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Shakespeare's Katharine and Ibsen's Nora. E. H. Crowell.

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Curry, Baker & Co., 70 Victoria Street.
Darling, Sproat, & Pearson, The Mail Building.
Beaumont Jarvis, McKinnon Building, Cor. Jordan and Melinda Streets.
J. A. Siddall. Room 42 The Janes Building, 75 Yonge Street
- Booksellers and Publishers** { Copp, Clark Company Limited, 9 Front Street West and 67 Colborne Street.
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The Fleming H. Revell Company, Limited, 140-142 Yonge Street.
Rowell & Hutchison, 74 King Street East.
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Hunter Rose Printing Company Limited.
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R. Simpson, Nos. 170, 72, 74, 76, 78 Yonge Street and 103 Queen Street.
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- Financial** { Canada Permanent Loan & Savings Company, Toronto Street. J. Herbert Mason, President.
The Toronto General Trusts Co. See advt. 2nd page of THE WEEK.
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