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The WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG, 8 pages, 56 columns, is published every Thursday morning at \$1 a year, positively in advance, otherwise \$1.50 will be charged. EDW. J. B. PENSE, Proprietor.

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THE DAILY WHIG.

"Opifer per Orbem Dicor."

THE FRANCHISE AGAIN.

Disappointment is felt that the changes in the dominion franchise act are not what they were expected to be by all classes and political parties. The scheme proposed is that immediately after the 1st of June, the revising officer, as directed by the present statute, shall proceed with his revision, and shall make supplementary lists of voters, which shall be sent to the Queen's printer and returned to the revising officer to be posted up for public inspection. On a fixed day objections will be heard and corrections, if necessary, made and inserted in the list by the government printing officer. The list, as so corrected and printed, shall be final, and shall be struck off and distributed in the manner provided by the present act. The list, as thus established, is to be final as to the qualification of the voter. Thus the old system, declared by even a good conservative paper, a persistent supporter of the government, to be both cumbersome and expensive, remains. The simplification in the process of preparing the voters' lists is hardly apparent, and it is assuredly not appreciable.

To make the franchise act more workable, at least to make it conform to the demands of public opinion, it should have been amended more in the direction of manhood suffrage, especially since that is the tendency in Ontario and Quebec; and, according to the special act of the house of commons, Prince Edward Island is exempt from the operations of the dominion act, and allowed to retain its provincial manhood suffrage system.

In this connection, perhaps, the biggest joke of the season is that perpetrated by the Montreal Gazette, which, noticing the fact that Mr. Mercier is having the franchise in Quebec lowered, remarks that he is "being forced from Ottawa." If any one can discern any thing in the bill now before the commons, and of which the minister of justice has the custody, which is suggestive of a modification of the franchise of the government of Quebec, or of any other province, he will be remarkably keen-witted. The young men of the country are not getting at the hands of the dominion government the attention and the fair play which are their due.

A NEW FEATURE.

The interest taken in "Robert Elsmere" here, though great enough, and apparently increasing, is not to be compared with that which exists in London. This English interest in the work has undoubtedly been magnified by the controversy which has been occasioned, most particularly by the repudiation of certain of its contents by the great Unitarian preacher, Rev. Robert Spears. That he has a right to take prominence in the discussion no one will dispute who realizes that he is supposed to be the "Murray Edwards" of the book, who was supposed to have carried on the work provided for by the handsome bequest of "one of the pillars of London Unitarianism," in the heart of what was "one of the densest and most poverty-stricken of parishes," and which, because of the absence of a "certain arid stratum of the middle class" (as Unitarianism has never been the creed of the poor) proved a miserable failure.

Rev. Mr. Spears says that fifty years ago Mr. Beaumont did found, in East London, not an "old-fashioned Unitarian church," but a Theistic church of the so-called advanced type, that "had done with all the figments and supports of legend and mythology." The basis of that church was, in Mr. Spears' opinion, just what Elsmere would have desired. The one hundred and twenty hymns used in it named Christ only once in them. The lessons had little of the bible in them. There was scarcely a whisper of the hope of immortality. In a short time it shut its doors, put up its shutters, and disappeared. Such is the history of a Theistic church, not of a church teaching the old-fashioned Unitarianism of Lindsey, and Channing, and others. About 20 years ago Rev. Robert Spears began his work in East London, in the new Unitarian movement, and without any aid. It was attended with success, but that success was not suggested by the position of Elsmere's Theism. "My friends and helpers," says Spears, "all knew my faith in Christ and the Christianity that Christ taught. My faith I have discovered is just what is needed among workmen and all men, while at the same time I observe that our so-called Theistic churches are affecting for good neither the masses nor the classes."

Mr. Spears goes further. In the Christian Life he points out the work done by Christian Unitarians in England and America, on behalf of the ignorant and sinful and wretched, and mentions John Pounds, the founder of the ragged schools, Mary Carpenter, Dr. Tuckermore, Dr. Worcester and Dorothy Dix, all eminent

Unitarian philanthropists. "All these were believers in Christ," he writes, "as a man approved of God, by miracle and signs which God did by him." These are witnesses against the Elsmere theory that theirism apart from Christianity is the new redeeming force. "It may be well," he remarks, "to extol the rationality of mere Theism, but what is it doing or has it done to lessen the sin and suffering of mankind. The work of Robert Elsmere in East London is pure fiction. The work of Christian men and women of the Church of England, and of the other churches, among the poor of East London is a glorious fact."

Coming from Mr. Spears this declaration is significant. No man should be able to exemplify the faith and doctrine of the Unitarians than the one who has been the London leader of them for so many years, and he distinctly says that the message of Robert Elsmere is not that "which the ordinary Unitarian has preached for centuries." That it has been the subject of so much criticism and controversy is, of course, to the great advantage of Mrs. Ward. She has become famous and reaped a small fortune at a stroke, has excited the English-speaking world by the recital of Robert Elsmere's life and experience, and now adds to the agitation in literary circles by the issue of "Robert Elsmere's daughter."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

One clergyman, Rev. C. S. Nickerson, American, has been found to endorse dancing. He says it is natural and innocent and beautiful. He has, however, limited his admiration to square dances, in which "the people move gracefully and merely touch finger tips." The waltz he cannot tolerate, because it involves hugging, and hugging, he says, should be done at home.

Here's a pretty go! The meeting at Hagersville, on Thursday, is not for the purpose so much of finding out how much money Mr. Colter's friends spent, if any, as now much the party is willing to subscribe towards the expenses of Dr. Montague. The Hamilton Times says that about \$2,000 of the money expended is yet unprovided for. And was all this for legitimate expenses? Some light on this point is necessary before the war on Mr. Colter is resumed.

The legislature is looking into the poor house question—into the number of people that are registered as paupers, the classification of them, the diet served them, the work they are engaged in, and the extent to which they are affected by mental and physical diseases. The move is in the right direction. It will lead to a perfect revelation to most people. It will serve to make the people and the people's representatives do the duty which the circumstances call for, and save both from imposition. The discussion is most timely.

A great deal of nonsensical election talk is being indulged in by the conservative press. One paper insinuated that the advocates of reciprocity can afford to be liberal in campaign expenses inasmuch as the funds they use are supplied by the Americans. A very likely story, about as likely as that communicated by a Montreal correspondent to the Chicago Inter-Ocean to the effect that the Canada Pacific railway syndicate was subscribing an immense sum of money for the bribery of certain civic functionaries on condition that they gave to the company certain railway privileges which they do not now possess. It's amazing to what flights the imagination can rise in the attempted elucidation of some political problems.

The circulation of the reports of the minister of inland revenue, containing the blunders regarding the consumption of liquor in Canada, has been stopped, and the tabulated statements will be revised before the issue is resumed. Hon. Mr. Costigan is angry because someone insinuated that the erroneous statements were published designedly. Well, the circumstances were exceedingly aggravating. He certainly could not expect the prohibitionists to remain quiet while the reports showed such a glaring contradiction of what they contended—that if they did not secure all they aimed at, they were encouraged to fight on, that if they had not made the people total abstainers they had made them exceedingly temperate.

COMMENTS OF THE PRESS.

Thing in a Nut Shell.

Toronto Mail. If we really wish to trade abroad we must commence our efforts in that direction with the reform of our tariff.

Justice and Mercy Plead It.

New York Journal. Give the Sing Sing convicts work. Not only mercy but justice requires it. Work is what they were condemned to, and both justice and mercy plead for it.

Verily It is Not.

Guelph Mercury. The liberals meet the house at Ottawa to-day with the prestige of three seats wrestled from the government since the last session: Halton, Joliette and Haldimand. Unrestricted reciprocity is not yet a dead issue.

A Change Must Come.

London Advertiser. The idea that the home rule question is to be settled by putting O'Brien in prison, and yanking his clothes off by force, is peculiarly Balfourish. The whole prison policy of Balfour would be grotesque if it did not involve personal outrage.

A Very Expensive Echo.

Toronto Telegram. The ideas of the premier always prevail. If they are right so much the better for the country. If they are wrong, so much the worse. But right or wrong they meet with implicit obedience in the senate and where, then, is the sense of maintaining an expensive echo to the will of one man.

Not one half as many people went to Montreal this week from Kingston as in 1877. This is the report from all towns between Kingston and Toronto.

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J. JOHNSTON & CO

Having decided to go to Manitoba in April, and in order to do so, their entire stock of

ALL NEW GOODS MUST BE SOLD.

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CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.

A Very Interesting Point Settled—An Act That Will Not Stand Criticism.

It will be recollected that on Nov. 1st last Mr. Walter Bell, of Pittsburg, was charged before the police magistrate, Col. Duff, with having furnished adulterated milk to a cheese factory contrary to the provisions of the recent act of the legislature of Ontario, 51 Victoria, Chapter 32, which act provided a heavy penalty for such an offence.

Mr. McIntyre, Q.C., appeared for Mr. Bell, and among other objections contended that the act was ultra vires, was beyond the power of the Ontario legislature to pass, that it in effect dealt with crime, which was within the power of the dominion parliament alone to touch. Mr. McIntyre further cited several cases then pending and being argued in Toronto before the Queen's bench divisional court, in which motions were made to quash convictions under that act, and in which the identical point taken by him was argued.

The police magistrate adjourned the case each month until he could learn the result of the argument of the cases in the queen's bench, the last adjournment being until the 26th of the present month.

The Queen's bench divisional court delivered judgment in the several cases referred to on Monday last, being the first day of Hilary term, and held that the act was unconstitutional, that it assumed to legislate as to crime, which it was incompetent to do, that power being reserved for the dominion parliament alone, and quashed all the convictions. It is assumed that this will dispose of Mr. Bell's case when it comes before the magistrate on the 26th inst., to which date it was adjourned. It is apprehended that in any cases in which convictions were made and not appealed against, and the fines paid, such fines must be refunded.

What They All Say.

Dr. Washington has undoubtedly earned for himself a world wide reputation as a throat and lung specialist. A New York patient heard from Dr. Washington, as almost every person knows is, an eminent authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs, and has been most successful in the treatment of his patients. The diseases specially treated at Dr. Washington's surgery are catarrh, catarrhal deafness, chronic bronchitis, asthma, consumption, loss of voice, removing growths or polypii from the nose, etc. Dr. Washington's private office contains any number of testimonials both local and from a distance which speak volumes as to the efficacy of his treatment. Among them is one from Mr. G. H. Cannon, 232 West 104th street, New York city, who was only cured himself, but who is so confident of the merits of the treatment that he writes the doctor as follows: "I would have written sooner but was waiting for a decided answer from my friend, Mr. John Dawson, in reference to trying your treatment for his daughter for her catarrh troubles. I finally got his consent by telling him I would be responsible for his money if she was not cured. I now therefore enclose your cheque for full course and guarantee a cure, etc." Dr. Washington personally superintends the prompt answering of all correspondence. He will visit Kingston again, February 8th and 9th.

The Blessington Phosphate Mines.

Capt. Boyd Smith, of Washington, D.C., sailed for Europe on Wednesday, Jan. 30th, on a North German Lloyd's steamship from New York. He will be gone for some time on business connected with his large phosphate interests in Canada and the south. A large business may be expected both in mining and lumbering during the coming season.

TO BUSINESS MEN.

ANY ONE WANTING HELP WITH THEIR BOOKS, Accounts, Collections or in any general business capacity, send a post-card to FRED. OSTLER, College Street, Accounts audited and books kept by the week.

DR. WASHINGTON,

OF TORONTO.

THROAT & LUNG SURGEON.

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Tweed, Hayck's Hotel,

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Catarrh, Bronchitis, Asthma, Consumption, Effectually Cured.

An English Church Clergyman speaks, Rectory, Cornwall, Ont.

Dr. Washington. Dear Sir,—I am glad to be able to inform you that our daughter is quite well again. As this is the second time she has been cured of grave bronchial troubles under your treatment, when the usual remedies failed, I write to express my gratitude. Please accept my sincere thanks.—Yours truly, C. B. PETTIT.

Diseases Treated. Catarrh of the Head and Throat, Catarrh, Deafness, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma and Consumption. Also loss of voice, sore throat, enlarged tonsils. Polypus of the nose removed. COME EARLY. CONSULTATION FREE. Dr. Washington, as almost every person knows, is an eminent authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs and has been most successful in the treatment of his patients.

New York Testimonial.

G. H. Cannon, 232 West 104th Street, New York City, who was not only cured himself, but who is so confident of the merits of the treatment that he writes the doctor as follows: "I would have written sooner but was waiting for a decided answer from my friend, Mr. John Dawson, in reference to trying your treatment for his daughter for her catarrh troubles. I finally got his consent by telling him I would be responsible for his money if she was not cured. I now therefore enclose your cheque for full course and guarantee of cure, etc." Dr. Washington personally superintends the prompt answering of all correspondence.

References.

- John McKelvey, Kingston, Catarrh. Mrs. A. Hoppins, Kingston, Broncho Consumption. Mrs. E. Scott, Kingston, Catarrh, head and throat. Mrs. Jno. Bertram, Harrowsmith, Catarrh, throat. Miss Mary A. Rombourg, Centerville, Catarrh, head and throat. Mrs. James Emberson, Napanee, Bronchitis, long standing. Miss Frank Conaus, Frankford, Catarrh. Mrs. R. Blake, Newboro, Catarrh and Consumption. M. S. Dean, Bridgenorth, Catarrh, head and throat. A. E. Fish, Belleville, Catarrh, throat. John Phippen, of Sandhurst, cured Catarrh. W. Whittemarsh, Wolfe Island, Ont., cured of Catarrh.

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