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TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1895.

THE SITUATION.

The somewhat boisterous wail set up by some students of the University of Toronto, last winter, died down to an inglorious dirge, when a commission asked to be told, in all soberness, what it was all about. The students in their charges said that they did not like the personal appearance of one of the professors, and in the examination they were anxious to apply, contrary to law, a religious test to fathom the soundness or expose the unsoundness of some others. The guardian placed over the toilet room could not have been more repugnant to them if he had been a veritable Bashi Bazouk. The students wanted to nominate outside lecturers, and to send such professors as did not please them to the right about. The allegation that there was something wrong in the appointment of the lecturer on history was not sustained, and if he refused to take the position at a stipend that he could not possibly live upon, he had a right to do so; the rule that required a shilling's worth to be given for sixpence was not unalterable, and was in fact properly altered. Mr. Riddell, counsel for the students, very properly withdrew the charges which could not be proved. But after this was done, the commissioners declared their readiness to listen to volunteer evidence regarding them, their conduct in this respect presenting a strong and favorable contrast to the ruling in the late Boodle investigation. The necessity of some certain rules of discipline to which to subject the refractory students was the one fact which the investigation made plain. These will doubtless be supplied. Mr. Goldwin Smith, who had private conference with the commissioners, is said to have given the weight of his experience in favor of a severance of the connection between the University and the Government. It is not probable that the authorities will admit that the time has come for taking this step. But it may come.

Sir Edward Grey has officially announced that the British Government has not been made aware of the contents of the treaty of peace between China and Japan. Conflicting telegrams have been purporting to give the terms of the arrangement for some time past. From Japan comes the statement that she gets no trading advantage from which other treaty nations are excluded. England and France had the right to navigate certain rivers in China, and it would be strange if Japan had not now got the same

privilege. Whether any, and, if so, what territorial rights, have been ceded by China to Japan is still in doubt. The French papers have tried to create the impression that Russia, France and Germany are acting together to review the treaty, with a view to its possible modification in their own interests. If there be any intervention, it would probably require a more complete European concert than the alleged combination presents. Europe will be likely to take precautions against her interests being injuriously affected by the peace settlement. England objected successfully to the treaty of San Stefano in 1878, and the Berlin Conference reviewed the agreement to which Russia and Turkey had come. But what was done at Berlin had been secretly pre-arranged between England and Russia on the one hand and England and Turkey on the other. Some sort of intervention, by means of European concert, is not impossible, on the present occasion, though England shows no disposition to take part in such a move.

Some one representing the Government of Canada is to visit England to present to the British Government the arguments which official Canada has to offer in favor of the denunciation of the Berne copyright convention. Probably some member of the Government will be entrusted with this task. Unless the argument proceed entirely upon the right of Canada to control all copyrights within her borders, just as she controls patents, it is difficult to see where the agent will get his right to speak against the Berne convention. No one who has created a Canadian copyright has asked to have this convention denounced. Those who ask to have that step taken are printers and publishers who desire to get control of British copyrights to make money out of them; who, if they use the constitutional argument at all, only use it as a means of helping themselves to get access to these copyrights, not by agreement, but by force of law. That the change advocated will not be in the interest of Canadian authors, Mr. Goldwin Smith has expressed a decided conviction. Piratical printers, he thinks, will get hold of English copyrights and not pay for them, and Canadian authors will have to compete against unpaid British authors. The late Sir Daniel Wilson also favored the Berne convention, and those who ask to have it denounced are generally ready to sacrifice the Canadian author to the printer. Still, above and beyond all this is the constitutional right of Canada to control all copyrights within her borders. But in making good that control, the rights of British authors should be guarded against the possibility of piratical treatment. The Government ought to undertake to enforce some responsibility on printers and publishers who may be empowered to force a contract on unwilling British authors.

All Canada now knows from the words of the Premier that, unless Manitoba acts upon the Order-in-Council and deals with the Separate school question, in what has come to be called a "remedial" way, the Dominion Government will do so. "If the time should come," says Sir Mackenzie Bowell, "for the action of this Government," in the premises, "the people of Canada will find that the present administration are quite prepared to assume the responsibility which may fall upon them, no matter what the results may be." He professes great respect for provincial rights and expresses a strong desire that Manitoba should supply the remedy by the exercise of her own powers; but if she should fail to do so, he considers that the duty of the Dominion to interfere will become clear. That duty there are some who fail to admit. They contend that the right of appeal, like any other appeal, may be followed by an adverse judgment. In any case, it is desirable that the