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AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, MAY 29TH, 1885.

MEN, WOMEN, AND THINGS IN GENERAL.

From time to time influential voices are raised in England against the insane jingo policy of attempting to defend India against the Russians at Herat. To the testimony I noted a few weeks ago from Col. Osborn I may now add that of Major John Scott Napier, of the Gordon Highlanders, who served through two Afghan campaigns. He describes the Afghans as essentially treacherous towards Englishmen, and predicts that they would themselves endeavor to destroy any troops sent to aid them in maintaining themselves against the Russians. The Marquis of Salisbury, if the cable speaks correctly, at a public meeting a few days ago, admitted that the true scientific frontier for India is the Indus. Meanwhile the dispute with Russia is not over, and a new but not unexpected turn has been given to the negotiations by the Russian Government's demand that Britain shall give security for the good behavior of the Afghans. This request is not an unreasonable one, in view of the predatory and turbulent habits of these mountaineers, for if Russia is not to be allowed to punish them for incursions into what is now her territory, then the British Government must undertake to discipline them or pay for the damage they inflict. The result of such an arrangement would be the enforced subjugation of Afghanistan by Britain at an enormous cost, and the substitution of an exposed and untenable frontier for one that is a highly defensible natural barrier. Time will soon more than justify Mr. Gladstone for declining to fight with the Czar about the Penjeh affair.

The young women who attend lectures in University College have done better at the College examinations than I was aware of when I referred to them a short time ago. In addition to the Mental Science prize in the second year, they have captured the History and Modern Language prizes in the third both of the latter having been taken by the young lady who last year was a double scholar in her second year. One of the peculiarities of the situation is that the History prize was awarded on examination by the President himself, who was so stalwart an opponent of the admission of women. To do Dr. Wilson justice he was fully equal to the occasion, and took the earliest opportunity of cordially congratulating the fair and youthful recipient.

Recently a somewhat peculiar case came up for adjudication in one of our courts. A woman, who alleged that she had been deserted by her husband, entered a suit for alimony, and was met by the plea that she had never been legally married to him and had lived with him for years as his mistress. It was proved on her behalf that her alleged husband had been in the habit of introducing her to acquaintances as his wife, of addressing her publicly as his wife, of addressing letters to her as his wife, and of allowing her to call herself by his name as his wife. There being no denial of these facts the Chancellor held that a *prima facie* case had been made out for the woman, and ordered that she should be maintained at the defendant's expense pending the final issue of the suit.

This interim decision suggests the idea that if the law does not in the end make claim good, it should be amended, so as to cover such cases. Any man who treats a woman as his wife, should become *ipso facto* her husband, whether they have ever been united by any ceremony or not, and should be compelled to accord her a wife's status. So long as she remains faithful to him, he should be prevented from marrying any one else on pain of prosecution for bigamy, and she should be entitled to all the privileges, in the matter of property, which the law secures to any lawfully married woman. If this were the condition of the marriage law, men would be more careful as to the kind of relations into which they enter with women, and the latter would be enabled more effectually to protect themselves.

By parity of reasoning I may go further still, and point out that this decision of the Chancellor's, suggests an obvious check on the practice of seduction. Any woman of good character, who has been seduced by a man, should be entitled to claim as against him the privileges and status of a wife. She should be placed in a position to secure her living at his expense, and he should, as in the case above referred to, be treated as guilty of bigamy if he deserts her and marries any other woman. It might, and probably would, happen that now and then a man in search of illicit pleasure would enter into a *liaison* with an adventuress and be compelled to assume the burden of protecting and maintaining her. Such an occurrence, however, would not condemn the system I advocate, for a man who voluntarily puts himself in such a position is entitled to no sympathy.

On the other hand, as seduction would then imply marriage, if the seducer were already a married man, he would become, by the act of seduction, guilty of bigamy, and should be punished accordingly. This double-barrelled remedy for this great social evil, would be far more effective than any law that merely declares certain forms of seduction to be punishable as crimes. It would tend to prevent the would-be libertine from indulging in his nefarious practices by enabling his first victim to take the status of his wife, and every subsequent one to prosecute him as a bigamist or polygamist.

There are those who still speak harshly of Mr. Gladstone's present policy of evacuating the Sudan. For their benefit I describe a few sentences from the Suakim correspondence of the London *Lancet*:

"As I, in the painful execution of the duty imposed upon me, look upon the heart-rending scenes of carnage and blood strewn around, as I see the bodies of those poor fellows, with their arms, legs, and heads pointing in all directions, lying huddled together in putrescent heaps; as I think of the hundreds made widows and the thousands rendered fatherless, or contemplate the scores of relatives who will never welcome back the return or see the kind face of a brave husband, father, or loving friend again; as I see the seething and devouring flames wrapping round the poor, yet after all perhaps the happiest of happy homes of these poor barbarians; and as I view the smoke of that desolation circling and curling upwards to the sky—I can but think that if there be a God in Heaven He will surely bring some to book who have been foremost in fomenting and urging on this most unholy of wars."

Speaking of a patient whom he saw in the hospital, a mere lad of fourteen, who with only a banner in his hand had headed a charge against the British lines until shot through both thighs, the medical correspondent says:—

"With the same determination, however, and the same patience as he exhibited during the fight, in the presence of his captors he bore his pain and sufferings now, and they must have been excruciating at times. Although the bullet had penetrated and passed through the fleshy part at the juncture of the middle and upper thirds of both limbs, I never even heard him moan; not