

The indomitable pluck of the British soldier is receiving fresh illustration in the Soudan campaign. The spectacle offered by Gen. Stewart and his little band of two or three thousand heroes, far away in the heart of the African desert, enduring without a murmur the tortures of thirst and the fatigues of long marches over parched sands under the rays of a tropical sun, repelling with unflinching steadiness onset after onset of the vast hordes of Arab warriors by whom they are surrounded, has few parallels, even in the history of British warfare. The culmination of heroic achievement seems to have been reached when a band of picked guardsmen cut their way through the Arab forces to the river and returned, "all that were left of them," bringing water for their famished comrades. This incident, if correctly reported, will take its place in the annals of heroism, side by side with the Bala-klava charge.

The presentment of the Grand Jury at the recent Criminal Assizes in this city contains one suggestion of great importance. Referring to the difference between the state of affairs in the Central Prison, where the convicts are kept at work, and that in the common jail, where 172 men and 32 women are unemployed, the jury expressed the opinion that the idleness of the latter and their indiscriminate association are a great evil. It ought to be too late in the century for an intelligent people to maintain hundreds of the criminal classes at the public expense, simply confirming their habits of idleness and vice. Work of some sort, better useless or unproductive work than none at all—should be provided, and made compulsory on every able bodied convict. There is, perhaps, no one respect in which society more signally fails to use its highest intelligence than in its treatment of criminals. If the object of imprisonment is merely to punish, a life of indolence and comparative comfort is no punishment to many a convict. If the higher object of moral improvement, or reformation, is kept in view, one first and most effective step towards it must be compulsory work, to form if possible, a habit of industry.

A cooper writes to the *Globe* to point out the disastrous effect the Scott Act agitation is having and is likely to have on the coopering trade. There is no doubt that the general passing and enforcement of a prohibitory law would have a disturbing effect upon many branches of industry as well as upon the general revenue. A little reflection, however, will show that such disturbance would be merely temporary. The many millions of dollars that would represent the enforced saving from the dram shops and the breweries and distilleries would not be hoarded up in old stockings, or hidden away in cupboards. It would be expended in the purchase of necessaries, comforts and luxuries, and would thus simply be diverted into other and more useful channels. There are, probably, few forms of self-indulgence which afford a smaller amount of employment in proportion to the money expended than the use of liquors. If the amount annually expended in the purchase of these by all classes of the people were used in the building and decoration of houses, the purchase of furniture, and books, or of fruits and other harmless table luxuries, it would undoubt-

edly give employment and a living to a much larger number of labourers than at present. The question is one of interest and would repay study. We should like to see some reliable statistics and calculations bearing on the point.

The School.

A sign of the times is the growing demand for stenographers in the various departments of business and professional life. This is bringing the subject and various methods of phonography more prominently before the public. In our advertising columns will be found the announcement of the opening of a new Phonographic Institute at Windsor, Ont. The proprietors claim great excellence for the system they have adopted in respect to the facility with which it may be learned and its rapidity in use. We have no means of comparing the merits of different systems. Those in search of information will do well to write to the advertisers for their pamphlets.

We gave in our issues of the 12th and 22nd January the official regulations respecting the entrance to Ontario High Schools and Collegiate Institutes for July, 1885, also some particulars in regard to the methods of marking, &c. From the revised instructions issued by the Department, it appears that the literature subjects have been enlarged so as to permit of optional selections from the Royal and Canadian Readers as well as from Ontario Readers. The main points in the new regulations will be found in this issue under the head of Educational News and Notes.

From the Preliminary Programme of the International Congress of Educators at the New Orleans Exposition, it appears that the Hon. J. Geo. Hodgins, Vice-Minister of Education for Ontario, has been made Honorary Secretary of the National Educational Association, of which President Arthur is Honorary President and a large committee of the foremost Educators of the United States the working officers. The appointment of Dr. Hodgins as the sole Honorary Secretary is a recognition of the advanced position of Ontario in educational matters as well as a high compliment to Dr. Hodgins personally.

The letter of Enquirer in this issue calls attention to a practical matter of considerable importance. Unquestionably the most difficult thing in school management is to preserve due order in a large school, and at the same time teach efficiently a special class. We should be glad to hear from teachers of experience upon the point. We do not see why Enquirer's suggestion might not be carried out, and the Normal School students be given some practice in school management as well as in class management. We have known this to be done in other Normal and Model Schools.

An old subscriber writes for the *JOURNAL* saying, "I gave up teaching a year ago, and being engaged in other business, neglected to take it. I am lost without the old friend although I am not teaching." Another says:—"I am thinking of leaving