

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."