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The Bulletin of the Department of Education for Manitoba The Bulletin of the Manitoba Trustees' Association

THE BANNER

Who in the gorgeous vanguard of the years With winged helmet glistens, let him hold Ere he pluck down this banner crying "It bears An old device"; for though it seem the old.

It is the new! No rent shroud of the past
But its transfigured spirit that still shines
Triumphantly before the foremost lines,
Even from the first prophesying the last.

And whose dreams to pluck it down shall stand Bewildered while the great host thunders by; And he shall show the rent shroud in his hand And, "Lo, I lead the van!" he still shall cry;

While leagues away the spirit-banner shines, Rushing in triumph before the foremost lines. —Alfred Noyes.