

Rarely has posthumous biography proved so disastrous to a great reputation as in the case of Froude's Carlyle. It seems too bad to lift the veil from the private life of one revered as a literary prince and seer, only to reveal a poor specimen of dyspeptic, splenetic, cantankerous humanity.

Considerable interest attaches to the efforts that are being persistently made to open up a new trade between Europe and Siberia, by the North Sea. Siberia is rich in minerals and a large part of it well suited for grain growing and its development will be of importance to the whole civilized world.

From addresses recently delivered in connection with the movement in the United States for doing away with the contract labour system in prisons, it appears that about 60,000 persons are now in duress in the United States on account of crime, and that two-thirds of them are under thirty years of age.

The new French method of fighting without making war has its disadvantages. The Egyptian Government has refused the French demand for an embargo on 100 Krupp cannon, recently sold by Egypt to a German firm, and suspected to be destined for China, on the ground that France has not declared war against China.

The Molecular telephones which are shortly to be introduced into London, are said to possess many new and important features, among which is that of enabling one to hear distinctly a person at a long distance talking almost in a whisper and entirely doing away with the disagreeable crackling sensation so annoying to all familiar with other instruments.

The Czar of Russia has suppressed nine newspapers since he began his reign. Only two Liberal newspapers now remain in all Russia and they hourly expect to be forbidden. Surely the time is not far distant when the Emperor of Russia will learn that such attempts to suppress the expression of public opinion have no other effect than to plant thorns in his own path.

The Senate of the University of Toronto has received a petition signed by 198 students, representing the Y. M. C. A. of University College, asking permission to erect on some suitable part of the University grounds an Association Hall to be used for moral and religious purposes only, said students undertaking to raise funds needed to construct and maintain the building.

The despatches are as contradictory about the objects of Gen. Wolseley's expedition as about everything else in regard to the embroglio in Upper Egypt. One cablegram says his instructions are emphatic to go no further than is absolutely required in order to rescue Gordon and his band, while another alleges that he is not forbidden to establish a stable Government in and around Khartoum, if he deems it necessary.

Silk culture bids fair to become a popular industry in the United States. At the recent fair in Boston, there was a remarkable exhibition of cocoons. They have now been produced

in every State of the Union, Kentucky and one or two others bearing off the palm. The indications are that cocoon raising will become an easy means of adding materially to the income of many homes.

The East Middlesex Teachers' Association held in London on the 13th and 14th inst., passed resolutions recommending the abolition of the clause in the School Law which gave power to the local authorities to vary the length of holidays, and asking that the compulsory features of the Superannuation scheme be abrogated and subscription to its funds made optional with teachers.

The Chicago *Current* avouches that the "politicians are drones;" that they "are but a tax on the people at the best," and calls on "the men who do the hard, grinding work of the world—who toil and sweat all day and plan all night," to form an "anti political-nonsense league" in 1888 and have done with this system of Presidential elections which ruins the business of one out of every four years.

The proceedings at the Congo Conference now in session at Berlin are to be secret. Stanley is not to be admitted to its deliberations but his testimony may be called for. It is devoutly to be wished that some international action may be taken to stay the unspeakable horrors of the slave trade carried on by the Arabs, of which Stanley gave so harrowing an account the other day before the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, in Manchester.

It affords us much pleasure to present to our readers, in this issue of the SCHOOL JOURNAL, an original poem by Mr. Geo. W. Johnson, Head Master Model School, Hamilton. As the author of such beautiful and popular pieces as "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," and "Wanting, a Recommendation," Mr. Johnson has justly established a claim to high rank among Canadian authors. We trust to be able, from time to time, to publish in the WEEKLY SCHOOL JOURNAL other contributions from the pen of this gifted writer.

Mr. Gladstone intimated in the House of Commons and Lord Granville in the Upper Chamber that, on receipt of an adequate assurance from the Opposition that the Franchise Bill shall be passed this autumn, his Government was willing to make the main features of the Redistribution Bill a subject of friendly conference, or to introduce a measure forthwith and press it with all speed, but they would make it a vital point to carry the Franchise Bill early next year. A late despatch says that the Lords have accepted the compromise and read the Bill a second time without division.

The fact that seven young ladies are already attending lectures in University College and that several more intend presenting themselves next term, shows pretty clearly that the demand was not wholly imaginary. The throwing open of the College doors is an act of simple justice but by no means a solution of the problem of diversity education for women.