

The teacher had been instructing the class about the three kingdoms of the universe, and to make it plain she said: "Everything in our school-room belongs to one of the three kingdoms—our desks to the vegetable kingdom, our slates and pens to the mineral kingdom, and little Alice," she added, looking down at the child nearest her, "belongs to the animal kingdom." Alice looked up quite resentfully, and her eyes filled with tears, as she answered, "Teacher, I think you are mistaken; for my mama says that all little children belong to the kingdom of heaven."—*Lippincott's Magazine*.

CURRENT EVENTS.

The proposal to unite the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island is older than the Dominion; but the enlargement of Manitoba and the provinces on the St. Lawrence gives it a fresh interest at present. The three provinces together are now so small in comparison with the other provinces of Canada that the proposed Province of Acadia could have no undue influence in the affairs of Canada as a whole, and the local interests are not so different as to require separate governments. The sentimental objections to losing historical independence should be no more difficult to overcome than they were in the case of Cape Breton, once a separate province, but now a part of Nova Scotia. To increase the area and importance of the proposed new province, a recent writer suggests adding the Gaspé peninsula and the Island of Newfoundland. If Newfoundland is to come into the Confederation it will probably wish to come in as a separate province. Here, if anywhere, the sentimental objection would prevail unless the whole new province were to be called Newfoundland.

A machine has been devised for writing shorthand. It has but six keys, yet its combinations are sufficient to record speech at quite a serviceable speed. Its units are not single sounds, but syllables. The keys print on paper that is self-feeding from a roll, and the characters printed can be read by a trained eye at a glance. The new instrument is known as the stenotyper.

Pidgin English, a sort of jargon that it was supposed the Chinese could easily learn, is going out of use, since it is found that they can learn English, French and German without much difficulty when properly taught.

The Cullinan diamond, the largest in the world—so large, indeed, that no one knew what to do with it until the Transvaal government decided to purchase it for presentation to the King—is being polished in Amsterdam. It was found necessary first to split the stone into three pieces, to remove two very bad flaws. This was successfully done before the polishing began.

The polishing disk, on which the stone is pressed down by a weight, revolves at the rate of two thousand four hundred revolutions per minute; and the process will take ten or twelve months, working twelve hours a day, before it will be completed.

Asiatic cholera is alarmingly prevalent in St. Petersburg, where it has even made its appearance in the Winter Palace. Schools have been closed, and the school buildings converted into hospitals. The dread disease has also appeared in other Russian cities, and the strictest measures are being taken by other nations in Europe and America to prevent its introduction from Russian Ports.

A new Atlantic cable is to be laid, to connect Germany with Brazil. This does not seem to support the idea that wireless telegraphy will soon supplant the cables.

The new railway is opened from Damascus to Medina. Devout Mussulmans can now make their pilgrimage by rail.

The preservation of the forests is one of the gravest questions in Canada to-day. The loss by forest fires this year will amount to many millions of dollars. A striking evidence of the great extent of the fires is seen in the statement that twenty-two ocean steamships at one time were lying in the St. Lawrence, between Montreal and Quebec, unable to proceed because of the smoke.

It is said that the Canadian Pacific Railway will eventually build an all-Canadian line to the Yukon. The road will cross the first range of the Rocky Mountains by Pine River Pass.

The Canadian Pacific Railway now owns or controls thirteen thousand miles of railway, and five fleets of steamships, and employs nearly seventy-five thousand persons.

The St. Vincent is the eighth vessel of the Dreadnought type to be added to the British navy, and is the largest and heaviest of all.

The shortest time for a journey around the world is claimed by a British traveller, who left Liverpool last year on the third of May, and on his return landed at Dover on the thirteenth of June, making the circuit in a little over forty days.

At a recent trial of his flying machine in France, Wilbur Wright, the American inventor, kept his aeroplane in the air for more than an hour and a half, making a distance of over sixty-one miles in that time, and coming to the ground without accident. His brother, less fortunate, at a similar trial near Washington, had the machine wrecked by the breaking of a propeller blade, and was badly injured, while Lieut. Selfridge, who was with him, was killed by the fall.

A valuable find of fossil bones is reported from German East Africa. They belong to extinct animals of the dinosaur family, and are thought to be of later age than similar skeletons found in America.

A very complete specimen of the hairy mammoth has just been found in Alaska. It is said to be the first one