

An English educational writer deploras the general "slippancy" of the present age and especially the decay of reverence in children. There is no doubt considerable danger in this direction. The spirit of the day is fearless and sometimes ruthless in handling things that were regarded by our ancestors as almost too sacred to be touched. Parents and teachers cannot too carefully guard the young against the tendency of superficial knowledge to puff up with undue self-conceit. Regard for the wisdom and research of years and distrust of the hasty conclusions of sciolism, can scarcely be too carefully inculcated. Especially is the veneration due from youth to age, a moral sentiment to be most sedulously cultivated. At the same time it is well that the coming generations should be taught to love truth better than custom or authority, and to be independent and self-reliant in the search for it. The truest reverence for what is right and good is often shown by those who are readiest to question hoary dogmas, and to disturb long settled conclusions. There is a world-wide difference between reverence for what is true and pure and good in itself, and reverence for what is time honored, simply because it has been most surely believed through long generations. The spread of education tends to strengthen the sense of individual responsibility. It makes every thoughtful man feel that his own judgment and conscience, not the opinions of others are his standards, that to his own master he must stand or fall. But this increased sense of personal responsibility, this enlargement of the sphere of the individual, should surely tend towards modesty and humility, rather than the opposite.

### The Week's News.

Gen. Stewart was progressing favourably at last accounts.

The Canadian boatmen whose term of service in Egypt has expired are returning home.

Principal Grant has addressed a Kingston meeting on the subject of University Federation.

Mr. Charlton has introduced a bill in the Dominion Parliament to prevent Sunday excursions.

The French Government is again urged by the Paris papers to suppress the gaming tables of Monte Carlo.

Twenty-four men have been brought before the Toronto Police Court, charged with cock-fighting. The cases were adjourned.

Four Portuguese men-of-war have occupied the mouth of the Congo River, disregarding the proceedings of the Congo conference.

Mr. F. X. Beaudry, of Montreal, intends building an orphanage in that city at a cost of \$250,000, on a site furnished by himself, and adding \$100,000 towards an endowment.

Canadian Pacific Railway receipts for last week in January show an increase of \$64,000, and those of the Grand Trunk a decrease of over \$62,000, compared with the corresponding returns of last year.

Thus far two persons, Cunningham and Burton are under arrest in connection with the recent dynamite explosions in London. These arrests are deemed important and others are said to be imminent.

O'Donovan Rossa was shot on Monday, the 22nd inst., on the street in New York by a woman named Mrs. Dudley. It is probably a case of real "emotional insanity." Rossa will probably recover.

It is rumoured that a proposal will shortly be made to the American Government by Minister West, to build the Nicaragua Canal under the joint auspices of the United States and Great Britain.

A general meeting of the Convocation of Toronto University was held on Friday evening in the Canadian Institute, Toronto, to consider the scheme for University Confederation. The general tone of the speakers was favourable to Confederation, but a motion of approval was thought premature and withdrawn.

The details of the massacre of Col. Stewart and his party in the Soudan, about six months ago has just come to light. Col. Stewart's steamer was wrecked a little below Abu, he and his party left the boat unarmed, were decoyed to the house of Sulisman Wad Ganez under pretence of hospitality and treacherously assassinated.

The New York *Tribune* publishes a remarkable letter addressed to its London correspondent, Mr. Smalley, some months ago by Mr. Gladstone. The letter assigns Washington the first rank amongst modern heroes, and suggests that the English-speaking peoples of the world a century hence will probably number nearly 1,000 millions, and may be very closely united commercially, as well as "united almost absolutely in blood and language, and very largely in religion, laws and institutions."

Intense excitement was created in England on Thursday by a despatch from Gen. Wolseley, conveying the startling news that Khartoum had been captured by the Mahdi's forces on January 26th. Col. Wilson arrived before the city on the 28th and was greatly surprised to find the enemy in possession. Gordon's fate is unknown. The city was probably taken by the treachery of some whom Gordon trusted. The most energetic measures will be taken to retrieve the disaster as far and as speedily as possible. Gen. Wolseley is to have *carte blanche*, in conducting the campaign and troops will be pushed forward with all expedition.

## Special Articles.

### COLLEGE CONFEDERATION

SECOND PAPER BY R. W. SHANNON M.A., KINGSTON.

In a former paper was discussed the centralization feature of the proposed plan for college confederation; let us now look at its academic merits, and its justice.

We find in article 19 that "the curriculum in arts of the Provincial University, shall include the subjects of Biblical Greek, Biblical literature, Christian Ethics, Apologetics or the Evidences of natural and revealed religion and church history." These subjects belong properly to the professional studies of divinity, and it is usually admitted that theological education is the one thing that the state should leave severely alone. Is it defensible to embrace these subjects in a course of liberal arts, and yet exclude anatomy and surgery, equity jurisprudence, and Blackstone's commentaries? No; let us rather be consistent, and, having once stepped beyond the circle, let us include four or five subjects from law, four or five from medicine, a few from dentistry, and an instalment from civil engineering. Then we shall have a logical and truly liberal system, under which students may graduate in arts whose acquaintance with the proper subject-matter of that department will be like the legal acquirements of Lord Chancellor Brougham, of whom the lawyers used to say that if he had but known a little law he would have known a little of everything.

Observe how much more valuable a degree will become under the new dispensation! Divinity students will be relieved of their final year in arts, since the work nominally prescribed for that year will in reality constitute part of their course of professional study. What effect will this have upon honour men, the choicest product of University culture? Just this. As there are at present