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 - 5.—THE WEEK will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfilment of the conditions.

WE must confess our belief—perhaps not at this moment a popular one—that Colonel George Denison has had hard measure meted out to him by his opponents in the Council. We are quite willing to admit that the Colonel brings a little of it upon himself. He is a trifle high and mighty and perhaps a little too ready to resent attack. But no one can doubt his great ability and his eminent fitness for the post which he holds, or indeed, for a good many other posts. It has been said that a man who does one thing well is likely to do a great many things well; and the writing of the Police Magistrate on Cavalry Tactics may be noted in illustration of the remark. But it is to his admirable discharge of his duties as a magistrate that we specially make allusion; and it is necessary that some of his assailants should remind themselves of this. We may lose, through such annoyances as those to which he has recently been subjected, an official whom it would be difficult to replace. These remarks are not suggested merely by recent occurrences, but by a careful study of the Police Magistrate's methods and work during the last few years. It is not only the promptness and energy with which the business of the Court is conducted, nor the strong common sense and clear insight which characterise the Colonel's work. To a thoughtful observer the most characteristic feature is the judicious tempering of justice with mercy. We confess that we have seldom seen anything more reasonable or more skilful than the

manner in which he contrives to give an accused person what is called a chance, and this often by sending the case to a jury. To know exactly when to deal summarily with a case, and when to relegate it to another court, requires no ordinary discretion; and many persons who have thought themselves hardly dealt with in being sent to a jury have had reason to admire the clemency which was kinder to them than they would have been to themselves. It may become a question whether Colonel Denison should not be elevated to some higher judicial position. That he would adorn any such post few will doubt; although his translation would be a serious loss to the Court in which he now presides.

WE have frequently drawn attention to the subject of University Examinations and their attendant advantages and disadvantages; and the subject is again forced upon us by the sight of some papers set at the recent examinations for matriculation at the various universities of Ontario. Upon the whole, we are bound to confess that the examinations are well adapted for their purpose. We think that the subjects are too numerous. We believe that the requirement of good work upon fewer subjects would not only be better in a general way, but that it would be a better test of a man's fitness to profit by a University course of teaching. On this point there may possibly be differences of opinion. At any rate, the papers set at the recent examination are generally reasonable and adequate. If a fair percentage of answers is required, the candidate who passes may be admitted to the University with a fair prospect of profiting by the same. But we must also add that some of the papers are absurdly difficult. There is, perhaps, nothing quite so bad among them as the famous English Grammar paper set a few years ago, which was intelligible neither to examiners nor to examined, nor to any one else, unless, perhaps, to the gentleman who displayed his erudition by setting it. We have not, this year, noted anything quite so bad as that; but there is an Algebra paper in one University and an Arithmetic paper in another which come very near it. Such papers strike quite needless terror into the hearts of candidates. They may reassure themselves. Examiners who set such papers never expect them to be answered. They do not set them for the sake of being answered. They set them to shew that the University which they represent puts harder questions than some other University, or perhaps that this particular examiner is superior to others. And this is our way of carrying on the higher education of the country! If a little more attention were paid to the spelling of the English language and the writing of a decent sentence in it, and the Latin and Greek Grammar, and to other elementary matters, and a little less to grandiose theories of philology, we might have less pretence, but we should have more education.

THE publication of the correspondence between Lord Salisbury and Mr. Blaine does not seemingly affect the judgment which we have already pronounced on the subject of the Behring Sea dispute. The points of difference are very simple. Lord Salisbury points out that no nation has ever thought of treating a vast expanse of water like the Behring Sea as private property, as a *mare clausum*. Mr. Blaine urges, on the other hand, that these claims of the English and Canadian sealers have never been advanced before, and further and chiefly, that it has become absolutely necessary to put some restraint on the catching of seals, or they will very soon be utterly destroyed. No one seems quite pleased with the result. Lord Salisbury's opponents in England declare that he has been rude to the American minister. Mr. Blaine's critics in the States say that he has barked and prepared to slink off without remaining to fight. A despatch from Washington to the New York *Herald* says, it is "arbitrate or fight." It is impossible that the latter alternative should be adopted; and yet we cannot see how the British Government can allow the seizure of English and Canadian sealing vessels in the open sea. It must therefore be arbitration. And Englishmen and Canadians can have no difficulty about this method of settlement. They want no more than justice and they are quite as likely to get it in this manner as by war. We certainly do not want to fight;

and we do not believe that sensible Americans want it, for they know that they have nothing to gain by it, but much to lose. The horrors of war to all concerned would be greater than we can imagine; but the slightest reflection will shew that they must be terrible. Such a notion is, however, to be entertained only that it may be rejected; and we feel sure that pacific counsels will prevail.

WHILST Americans and English seem on the point of quarrelling about the Behring Sea sealing, there comes to us from Vancouver the account of a pleasing incident, which is one of the kind which will always foster kindly and friendly feelings between ourselves and our cousins on the other side. An American steamship plying between Victoria, Puget Sound, and Alaska, had been so disabled that it was necessary to bring her into the dry dock at Esquimault for repairs. The dry dock was occupied by an English war ship. When the American captain represented to Admiral Hotham that any delay in the repairing of his ship would cause great inconvenience to the two hundred passengers whom he was conveying to Alaska, the Admiral immediately gave orders that the war ship should make way for the American vessel, which was done within an hour or two. The greatest service was thus rendered to the proprietors of the American vessel and to the passengers in the same. Well may the telegram which conveys this pleasant episode declare that "it will also show that a British officer is always ready to assist the distressed of any nation, even when it results in great inconvenience to himself and his ships."

THE division in the English House of Commons on the cession of Heligoland shows the practically universal concurrence of the people of Great Britain in the measure. Seldom has Lord Salisbury or any other foreign minister conducted negotiations more successfully or in a manner more agreeable to both sides. The English lose nothing by giving up the island, and the Germans have a national sentiment very agreeably gratified. The Germans, again, suffer very little by their concessions in Africa, consisting, for the most part, of abandonment of dubious claims, while the concessions are of great advantage to the English. We are aware that this is denied, and that the whole thing is pronounced to be a bubble and nothing more. But this is not the judgment of men who are competent to form an opinion. It was not the judgment of Livingstone, nor is it that of Stanley. Now that the difficulty with Germany is removed, it appears that fresh complications are arising with France. It is quite natural that France, which has regarded English action in Africa with the greatest suspicion and jealousy, should be on the alert to prevent the extension of her rival's influence on that continent. Some previous agreement between the two countries seems to have guaranteed the independence of the Sultan; but, if such an agreement did not prevent a German protectorate, it is not easy to see how it should hinder a British. It is said that a similar agreement between France and Great Britain with respect to the independence of Madagascar has not prevented a French protectorate over a portion of that island, so that the agreement respecting Zanzibar will probably become, in the same manner, a dead letter. Egyptian affairs will probably remain in *statu quo*, as England can there quietly hold her own; but the case may be more grave in regard to the Newfoundland dispute. It may be hoped that French irritation may be subdued by the thought of the danger of quarrelling with all Europe at a time when she has a powerful and well-armed adversary at her side.

IT is quite possible that the Millenium may be coming, and that all evils in Church and State will presently disappear; but there are still some ugly phenomena which may at least convince us that the good time is not really come. Hardly anything more grave has occurred for very many years in the history of England than the discontent and insubordination of the London Police and the Grenadier Guards. What have we as a bulwark against disorder and the dissolution of society but, first, our police force, and then, if these should fail us, our soldiery? And both of these are threatening to join the ranks of disorder! In