The Toronto World.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 16, 1882.

WOLSELEY IN CAIRO.

It was at one time feared that if Arabi was cornered in Cairo another massacre would result. But General Wolseley was in the city five hours after the rebel chief, and instead of the people offering him sympathy they offered him a prisoner to Sir Garnet.

The strategic strength of Cairo is very great. Its situation is fifteen miles above the commencement of the Delta. The city is almost square, and, after Constantinope, the largest of the Ottoman empire, being four miles in length and about two and a half broad. It is surrounded upon three sides by a flat plain, and being built partly on the slope and partly at the foot of the last height of the hill range of Mokattam, has special advantages for defense. The citadel dominates the whole town and sweeps the space with heavy guns, most of them modern in construction. Higher still, upon the crown of the mountain, there are fortifications commanding with their ordnance both the citadel and the plain beyond. The citadel is approached through narrow and devious ways winding up the rock, in part through solidly built stone walls. To this fortress much interest attaches. It was founded in 1176 by Saladin, and it was within its grim ramparts that, on March 1 1811, the massacre of the Mamelukes took place. The citadel embraces among its buildings an arsenal, the mint, a small palace of the pasha, and the new mosque. The fortress is supplied with water from the Nile by means of an aqueduct constructed by Saladin and there is likewise a well which reaches a depth of 260 feet. The most remarkable building of the cluster is the mosque built by native architects and of Egyptian marble, enjoying the reputation of being the most splendid in the world. The fort perched still higher upon the rock, callod the Jebel el Josshes, occupies the site of a battery erected by Mahomet Ali against the citadel when in the possession of Koorshid Pasha, and by means of which he obtained the surrender of the place. The whole army of antiquarians, artists, scholars and travelers who have visited or who mean to visit the cities of the East in all that picturesqueness which centuries have scarcely affected, would regard with dismay the probability of a siege of Cairo. What if in all its glory, its traditions, its quaint life, its beauties and architecture, its priceless treasures of art, with these records of the oldest civilization known to history, were to be swept away in a few hours by modern artillery? Luckly for all, this has been prevented. Within the walls of Cairo there are about 30,000 inhabited houses, including several palaces, four hundred mosques, two hundred and forty streets and a number of public squares. The minarets of Cairo are the most beautiful of any in the Levant, of great height and built of alternate layers of red and white stone. The oldest of the minarets is that attached to the mosque of Sultan Tayleon, built in 879, before the foundation of the city. The Moslem university, founded at Cairo in 975, is the largest in the world, and numbers over 10,000 pupils and 320 professors from all Mohammedan nations. It is a hotbed of Mohammedan fanaticism, and the Koran is the only text-book. The new university founded by the khedive represents civilization in the modern system of secular education and affords instruction in all modern languages. But to the student no part of this most remarkable neighborhood is so interesting as Boulak, a suburb on the Nile, at some distance from old Cairo, behind the city proper, called by the Arabs Fostat, the Babylon of the Romans, and, according to Coptic tradition, the Babylon from which St. Paul addressed his first epistle. At Boulak is the celebrated museum, having the richest collection of Egyptian antiquities in existence, before which even those of Turin, the Louvre and the British museum pale. There is hardly a street corner in the old city without its tradition of blood. There is hardly a minaret which does not mark the scene of some tragedy; and the present war may not end without leaving behind it bloody marks of destruction.

THE DESTINY OF EGYPT.

The rebellion in Egypt is crushed at last, and Arabi is a prisoner in the hands of the British. The suddenness with which the aspect of affair has been changed from gloomy uncertainty to victory and complete success, brings with it, a new and more insoluble difficulty than the pacification of that country. The great question to be decided now is, what will Egypt's future be. Turkish suzerainty has for ages been characterized by the grossest disregard for the rights of its people, whose history is one long category of despotic crimes and misdeeds. It is doubtful whether any people on the face of the earth give such evidence of the effects of long-continued subjection to misgovernment as do the Egyptian fellaheen who form the great bulk of the population. What were, in the time of Mahomet and even later, a tolerably spirited race, enjoying the benefits of the highest civilization of those days, have, under the ban of Turkish oppression, degenerated into a state in many respects little better than that of savages, lacking, however, the usual stamina of the latter. It is quite evident that a complete demolition of the present order of things and a reconstruction on an entirely new basis, is what Egypt wants.

It is equally evident that even a slight reform is not to be had under the administration of the porte, much less a sweeping disorganization of their time-honored policy. That England has an indefeasible right, from her present position as the main creditor of the Egyptian government and sole adjuster of the present difficulties, to assume at least a quasi sovereignty, is quite beyond a doubt. She will most probably undertake to shoulder the loss sustained by the Egyptians in the rebellion and hold the country as a material guarantee. To take this step without creating a general hubbub throughout Europe, is the great difficulty. More than one of the continental powers have an eye on the country, whose fertile soil and climatic advantages render it a valuable appendage to any empire.

The end is evidently not yet.

CANDID ADMISSION.

Patronage may be an evil, but, like money, it is a necessary evil that all classes pursue, and it is sheer impudence for one class to sneer at another for joining in the hunt.—*Irish Canadian.*

There are some people who are not thus minded—we take it that the great bulk of of the Canadian people are not hunting plunder. But papers and factionists like the Irish Canadian are after the flesh-pots and nothing else. Where the spoils, there the spoilers. One time they are reformers; next day conservatives; but always spoilers. They trade on the prejudice of their co-creeders and they live on the fears of the politicians.

Canadians should frown down such men and papers. There is only one reason for the existence of these papers; the promotion of the particular creed they espouse. The Roman Catholics, the Baptists, the Presbyterians, all others, have a right to sectarian journals if they wish them to further their particular sect; but to employ such journals to air the grievances of other lands; to try and lead, by them, the vote they are supposed to represent; to secure political spoils and preferment; is a blow at honest government and the liberties of the whole nation. Creed has no business in politics; still less has a foreign nationality.

MANITOBA SCHOOL LANDS.

There is considerable agitation among the Winnipeg press just now regarding the management of the school lands in the prairie province. These lands, consisting of two sections in each township, are like the rest of Manitobian territory, in the hands of the dominion government. The provincial board of education find that they are unable to avail themselves of this provision for educational interests and are consequently in rather straitened circumstances. They are not vested with sufficient executive authority to dispose of the lands as they think proper, so that the question as to the advisability of placing this power exclusively in the hands of the provincial government is being freely agitated. According to the Free Press the best plan is for the dominion government to salt down the lands for the purposes of speculation and provide interim funds for educational purposes by borrowing.

The Times on the other hand advocates the appointment of a commission under the central government, whose special duty it would be to look after the sale of school sections and the school interests of the province generally. The Sun strongly condemns both courses and recommends that the Manitoba legislature have the privilegg of managing its own affairs in its own way and not to be controlled by extensive carpet-baggers of the dominion government. This would seem to be the wisest proposition of the three. It is the rule in the older provinces, and what works in them ought not to fail in Manitoba.

YESTERDAY the Globe gave what purported to be a quotation from the Guelph Herald; but with characteristic unfairness it changes the sense completely by the interpolation of a negative. The Herald, referring to the material in the opposition out of which a cabinet could be formed said: "Mr. Meredith is all that can be desired for a premier." The Globe makes the sentence read; "Mr. Meredith is *not* all that can be desired for a premier."

SIR JOHN MACDONALD IS HERE AGAIN.

(To The Editor of The World.)

"Not a stick of timber, not an acre of land, not a lump of lead, iron or gold in the disputed territory could by an possibility belong to Ontario."

These are the veritable words of the trickster who, having carried the late Dominion elections, is here to try to oust the government of Mr. Mowat in Ontario. It is a strange and excessively improper course for him to leave Ottawa and come to this province and mingle in the domestic provincial politics, but it is still meaner in him after his recent conduct to this province in trying to take away our boundary award and to throw dust in the eyes of the public about the matter, to come here and patronizingly pretend to be the friend of the interests of the province! It is evident his game to oust a government, with no doubt many faults, which is manfully maintaining our provincial rights to a large tract of lands and against his arbitrary Ottawa vetoes. Is there any really patriotic man in Ontario who would wish to see Mr. Mowat's government displaced and one inaugurated in its head presided over by Mr. Meredith, who is a political tool and follower of the wily Ottawa politician. If such a man exists let him hold up his hands at once for the abolition of all of our provincial governments and let Sir John and his office-seeking crew "rule the roost at Ottawa." It is time for Ontario people to open their eyes to the designs of such a man as Sir John, who is the enemy of our best interests. It is the design of Ottawa bleus to reduce the province to a second-rate province by robbing her of at least one-half of her territory, and that, too, after living upon the taxes we have paid since the union of 1841. The shuttle-cock they have used has always been this wily politician who is here now to undermine a government better than any he can nominate.

C. M. D.

THAT HIGHLAND BRIGADE.

(To the Editor of The World.)

SIR: Permit me to call attention to the invidious and unfair distinction which the press despatches gave to that part of the British army now in Egypt called the "Highland brigade." Since the commencement of the campaign an undue precedence has been given to this brigade; and we are continually hearing that it is "going to the front," "that the advance of the army has been delayed till its arrival," or "if it had been somewhere it would have done so and so," etc. Now in view of the fact that the "Highland brigade" has done nothing more particularly gallant than any other particular portion of the British army engaged in the Egyptian campaign, this is eminently unfair to the other troops, and unpleasantly suggests the idea that some one genealogically connected with the "clans" must have a hand in cooking these despatches. The name of this brigade, "Highland," which to most people conveys the impression that its members are all Highland Scotchmen, is a misnomer, as, like regiments of the service, it is composed of proportions of Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen; and I believe in its case, as in that of all the other British regiments, the Irish element preponderates. At the late assault upon Tel-el-Kebir we have in the despatches a repetition of this unfair precedence, and we are told that this "Highland brigade" deserves all the glory of storming and capturing Arabi's stronghold. This is not, however, the case by any means, for we find upon turning to Gen. Wolseley's despatch to the war office that the "Highland brigade" is not specially mentioned, but that the 18th Royal Irish are paid a marked compliment by the general for its gallantry during the assault. The general must surely be in a position to know who are deserving of praise, and we must therefore infer that the despatches have been partial. The gallantry of Scotch soldiers is undoubted, but it is not more so than that of their comrades in arms from the sister isles, and I hold that it is bad taste to imply that a brigade, the name of which is significantly national, exhibited more gallantry than other regiments of the service, when the facts prove that it has really done nothing of the kind.

RICHARD R. CLARKE.

THE DECOSMOS.

A British Columbian Character Sketch.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

VICTORIA, B. C., Sept. 2.—That ancient patriarch of all aphorisms, William Shakespeare of Stratford-on-Avon, long ago propounded the query, "What's in a name." The answer has throughout the ages, in a great measure, coincided with the great master's verdict which says, oracularly, that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Exceptions, however, prove the rule and here, in British Columbia, we have a man who, by inheritance, was dubbed Smith, but who, not satisfied with that cognomen, invoked the aid of a state legislature "on the other side of the lines" to remedy the defect where nature had made a mistake. Filled with a high idea of his own value he deemed the name of Smith somewhat inadequate in its expressiveness, and he moved to have an amendment passed. The previous question was not moved and Mr. Smith blossomed out into "Amor De Cosmos." You are not to suppose for a moment remember, that this man was or is a fool. If you do so you are very materially "left." A shrewder judge of human nature and a keener calculator of the weak points of our common humanity it would be perhaps difficult to find on the continent. A more faithful adherent to the platform he professed on the hustings could certainly not be found in the legislature, and no more loyal man to his constituents was ever sent to Ottawa than Mr. De Cosmos. But he failed to propitiate his electors. In fact it is hard for a man to preserve his independence and truckle to the *ignoble vulgus*. Mr. De Cosmos perhaps erred in judgment, but certainly not in principle, in the stand he took at the recent election, and the substitute for him whom the electors have sent to Ottawa will make but a poor show towards filling his place. In point of fact the man is a genius, and has, possibly, the eccentricities which are inseparable from genuis, but he is nevertheless, a keen, far-sighted and staunch politician. He has already made his mark on the historical page where the chronicles of British Columbia are recorded and we much mistake if he does not yet, in the near future bulk more largely still in the public eye of that province

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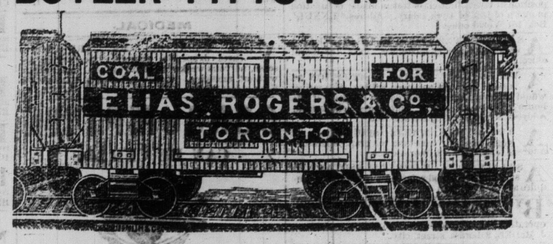

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Federal, Hamilton	50,000	Standard, Edinboro'	153,900
Life Association, Hamilton	90,815	Star, of London	100,948
North American, Toronto	50,000	Travelers, Hartford	135,000
Ontario Mutual, Waterloo	50,566	Union Mutual, Portland	130,000
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