

# The Canada School Journal.

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## The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

Edited by J. E. WELLS, M.A.

and a staff of competent Provincial editors.

An Educational Journal devoted to the advancement of Literature, Science, and the teaching profession in Canada.

### —o—TERMS.—o—

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## The World.

A valued subscriber in Charlottetown, P. E. I., says:—

"The idea of offering prizes for competition by subscribers to the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL is an excellent one. It will doubtless stir up some of the latent talent of the schoolmasters. I trust that the competition will be general through the provinces, and that some prizes will be secured by 'the dwellers by the sea.' The JOURNAL is a great favorite amongst the teachers here. To me it is a weekly treat that I could ill afford to lose."

We shall be glad to see some of the prizes go down to "the dwellers by the sea," and have little doubt that the wide-awake teachers down there will secure at least a fair proportion.

For what object is England going to fight the Arabs in the Soudan? Is she waging a war of revenge, of conquest, or of self-defence? Is she preparing to do battle simply because she has had a rebuff and her blood is up, or is she sending her armies on a chivalrous mission to free the oppressed, and to stamp out the abominable slave trade? These are questions which Canada should ask, and have satisfactorily answered, before committing herself in any way to the project of sending a contingent to take part in the fray. The question is a moral one, a question of right and wrong, and Canada is surely far enough on the highway to nationality to give her a right to do her own thinking and keep her own conscience.

If England must "smash the Mahdi," most readers will agree with us that it is well the smashing should be left in Wolseley's hands. There may have been much or little ground for the rumour that he was to be re-called, or superseded, but it is difficult to see wherein he has failed to do what was possible for any one. Not even British generals or British soldiers can work miracles, or perform the impossible. The Nile with its formidable rapids is a fact, but so are the fearful dangers of the alternative route over the desert from the Red Sea to the Nile. It is by no means clear that Wolseley did not choose the lesser of the two great evils. That being granted, few will imagine that more rapid progress up the Nile was practicable, or would have saved the lamented Gordon from his fate.

The scene at the inauguration of President Cleveland seems to have been a grand and imposing affair. The inaugural address has called forth a great variety of opinions, which would seem to show that it must be somewhat non-committal. Perhaps this is just as well. It is not for him that putteth on the armor to boast. A degree of reticence in such a case may be an indication of strength rather than weakness. The new President has a huge task before him, and a heavy responsibility upon him. His course so far argues well, and it is hoped that he may withstand all sinister influences and prove himself staunch on all the great political and moral issues he will have to face. There is something grand and inspiring in the spectacle of fifty millions of free people choosing their own ruler, and clothing him with the great executive powers which belong to the President of the United States.

Notwithstanding the cloudy state of the political atmosphere in England, there seems good reason to hope that the grave questions with Russia will be amicably adjusted. It is hard to believe that Russia is anxious to measure swords with Great Britain, though her astute diplomatists may be ready to take advantage of England's embarrassment in Ireland and the Soudan to put on pressure with a view to gain concessions for which they might not otherwise hope. Similar tactics were, it will be remembered, resorted to on a former memorable occasion by Russia with success, but in the present state of opinion or rather feeling, in England, that history is not likely to repeat itself. The statements with regard to Bismarck's promised influence in preventing war, may be taken with a grain of salt. The policy of the German Chancellor is hard to understand, but it is pretty safe to say that it will regard the interests of Germany as represented by Bismarck first, and those of England under the Gladstone Ministry last.