

## The Week's News.

O'Donovan Rossa is recovering from the wound inflicted by Mrs. Dudley.

O'Donovan Rossa's paper offers a reward of ten thousand dollars for the body of the Prince of Wales, dead or alive.

It is hoped that the British expedition to Bechuanaland will effect its object without fighting the Boers.

It is stated the Senator Bayard, has been offered and will probably accept the position of Secretary of State in Cleveland's administration.

Mr. M. Daly of Halifax, son of the late Sir Dominic Daly, has been appointed Deputy Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons.

The Russian troops are said to be now within forty miles of Herat, in Afghanistan, and their seizure of that post is regarded as imminent. Complications may ensue.

Several Canadian Officers have offered the British Authorities to raise Canadian regiments for service in Egypt. The offers have not been accepted.

The John H. Stratford Hospital, the munificent gift of Mr. John H. Stratford to the City of Brantford, was formally opened on the 10th inst., by his Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

At a meeting of Fenians held in Chicago, on Sunday, the 8th inst., one of the Speakers announced that it was the object of the organization to blow up the whole City of London with dynamite.

It is announced that the grading on the whole line of the Canadian Pacific Railway between Sudbury Junction and Port Arthur, will be completed within two weeks, and the rails laid within two months.

The Reform Association of South Oxford, on the 10th inst., passed a resolution disapproving of Imperial Federation, and affirming that any change made should be in the direction of Canadian independence.

At a Public Meeting of the Citizens of Kingston, on the 9th inst. strong resolutions against the proposed University Confederation were carried, and a deputation appointed to lay the views of the meeting before the Ontario Government.

Some excitement has been created in England, and a good deal in Australia, by Germany's annexation of the Samoan Islands. Whether this action is taken with the consent of the British Government does not yet appear.

Earl Roseberry, has been appointed Lord of the Privy Seal in place of Lord Carlisle, resigned. The accession of Lord Roseberry, will, it is thought, add considerably to the strength of the British Cabinet.

A terrible holocaust occurred in the burning of the insane wing of the Boscley Almshouse at Philadelphia, on the 10th inst. Of the large number of inmates of the institution, 18 inmates are known to have perished, and 75 were said to be missing and unaccounted for the day after the fire.

Another victory has been won over the rebel Arabs in the Sudan, at the cost of another brave British General, and several soldiers. The rebel position at Birti, was stormed and carried on the 10th inst., by General Earle's command, but the General himself fell while gallantly heading a charge.

An explosion took place on the 10th inst., in the Vale Colliery at Westville, Picton, N. S. Of twenty two men who were in the mine at the time thirteen were instantly killed, and six more or less seriously injured. Thirty-three children are left fatherless by the catastrophe. A coroner's verdict exonerates the manager from blame.

From reports collected by members of Colonel Wilson's party, and now said to be confirmed by an official proclamation of the Mahdi, there is little reason to doubt that Gordon was killed at the taking of Khartoum by a stab in the back as he went out into the street to find out the cause of the commotion. The Mahdi's troops were admitted by treacherous natives whom Gordon trusted.

## Special Articles.

## UNIFORM AND PROMOTION EXAMINATIONS.

*What are they?* They are written examinations for the Second, Third, and Fourth Classes, held upon the same day in all the schools of a County, at which all the pupils enrolled for the half-year are required to write. After the answer papers have been valued and returned to the respective schools, the average of each class, and the promotions made, are published. The average of a class is ascertained by dividing the aggregate marks by the number of pupils enrolled, *not* by the number that wrote, otherwise, it would become an object with the teacher to have the poorly prepared ones absent themselves. In this way, trustees and parents have, each year, not only the marks made by each pupil of their own schools, but the average standing of each class in all the schools. The questions are framed to cover the work laid down for each class, and to test, to some extent, the pupil's knowledge of the work of the previous class. Thus the examination answers the double purpose of determining the promotion of pupils, and the standing of classes.

*What are their advantages?* In the first place, they prevent premature promotions. Some teachers promote on a reading basis; some, to make an appearance of bringing on their pupils; some promote because the parents urge it; and some, because they are about to leave, and desire to forestall their successors. Not unfrequently, a teacher engaging in a school of this kind has to spend a year in fitting the pupils for the classes in which he finds them, and is unable to make a promotion during the whole period. Having brought up the school to a point at which the results of his labor begin to be apparent, he is succeeded by a teacher, or rather a school-keeper, who, in two months, neutralizes all the previous good work done, by promoting every class in the school, winning golden opinions from the section, while the former teacher is censured as indolent or indifferent. Some teachers build up a reputation for successful work, by preparing pupils for Entrance Examinations, while neglecting, or slighting, the lower classes of the school. Having, in this way, in the course of a couple of years, cleared out the more clever pupils, they transfer their labours to another school, and continue a kind of parasitic existence, thriving upon the solid work of their less showy, but more efficient brethren.

All these defects are remedied by the examinations under consideration. A system of uniform promotion is adopted, and thoroughness in school work secured. Neglect of any portion of the school, or inattention to any subject of the course, will be plainly indicated. The record will discriminate with unmistakable clearness between the industrious teacher and the indolent one, between the efficient and the incompetent. The results are made public, the answer papers with their values are returned to the pupils, and their consideration gives parents and trustees a new interest in school matters. The advantage of employing a good teacher, or the loss consequent on an irregular attendance at school, comes to them with new force. They begin to realize that the superficial teacher whom they characterize as a *good* one, because he "suits everybody," may be doing *anything* but good work. A healthy emulation is excited among pupils and parents to have their school maintain a creditable standing as compared with that of others. This leads to more work and better work, in school and out of it.

Contrast this state of affairs with that which follows a half-day's inspectorial visit, having in view, primarily, the same object—estimating the standing of the classes and of the school. With the time at his disposal, the examination cannot but be superficial, and