

The Canada School Journal.

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The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

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

—o—T E R M S .—o—

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CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL PUB. CO. (Limited)

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The World.

Year by year the condition of the wretched inhabitants of the Labrador Coast seems to become more hopeless. The fisheries, on which they relied almost solely for subsistence, have fallen off, and the condition of the poor people during the long winter must be pitiable in the extreme. In the midst of such hardships and privations the inhabitants cling with singular tenacity to their inhospitable country, in spite of the offers of free transportation to more genial climes. The name *Terra Labrador*, cultivable land, given by the Portuguese discoverers, to this region, sounds almost like a cruel irony. It is to be hoped that our Canadian Northwest may yet derive many industrious settlers from the Labrador Coast. They should be admirably fitted for our cold but fertile prairies, and would find them a paradise in comparison with their old homes.

The despatches mentioned last week in regard to the military movements of Servia, were at least premature. No invasion or collision, has yet taken place in the disturbed localities, but the problem is still unsettled and the future full of uncertainty.

In this, as in all such cases, the prospects of a peaceful settlement, are improved by delay. The military enthusiasm of weak nations like Servia, is very apt to cool under a waiting policy, almost as fast as it originally waxed warm.

Another change in the map of the world is foreshadowed. The scene this time is in Asia, where another slice is about to be added to the British dominions. The empire of Burmah, what is left of it, has, including tributary states, an area of somewhat over 150,000 square miles and a population estimated at from three to four millions. The country lies between 19° 29' and 28° N. latitude, and 93° to 100° E. longitude. On the North lofty mountains separate it from Assam and Thibet. Its vegetable productions are various and valuable, including inexhaustible forests of teak and *hopnea*. The staple fruits are the plantain or banana, and the mango. Rice, wheat, cotton, indigo and tobacco are cultivated. The government is a pure despotism and it is the arrogance and cruelty of the present despot, King Thebaw, which are at least the ostensible causes of the coming conflict and subjugation. The country is contiguous to Tonquin, where the French have been this last year or two gaining an unenviable notoriety, and rumor ascribes the insolence and hostility of Thebaw, which have provoked threatened invasion, to French instigation. In all probability, the fear of a French occupancy or protectorate may not be without effect in determining the action of the British Cabinet. At any rate a force is being now marshalled in India for the invasion and conquest of Burmah, and the King is preparing for resistance to the utmost extent of his feeble resources. The issue of the conflict is not doubtful. An unknown but important factor of the ultimate results is that the occupation of Burmah will make the British Empire coterminous with that of China for hundreds of miles. From the moral standpoint the best that can be said in favor of the expedition, apart from its alleged necessity as a measure of self-defence, is that the despot does not represent the people, and that it is not unlikely the great majority of the latter may prefer the beneficent rule of England.

The School.

ERRATA.—In Mr. Packer's advertisement of last two weeks, the word "Rational" was, by printer's error, made National. The title of his book is "The Rational Method of Teaching Reading."

There is also an error in Mr. Asher's article on "Divisions of Time," in No. 37, page 440, which we now correct. The clause reads, "If his time-piece indicated Intercolonial time he would need to add 4 hours," &c. It should be "subtract."

Owing to pressure of other engagements, Mr. Wells has retired from the editorial management of THE SCHOOL JOURNAL.