

## Notes of the Week.

The news from Egypt and the views of the leading English papers upon the subject, are of the highest interest. The *Times* says it has been decided to retain, for the present, 12,000 men in Egypt to carry on and consolidate the work for which the suppression of Arabi did little more than clear the way.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* in a leading article recommends the establishment of a gendarmerie in Egypt officered by Englishmen. An article in the *Journal des Debats* gives similar advice.

A newspaper in Paris asserts that negotiations are progressing between the Porte and the British looking to the cession of Egypt to England in consideration of an annual payment by the latter of £320,000 sterling.

The *Sun's* London special says:—Discussions which have taken place as to England's future policy have been mostly tentative, and no definite outline of it can yet be stated. It is generally conceded, however, that the situation is one of much gravity. We are told that the force under Wolseley's command is not any too large for a proper occupation of the Delta and restoration of authority in the Upper Nile region, and that all his resources will be taxed to the utmost for the next few months in the re-establishing of the Khedive. In the meantime the actual possession of Egypt will afford a more comfortable attitude in which to discuss what shall be done. The tone of the English press points more and more in the direction of a protectorate, while the undisguised jealousy of France, and her growing intimacy with Russia, causes more or less uneasiness.

From another source we learn that the Porte has demanded of Lord Dufferin to know what steps England intends to take concerning the withdrawal of British troops from Egypt.

A letter received by the Bishop of Ontario states, that as the Prince of Wales will next year be elected President of the British Association for the advancement of science, it is not improbable that he may be induced to attend the meeting of the Association in Montreal. The *London Times* still continues to oppose the choice of Montreal as the next place of meeting. In a recent article upon the subject it says: "We must express our strong objection to a meeting in Canada; and it is noteworthy that the leading officials of the Association, and those who do the work of the Association and of science, are strongly averse to such a meeting-place, and there can be little doubt that next year an attempt will be made to overturn the decision brought about by the able tactics of Captain Bedford Pim."

Some writers in Canada and England have been cruel enough to suggest that selfish motives are at the bottom of this determined opposition. They seem to think that in order to keep up its usual very full accounts of the doings of the annual meeting of the British Association the *Times* would have to incur an expenditure of thousands of dollars for telegrams if the next meeting were held in Montreal. It this should prove to be the reason it is a narrow and mischievous policy and deserves to be treated with contempt.

There seems to be very general satisfaction not only in the North West but all over Canada that but seventeen out of nearly three hundred Colonization Companies formed last Fall and this Spring have been able by the 1st September, the time specified, to make the Government deposit of forty cents an acre, and consequently will not be allowed to retain their lands. It may have appeared wise at first to encourage in this way wealthy Corporations who it might be supposed for their own interest would make great exertions to induce immigration into the country, but now that no embarrassment need be apprehended, and when the emigration from Europe is certain to be large and steady, the Government will act wisely in refusing to entertain any more schemes of the kind. The country has had the shadow of a great evil upon it which has now happily been in a measure removed.

The formation last week of a "Canadian Forestry

Association for the Province of Quebec," is a step in the right direction. And it is satisfactory to know that such a large and influential meeting as that which met for the purpose in Montreal, showed such a deep interest in the matter.

The cut of lumber at some of the principal mills this year is unprecedented, forming a strong recommendation of the new Forestry Association objects. An enormous consumption of lumber, which nature is not allowed, much less assisted, to replenish, will not take long to despoil the country of this great and, in scores of ways, indispensable resource.

It is hoped that without delay Associations of a like kind may be formed in every Province of the Dominion, and that practical and determined efforts may be put forth at once to save our valuable forests from utter extinction.

The announcement that Lord Dufferin, British Ambassador at Constantinople, for his distinguished services in connection with the Egyptian war, has received from Her Majesty a Marquisate, will afford universal satisfaction to the people of Canada, and be very generally accepted throughout the Queen's Empire as altogether a reward of merit bestowed on one of the very ablest and most promising of the world's public men.

General Wolseley and Admiral Seymour are to be elevated to the Peerage.

We learn from Ottawa that the Marine and Fisheries Department has been advised that seven prizes, of 100 pounds sterling each, and fourteen of less value, will be given at the International Fisheries Exhibition, to be held in London for essays on various subjects connected with fishing industries; and that a large sum, in addition to medals, will be appropriated to prizes for fishing gear and boats, the largest being 600 pounds for the best life boat. With so large a fishing population and an industry worth more than ten millions of dollars yearly, there ought to be enough interest felt in, and a sufficient acquaintance with, the subject, to secure some of these prizes for Canada. We have also very many excellent boat builders who might make an effort for the large prize for the best life boat.

Oscar Wilde, the English Aesthete, who has been lecturing in the United States is now in Canada, and is to appear before audiences in the principal cities of the Dominion. Mr. Wilde comes of distinguished parents. His father a physician, an Irish Academician, and an archaeologist of repute; his mother a woman of conspicuous beauty and of high talents as a poet. Educated well, and the winner at Oxford of the Newdigate Prize for English verse, Oscar Wilde had a life of promise and usefulness before him, which however he has not fulfilled, having given way to a mawkish sentimentalism which displays itself in a love for broken china, sunflowers, &c., strange personal attire, and drawling speech and mincing ways. He is clever, and no doubt says many good things, but although some of his subjects are of practical utility, his aims generally are scarcely those that will attract the sober and the thoughtful.

Winnipeg was scarcely behind Montreal in publicly, at a meeting called for the purpose paying its tribute of respect to the hero of Tel-el-Kebir. Having in mind General Wolseley's important services in quelling the Riel and half-breed troubles, and laying the foundation for the permanent peace and rapid settling of the North West, an exchange says:—"Peculiar interest will attach itself, particularly in the hero's own mind, to the tribute of Winnipeg, formulated by its citizens in mass meeting assembled, to General Wolseley's victory. Who would have predicted, when the same soldier was at Fort Garry putting down a semi-savage revolt twelve years ago, that upon the site of that rude fortress in the wilderness a bustling and growing city, with all the institutions of modern civilization, would so soon arise to honor the triumphs, on the other side of the globe, of the man who brought peace to its foundations?"

A foolish and extremely audacious system of gambling is now in vogue in the Southern United

States. It is called "Marriage Insurance," and companies in growing abundance exist for the purpose of issuing policies on the chances and time of a lady, who is engaged, fulfilling the contract. A queer view of the system is given by a writer in a Southern paper. He was asked whether he thought the wedding of a certain young lady would take place at the time said to have been set. He gave his opinion and asked the reason for inquiry. "Oh," was the response, I have bought four matrimonial policies of £3,000 each on her, and I'm anxious to know if I'll get my money." "Does she know of this?" "Oh, no. That isn't necessary. Anybody can take out a policy on anybody else. If you know of a lady that is engaged and will not marry within five months from the time you take a policy on her, you can get any amount on her wedding that you want. I suppose there is \$25,000, or perhaps double that, on the young lady I asked you about." "How does the company make its money?" "I suppose it bets on the fickleness of the young folks. No policy will be paid except five months after it is taken out. There are very few couples they think that love each other well enough to marry that will wait five months to marry. If they do, five months of engaged life is full of dangers."

In certain parts of Hungary an anti Jewish agitation having been started, Louis Kossuth who, in spite of exile, is held in great esteem by his countrymen at home, has expressed himself surprised at the root the agitation has taken. He says agitations of this sort are "nothing but humbug," and are "a trade carried on by certain persons for the purpose of profiting by the passions of the thoughtless and for fishing in troubled waters." Telegrams from Vienna say that at Prestburg, the place referred to above, these anti-Jewish riots broke out again on Friday and lasted until midnight.

The Dominion Government paid out on Saturday \$6,000,000, in redemption of the five per cent. Dominion Stock. One can see at a glance that such a sum set free just at a time when a great deal of money has been required to gather in the crops, will contribute much to relieve the stringency of the money market.

The Hon. Mr. Crooks, the Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario, has ordered a suspension of the study of Sir Walter Scott's poem, "Marmion," by pupils of the high schools, on the ground that it is offensive to Roman Catholics. Archbishop Lynch claims that this was done at his suggestion. We can very readily understand that the poem would not be acceptable to Romanists, but certainly it is a new thing for the Protestant Province of Ontario to place itself under the censorship of a Roman Catholic Archbishop, and quite a new role for an Archbishop to figure in in this country. But as the schools are public schools and are supposed to affect no one's particular religious views, we do not see what else the minister can do but withdraw the book from the class room. All of which helps to make prominent another evil of our non-sectarian free common school system.

The Governor General the other day was happy in being able to tell the people of Victoria, B. C., that he had just received a telegram from the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., stating that the line will be completed to the Pacific Ocean about the first of January 1887. It seems hardly credible that so gigantic a work can possibly be completed in the time now named which is five years earlier than the company guaranteed to complete it in. If we did not know what has been already accomplished, and that the road is being built at the marvellously rapid rate of three miles a day, we should be more inclined to disbelieve the statement.

A comet has been visible in parts of North America and Europe. It is seen near the sun, and is supposed to be a return of the great comet discovered by Dr. Gould in North America in February, 1880.

Most conflicting views are held and expressed with respect to the wisdom of the selection of "Piles of Bones," now "Regina," as the capital of the new Province of the North-West. By the one side it is