

The Canada School Journal.

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The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

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—TERMS.—

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CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL PUB. CO. (Limited)

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The World.

The Young Men's Liberal Club of Toronto is just now receiving a flattering amount of public attention. The idea seems to be rife that at the approaching meeting some bold, almost revolutionary, course will be adopted and sanctioned. The proposal in favour of a custom's union with the United States which, it is understood, is likely to be made a plank in their platform, is itself a startling one. Such an arrangement, should it prove feasible, could scarcely fail to give a great impulse to Canadian progress.

Shall Riel's sentence be carried out, is just now the foremost question in political circles in Canada. It is positively painful to see such a question, involving the life of a fellow-being, made the foot ball of party spirit, and debated on the low ground of political expediency. It seems clear that if the man is hanged, he will be hanged because that is considered best for the party, and if he is reprieved, or has his sentence mitigated, it will be for the same reason. It is a bad state of affairs when all important public matters, even those involving life, are discussed and decided not in the light of great, fundamental principles, but with a view to political effect.

Mr. Parnell has caused a good deal of excitement in political circles in England by recent speeches, in which he is represented as declaring that Ireland wanted independence and would accept nothing less, and that it was the intention of himself and his followers to render parliamentary legislation impossible until this was conceded. We cannot but think his meaning must have been in some way misunderstood, or misrepresented, as he must know that such a demand would be hopeless and would make both political parties a unit in their refusal. Meanwhile the statement of this attitude on his part has had the effect of a bomb shell in both political camps. Lord Hartington, the Whig leader, boldly declares it out of the question. The justice of Home Rule is now within reach of the Irish people and it would be a suicidal policy on their part to spurn it and reach after the unattainable.

The new-born colonizing mania of the Great European Powers may, perhaps, be of good omen in one respect. It seems prophetic of a speedier civilization of the world. But it is, on the other hand, full of menace to the peace of Europe. And, surely, it is humiliating so near the close of this boastful century to see the foremost Christian nations engaged in a game of grab for the birthrights of the uncivilized tribes, for purposes not of benevolence but of self-aggrandizement. The latest instance is the seizure by Germany, of the Caroline Islands, long nominally at least appendages of Spain. The insignificance of the islands themselves serves but to heighten the turpitude of the uncalled-for aggression. These little islands may be found by careful search in a good map, almost hidden in the bosom of the great Pacific. The total area is given in some of the Cyclopædias at 872 square miles. They have always been claimed by Spain, as a part of the Phillipines to which they are adjacent. What ulterior purpose the "man of blood and iron" has to serve by annexing them does not yet appear, but it would be inconsistent with all Bismarck's record to suppose that the game is for no richer prize than the insignificant islands themselves.

The School.

We have during the last few weeks received from subscribers an unusual number of complaints of irregularity in the arrival of the JOURNAL. Some of these apparent irregularities are explained by the fact that during the holiday months (July and August) the paper was issued only on alternate weeks. Our announcement in regard to this seems to have been overlooked by some. But in many other cases we are quite unable to explain the non-appearance of the JOURNAL, which is carefully mailed to all subscribers. In one instance, the week before last, the issue was unfortunately delayed for several days, owing to a combination of causes, one of which was a breakage in the press-room, which made it necessary to send the paper to