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The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

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The World.

To our friends and subscribers one and all we wish a **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

In the correspondence between the American and Austrian Governments respecting the appointment of Mr. Keiley by the former, and the refusal of the latter to receive him as American minister at Vienna the Republican Secretary appears to decided advantage. The appointment was no doubt a mistake, and would never have been made had President Cleveland been better informed in regard to the antecedents of his appointee. But none the less the reason assigned by the Austrian Government in the first instance for the refusal, viz.: "The position of a foreign envoy wedded to a Jewess by a civil marriage would be untenable and even impossible in Vienna", was singularly well rebuked by Secretary Bayard's pointing out that both President and Congress were prohibited

by the constitution of the United States from even inquiring into the religious views of a civil servant, it being expressly declared that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or any public trust under the United States."

The issues raised by this correspondence are serious in their bearing upon the future friendly relations of these two great powers. When the Austrian Government in reply to Secretary Bayard, amended its plea, by stating that it refused to receive Mr. Keiley, not because his wife was a Jewess, but because of certain of the envoy's utterances and also because Italy had objected to him, the reply of the American Secretary was still more severe. He declared that the conditions implied in these pleas "are simply intolerable, and are, in the case of the United States, not only inhibited by the plain letter and undying spirit of our constitution of government, but are inconsistent with that decent self-respect which forbids a nation of 60,000,000 of freemen to accept the position of a diplomat dependency of the 'friendly power' whose behests appear to have been acquiesced in and carried out by Austria-Hungary in the present instance." Fortunately the two nations with the Atlantic and so much of Europe between them are not likely to come to blows, but the action of Congress will be watched with interest.

Matters in other parts of the world seem unusually quiet just now. In England all parties are waiting with bated breath for the promulgation of Gladstone's scheme for Irish self-government. France is apparently withdrawing with the best grace it can from its untenable position in Madagascar, and is not pushing matters in Tonquin, and the Eastern question seems to be still in *statu quo*. At home the Quebec movement still shows signs of life, and the leaders of both parties are whetting their swords and bending their bows for the approaching conflict in Parliament—i.e., those of them who are not temporarily absent.

The School.

We note that some of the members of the fraternity on the other side of the boundary are exchanging views and experiences, through their school journals, on what corresponds with our Friday afternoon exercises. The idea is a good one. Why should not our readers do the same? There are many ways in which these exercises may be varied with increase of interest and profit that they ought to be seasons of perennial freshness, looked forward to with delight by both teachers and pupils. We should gladly open the columns of the JOURNAL for an interchange of experiences in the work of the Friday afternoon.