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### The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

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and a staff of competent Provincial editors.

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#### —TERMS.—

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### The World.

So far Russia has held aloof from the attempts at partitioning Africa amongst the powers, being apparently content with the progress she is making in Asia. But now, it is said, an agitation has been started in Moscow with a view to a Russian protectorate over parts of Abyssinia. The aim is two-fold, a share in the general spoil, and a voice in the control of the Red Sea, which must be Russia's thoroughfare to her possessions in farther Asia. Truly the Egyptian business is a complicated affair.

A rumour has been going the rounds of the press to the effect that the British Cabinet is about to propose to the United States the abolition of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and a business partnership between the two nations for the purpose of building the Nicaraguan Canal. If the scheme is at all practicable, that would be a suitable way out of the difficulty. Some colour is given to the rumour, or at least any inherent improbability is lessened by the remarkable letter of Mr Gladstone to Mr. Smalley which is commented on below.

Woman's Kingdom seems to be not only steadily extending its boundaries but proving its ability to hold the territory it occupies against all rivals. The latest testimony to the success of the sex in a new and hitherto untried sphere comes from Chief Justice Greene of Washington Territory, who in a recent charge to the Grand Jury says:

"Twelve terms of court I have now held, in which women served as grand and petit jurors, and it is certainly a fact beyond dispute that no other twelve terms so salutary for restraint of crime have ever been known in this territory."

The Englishman's proverbial ignorance of American geography sometimes finds something more than its counterpart on this continent. "Young Canadian," in the Christian Union, gives an account of an interview he had in Sackville, N. B., with a young man from Boston. The conversation falling on Ontario, whence "Young Canadian" came, the Bostonian made many inquiries about Ontario, "had thought of going there," "it was a pretty nice place wasn't it?" and finally capped the climax by asking squarely, "Whereabouts is Ontario?" "It's away off near Florida, ain't it?" With this from the literary Hub, what might be expected from some of the back woods towns?

Can we ever be sure of the facts in regard to any great historical event? This question is continually forced upon us by the discoveries and contradictions of the historical critics. The battle of Shiloh was one of the most important and decisive in the great American civil war. Surely such an event in contemporary history, an event which has so many surviving participants and witnesses, can be set before us with minute and reliable details. And yet it is a warmly contested question whether Grant's forces were defeated or victorious at the close of the first day's engagement. The February *Century* contains two articles on this battle, one by Gen. Grant, the commander of the Northern army; the other by Col. Johnston, a son of Gen. Johnston who commanded the Southerners. Johnston puts the effective Federal and Confederate forces at 50,000 and 40,000 respectively. Gen. Grant gives the number of his own forces at 38,000, of whom but 25,000 took part in the first day's engagement. Grant insists that the Federal forces were not defeated the first day; Johnston declares they were, and so on. The moral is, do not rely on one historical work. In practice this is just what nine-tenths of Americans will do in the Shiloh case.

Considerable interest has been awakened by a somewhat remarkable letter written by Mr. Gladstone to Mr. Smalley, London correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, and recently published by permission in that journal. Mr. Gladstone commences by placing Washington on the highest of all the pedestals supplied by history for characters of extraordinary nobility and purity. He then quotes the calculation of Mr. Barham