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## The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

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## The World.

The death of Alfonso, King of Spain, renders possible, if not probable, another revolutionary struggle in that rather unhappy country. In the presence of so many turbulent elements in the population, and especially of a strong Carlist party, it seems scarcely likely that the authority of a five-year-old queen can be upheld during her long minority. It may be, however, that the popularity of the late King will be transferred in sufficient strength to Christina, to insure order and progress under her regency.

There seems good reason to hope that progress is being made towards the settlement—let us hope the final settlement—of the Canadian-American, or rather English-American fisheries question. If the dispute can be finally settled on some equitable trade basis the fact and the omen will be alike happy for Canada. There are indications that the people on both sides of the long boundary line are beginning to realize the criminal absurdity of the present non-intercourse regulations, and that both may be ready to commence a gradual approach towards a more common-sense and more Christian attitude towards each other in matters of trade. Whatever weight may

attach to secondary considerations the abstract absurdity of two neighboring nations, with great diversity of natural resources, seeking to shut out each other's productions, must be clear to all.

The result of the British elections up to the date of this writing is no doubt a great surprise to both parties. The indications are that if the Conservatives are not actually triumphant the Liberal majority will be very small. The Conservative reaction is shown to be an accomplished fact. Several of Mr. Gladstone's former ministers and under-secretaries have been defeated, and while the Conservative majorities have in several cases been very large, those of the successful Liberals have often been narrow. It does not yet appear that the reaction is due so much to the votes of the newly enfranchised as to the influence of the church-defence cry and the aid of the Irish vote. If the present Government is sustained the settlement of the Irish question will be its most delicate and dangerous task.

The excitement that has arisen in Quebec over the execution of Riel exceeds in fire and fury anything that could have been anticipated by the most nervous. So far as the indignation is the offspring of a conviction that Riel fell as a martyr in a just cause, it is entitled to forbearance, if not sympathy. So far as it is simply an outburst of race prejudice or religious antipathy, it is as unreasonable as it is menacing to the confederation. To demand that law be over-ridden and the arm of justice stayed because the felon had French blood in his veins, would be to attempt to overturn the only stable foundation of organized society. On the other hand, to put to death the leader of an insurrection provoked by delay and despair of justice, is contrary to the merciful policy of modern Christian nations. Upon the pivot of these alternative views, turns the grave agitation which is producing the most dangerous crisis through which confederated Canada has yet passed. Each citizen should carefully study the facts and keep cool while doing so.

If we may compare small things with great the Servian fiasco resembles in many respects that of France in the Franco-Russian war. In the unprovoked character of his aggression, his confident boastings and the sudden defeat and collapse of his invading expedition, King Milan has repeated the history of the last Napoleon. At latest accounts the meekness with which he was listening to the advice of the powers and entreating King Alexander of Bulgaria to do likewise, was in striking contrast to his former refusal to take counsel save with his own ambition. If, as seems probable, Servia was after all but a puppet of Austria the result will probably force the latter to show her hand. In fact the war preparations of both Austria and Russia are omens of a possible struggle in comparison with which the little conflict of Servia and Bulgaria will be mere child's play.