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The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

An Educational Journal devoted to the advancement of Literature, Science, and the teaching profession in Canada.

—O—T E R M S.—O—

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The World.

English and Russian statesmen are now probably playing with mutual distrust a game of mutual waiting. Lord Salisbury and his colleagues have enough on their hands just now without a Russian war, and Russian diplomats are never in a hurry, though recent despatches assert, with some probability, that even they are becoming weary of trifling. It is quite likely, however, that the negotiations will be suffered to drag their slow length along until after the elections. It is a suggestive, and perhaps, on the whole, not a discouraging sign of the times, that there are divisions amounting almost to revolt in the ranks of both parties. There seems, in fact, some tendency to relax the bonds of party and allow freer play for individuality in politics. The immediate result may be confusion, but the final outcome will be favorable to freedom and progress. The people are being politically educated.

President Cleveland is pursuing the path of civil service reform with commendable steadiness. It has been of late charged in the press that an Indiana postmaster has dismissed

employees right and left on political grounds, and many have been watching with a good deal of curiosity or anxiety to see what the President would do about it. Many thought he would scarcely venture to give mortal offence to Indiana Democrats by interfering, and would, therefore, be conveniently blind and deaf. Now, however, comes the announcement that he has appointed a very competent commission to inquire into the matter.

The struggle between the advocates and opponents of the Scott Act goes on with varying results as the question comes to a vote in one county after another. The former, however, are still successful in the majority of cases, and there seems as yet not much indication of the reaction prophesied. In this, as in other cases, the party of action has the advantage over the party of resistance, mainly, perhaps, because it is the party of action. The evils resulting from the liquor traffic are so flagrant that friends of humanity and progress would prefer almost any honest effort to reduce them, to languid or careless inaction. When those who are crying out so loudly against prohibition as an interference with freedom show themselves really alive to the necessity of doing something to save multitudes from the pit, and have a better remedy to propose, their denunciations will carry more weight with the masses.

Considerable attention is being just now directed to the movements of the Young Men's Liberal Club, and the approaching convention under its auspices. The old adage does not attach the highest value to young men as counsellors. Still the fact seems to be recognized on all hands that there is in the young a degree of moral courage and a patriotic impetuosity which seldom survive in those who have been for long years in Canadian political life. The impression has somehow got abroad that in this case the young men are not likely to pull steadily in the old party traces, but may be expected to strike out in some bolder course. There are certainly indications that a crisis is approaching in the history of Canadian development, and that some new and powerful impulse will soon be needed to save our young country from the stagnation which is the punishment of low ambitions and pessimistic opinions.

After a trial much more brief than might have been anticipated, Riel has been pronounced guilty and sentenced to the gallows. The evidence against him was too clear and direct to leave room for any other verdict. Meanwhile a controversy is going on in the party papers as to the meaning of the jury's recommendation to mercy. Such a recommendation implies the existence of some extenuating circumstances. Are these to be found in the man's mental condition, or in wrongs of the half breeds and failure of constitutional methods for obtaining redress? It is not likely that the jury stopped to define very clearly in their own minds. Probably both considerations had