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AND TEMPERANCE HERALD.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 1885.

MEN, WOMEN, AND THINGS IN GENERAL.

The reverse sustained by English arms in Africa in the fall of Khartoum, has been followed by the death of General Earle in an attack on a strongly entrenched Arab post up the Nile from Wolsley's headquarters at Korti. Three distinguished men have thus lost their lives on account of General Gordon's self-sufficiency in cooping himself up in Khartoum, and Mr. Gladstone's fatal blunder in accepting him at his own estimate of himself. Col. Stewart was entrapped and killed some time ago. Col. Burnaby was killed in General Stewart's sharp fight with the Arabs on his way across the desert to Gubat from Korti. General Stewart has himself been severely wounded, and now General Earle has been killed. Any one of these four men was as good a man for the public service as Gordon, and all have been sacrificed to his ill-regulated enthusiasm. Moreover, the lives of thousands of British soldiers will be lost in the war with the Mahdi, which must now be one of conquest. He is at the head of a fanatical crowd of Arabs, who believe in his prophetic character, and are less likely to desert him in his hour of even partial triumph, than they were in his time of difficulty.

One of the Australian Provinces has, it is said, offered to raise, equip, and pay the expenses of a regiment of soldiers to serve in the Soudan and a Canadian militia colonel has offered to raise men, but not to equip or pay them. Such offers are absurd. No volunteer or hastily raised regiment would be allowed to take part in a difficult and dangerous expedition, where officers are left at the mercy of the enemy unless they have troops on whose steadiness, as well as fidelity and bravery they can depend. In spite of General Wolsley's cable despatch, the War Office is not likely to be drawn into any scheme of this kind. If Canadian or Australian recruits are accepted at all, it will be for garrison service at home or in Egypt, to take the place of the trained regulars withdrawn for active work. Such a life offers few attractions for the class of men who would enlist here, and for this reason, if for no other, the scheme is likely to end in a fizzle. Canadians have no interest in the war. If they go at all they go as adventurers, not as Canadians, and any proposal to pay their expenses would, if submitted to the Dominion Parliament, soon meet with a quietus. In point of fact England has no business to be in the Soudan at all with an armed force, unless to put down the slave trade, and she has not yet proclaimed this as her object.

Attorney-General Mowat was asked a few days ago by Mr. Robillard, member for Russell, whether he intended to appoint, or give counties power to appoint, interpreters for the purpose of enabling French witnesses to give their testimony in courts of law. Mr. Mowat stated that some general plan would be adopted for the appointment and payment of interpreters in localities where they are needed, whether by French, German, or Gaelic speaking witnesses. There is something to be said against making such appointments as well as for it. There is nothing to hinder the French or German people from learning English, which is the only official language of this Province, and any measure of relief of this kind will take away part of the incentive to them to do so. It is a good thing to have two languages at command, even when the mother tongue is English, and it is exceedingly desirable that every citizen of this Province should be able to speak, read, and write the latter, whatever his mother tongue may be. The time is coming when the virtually French and German schools must be so conducted as to compel all boys and girls to learn English.

The necessity of having a French interpreter, which is pleaded, is a matter of great significance. The existence of German settlements in different parts of Ontario, is the result of immigration from Europe or the United States. The existence of French settlements along the Ottawa is the result of an overflow from Quebec. The French people are increasing in numbers in their own Province more rapidly than the English. They are spreading themselves over the Eastern townships, the English retiring as they advance. They constitute a large proportion of the population of Glengarry, Stormont, Dundas, Prescott, Russell, and the city of Ottawa, and are beginning to settle in Carleton. In Prescott they are in a majority, and in Russell they number one-third of the whole people, and one-fifth of the electors. These are the facts; what is the inference? Clearly that this overflow is likely to go on until a large part of Eastern Ontario is, like the once English part of Quebec, solidly French. It is impossible for the two races to either extensively intermingle or maintain a stationary position in relation to each other. The French Canadian's standard of life is lower than the English Canadian's. He and his family make their own clothes, grow their own tobacco, make their own sugar, live on coarser fare, and work for smaller wages. The Canadian French are a very proline race. Families of from fifteen to twenty-five children are not rare, and families of a dozen are quite common. They, as a rule, stick close together, and watch their chance of buying land, when it is offered for sale by some Englishman, who wants to move to some place where he can have his children educated amongst other English children. Many of the young Frenchmen who go to the United States to work, send home their earnings to be devoted to the purchase of land, on which they intend to live, and land can always be had from discontented and disgusted English neighbors.

This ethnical movement, which is going on in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Western Ontario also, is full of significance for the political future of Canada. It is viewed with alarm by thousands who have watched it going on silently but irresistibly for years. It is a matter for exultation with the political leaders of the French people on each St. Jean Baptiste anniversary. The avowed policy of both the lay and the clerical guides, and advisers of the French in Canada, is to re-capture the country and make it French. And they are doing so. Whether for better or for worse, this is the tendency of events, and their course is far from slow. The working classes of English nationality, who do not like to live in the style of the French *habitant*, must come to his standard or go, just as the Chinese are driving the English-speaking workmen out of California and British Columbia, as the Italian and Hungarian laborers are replacing Americans in the mines of Ohio and Pennsylvania, and as the emancipated negro is driving out the white laborer in many districts of the Southern States. Whatever the lesson to be learned from these social phenomena, it would be as foolish for us to shut our eyes to their existence, as it is for the ostrich to hide its head in the sand. The problems involved—political, social and ethnical—must be faced, whether they admit of a solution or not.

The Young Liberals of Toronto interviewed Mr. Mowat last week on the suffrage question. They wanted the franchise so fixed