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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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—o—T E R M S.—o—

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The World.

In our Miscellany this week will be found two interesting and racy pen and ink sketches, one of the Mahdi, and the other of the now lamented Gordon, which we extract from an article in the *Catholic World* for February. The references to Gordon will be read with interest now that the rose-coloured predictions as to his safety and coming triumph have been so sadly falsified by the event.

A "Superior Officer" in the French army sends to the New York *Herald* what purports to be the key to the useless Tonquin campaign of the French Army. According to this authority the expedition arose out of M. Ferry's ambition for the Presidency, which becomes vacant next year. He, it is alleged, thought in this way to win glory for the national arms, and popularity for himself. So far the expedition has not redounded to the glory of either, and the serious falling off in the number of supporters of M. Ferry's ministry returned at the senatorial elections in January, would seem to indicate that the popularity of the first Minister has not been helped by the costly and as yet fruitless quarrel with China.

The Nicaraguan Treaty has failed of confirmation by the United States Senate. The final vote was 32 for and 23 against ratification. Five votes were thus wanting of the 37 necessary to constitute the two-thirds majority required. A resolution was also passed by 30 to 19 looking to negotiations with Great Britain for the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty as a preliminary to making the proposed convention with Nicaragua. In view of the evidence thus afforded of good faith on the part of the American nation, the general conviction that the state of things which led to the Clayton-Bulwer compact no longer exists, and the hearty good feeling between the two nations, it should not be difficult to come to an amicable arrangement such as would permit the canal to be built either by the United States, or by the two nations conjointly.

A very significant step has been taken by the United States Senate in passing what is known as the "Cullom Inter-State Commerce" bill. This bill authorizes the appointment of a Railway Commission of nine members, one from each judicial circuit of the United States. This Commission is authorized to require the railways to furnish annual reports as to their financial condition, also respecting pooling, stock-watering and other current abuses. It is empowered also to hear complaints and award damages against Railway Companies, and to prevent unfair and unequal discrimination in freight rates. The measure is very important, looking as it does in the direction of state control of the great highways of internal commerce, and of the conduct of a host of powerful corporations which have hitherto treated the public pretty much as they pleased.

The news of the death of Gordon has created a profound excitement in England. He had accomplished wonders in rallying around him simply by the magnetism of his personal character, a native support which enabled him to hold Khartoum for many months, against all the forces of the Mahdi. The fact that the city was taken and he slain only by treachery at the last sufficiently discredits the theory that the Mahdi had purposely delayed the capture in order to decoy Wolseley's forces into a trap. With the fall of Gordon ends, it may be assumed, all prospect of a speedy withdrawal of the English from the Soudan. The instinct of self-preservation now demands that the Mahdi be thoroughly crushed. The war to which the British are now committed will cost much money and much blood, but her prestige must be maintained, or her ascendancy over the millions of her Mohammedan subjects in all parts of the Eastern world is endangered. Moreover, the British blood is now up, and no Government which showed signs of hesitancy in such a crisis could stand for a week. There are complicated questions of right and wrong involved in such a contest, but there can be little doubt that the issue will hasten the march of civilization and the downfall of the horrible slave trade, which is still carried on in the the heart of "dark continent."