

ests of the people are compatible with the interests of the European creditors.

But while the administration of Egyptian finances since 1885 has been honest, efficient, and humane; while taxes have been collected with regularity and in a manner that presses less heavily upon the people; and while in consequence of surplus revenues Egyptian bonds have reached and maintained a level heretofore unknown on the exchanges of Europe, there is still great need of further amelioration. To this end Sir Edgar Vincent, financial advisor of Egypt, has been laboring with a view to leaving her debt, which now amounts to £103,420,640, and on a considerable portion of which interest at five per cent. is being paid, refunded at a lower rate. His scheme, which proposes to reduce the interest on all the various loans that have been made since '70 to 4 per cent. and to raise a further loan of £1,300,000 for irrigation works, has received the approval of three of the powers concerned—Russia, Italy and England. It was hoped that France would also have given her consent to the arrangement, but the latest advices state that she has positively refused to become a party to the measure until England shall have evacuated the country. Under ordinary circumstances, this unwillingness might have been expected to yield to gentle persuasion, but just now she is greatly displeased with the Anglo-German agreement concerning Africa and Zanzibar, and is in no mood to be expostulated with. To reject an arrangement profitable to one's self in order to be avenged upon one's enemy, is surely an unreasonable proceeding. It is in truth a cutting off of one's nose in order to spite one's face. Whether France will yet be brought to a better frame of mind and yield her consent to Sir Edgar's plan, it is impossible to say.

It would be interesting to know by what process of reasoning or demonstration the *World* arrives at the astounding conclusion "that opium is doing a more deadly work than alcohol on the American continent." It may be admitted that a man killed by opium is just as dead as the man whom alcohol slays but that the former counts on this continent a greater number of victims than the latter, is a statement which only a person of a very vigorous imagination would be tempted to hazard. Henceforth it would be well for the *World* to remember the saying about the mote and the beam whenever it feels disposed to rebuke temperance advocates for making extravagant statements.

If the officers in charge of the Royal Military College, Kingston, are made of similar clay to ordinary mortals it is quite likely that they are feeling greatly elated over the words of praise recently bestowed upon their institution by the Marquis of Lorne, Canada's ex-Governor General. Speaking of this training school, this high authority is reported to have said: "It cannot be denied by the most skeptical and fault finding that the Royal Military College does this (training of officers) most thoroughly. The general opinion of the Imperial army has been that graduates have done the highest honor to themselves and to the college in every respect in which they have joined the British army. Four commissions each year are granted to the best of the graduates, and these are, who lately accompanied the Marquis of Lorne to Africa, and of which the Marquis of Lorne is the type of a Roman Catholic, hold commissions in the school. Order proper officials to refrain from the

ordinary regimental duty, have more than fulfilled the highest expectations." In this commendation Canadians generally will be disposed to claim a share; or at least, those who have not yet been led to look upon war as unjustifiable under any circumstances whatever. It is not, however, the best commentary on the boasted civilization of this 19th century that so much time, and money, and thought should be given to qualifying men to take the lives of their fellowmen. It is an evidence that the savage has not been entirely eliminated from our nature. When the principles of peace shall prevail in deed and not in name only, such training schools will no longer be a necessity. And the prophecy of this desirable consummation is found in the steadily growing disposition of nations to settle their international disputes by an appeal to the arbitrament of reason instead of the arbitrament of war.

British politics have of late become decidedly interesting. Following the discussion of the land purchase bill of Mr. Balfour, now withdrawn until next session, and which created more than a ripple upon the quiet waters, was the Government bill dealing with the liquor problem. This measure, which was outlined in these columns a few weeks ago, has brought down an unusual storm upon the political sea. The feature of the bill that has provoked most opposition is the provision to compensate the holders of licenses who would be cut off by the operation of the law. It is claimed that to recognize a license as a vested interest, which the bill assumes, is a new doctrine in political science. Many of the friends of the government entertain this view, a fact which came nearly resulting in a government defeat a few days ago, when out of a house of 452, the government was sustained by a majority of only four. Since then, thanks to the shrewd objection of Mr. Healy, the Speaker has decided that the bill in some of its provisions is plainly unconstitutional. This decision has been made the pretext for withdrawing the bill altogether, though possibly if the truth were told the government was glad to find so convenient a shelter from the storm that had come down upon them. This danger past, political prognosticators predict smooth sailing for the remainder of this session's voyage.

Dr. Brown-Sequard, whose "elixir of life" caused such a sensation about a year ago, is again attracting attention by an announcement that he has discovered a septic agent which injected subcutaneously has the effect of suddenly curing such diseases as chronic intermittent fever, rooted neuralgia, rheumatism, insomnia, and even leprosy. Like as in the former case his medical confreres do not place much reliance upon the reputed discovery. Many of them appear to think that the old man has outlived the days of his greatest intellectual strength, and that his is a great mind losing its just balance. Of course it is not incredible that some such curative agent should be discovered, but until the claims of this aged experimenter are more fully substantiated it will be well for the afflicted to restrain their joy, and for all to hold their judgment in suspense.

An interesting and important decision has just been rendered by Judge Bain, at Winnipeg, in connection with the now famous separate school case. It will be remembered that some two or three months ago, a father whose children were attending a Catholic school in the city, objected to the school being held in a building which was a Roman Catholic, hold- ing that the school was not a Catholic school. Order proper officials to refrain from the

practice, the teacher took no heed, but persisted in giving religious instruction according to the doctrines of his church. The father brought the matter into the civil courts, though rumor has it that the contending parties were co-religionists, and that this method was pursued in order to bring the recently enacted law to a test. Whether this be or not is of little consequence, so far as the general public is concerned, the matter of chief interest and importance being the fact that the government has been upheld, and an injunction granted to restrain teachers in Catholic schools from holding religious exercises. It now remains to be seen whether the Dominion Government, to whom the minority in the Manitoba legislature made their complaint a few days ago, will give their sanction to the provincial act. Should the authorities at Ottawa refuse to interfere, it will greatly enhance the difficulties of those who would perpetuate the dual system of schools throughout that Western land.

The receipt of a copy of the Prize List for this year's Toronto Industrial Exhibition, which is to be held from the 8th to the 20th of September next, reminds us that the fair season is again fast approaching. The prize list shows the addition of many new classes and a large increase in the amount offered as premiums. Toronto offers many attractions to visitors during the season, but the greatest of all is its annual Exhibition which this year promises to be greater and better than ever. A copy of the prize list can be obtained by any of our readers, who may desire one, by dropping a post card to Mr. H. J. Hill, the Secretary, at Toronto.

"\$125,000 reward to the person who shall discover some effective method for ridding the land of the rabbit pest" is the substance of a proclamation made by the government of New South Wales, Australia, in August, '87 and published in all parts of the world. But though nearly three years have since passed, and though many schemes and projects have been submitted to the royal commissioners, all alike seem to have failed. One suggestion which attracted a good deal of attention at the time was the plan attributed to some of the disciples of Pasteur in France, of inoculating a number of rabbits with the virus of a fatal and communicable malady, and letting these rabbits loose in the colony to mingle with the wild rabbits and thus spread the infection. Nothing was accomplished, however, more than the death of the particular rabbits operated upon, the disease refusing to communicate to others. And so after three years the Commissioners in making their final report are forced to acknowledge the failure of their efforts to obtain any efficacious method for the extinction of the rabbits. They declare that they have found no evidence to warrant the belief that these animals can be exterminated by any known means. The best that they can say is, that some protection against the devastations of the rabbits is afforded by the use of wire net for fencing purposes, and that they therefore recommend that the Government should advance money in certain cases to the lessees of public lands in order to enable them to defray the cost of such fencing in the first instance.

There is a touch of romance in the history of this Australia pest. The rabbit is an exotic and was introduced by the colonists from Europe. Enriched suddenly by the Civil War in the United States, which caused the price of wool to rise enormously on account of the cessation of the American

production, many of the colonists found themselves in the possession of large revenues. Luxurious and expensive tastes were fostered. Jealously imitating English customs, they conceived a passion for the chase, and formed in Australia societies for importing from Europe hares and rabbits. This became a veritable rage. Borrowing from English legislation the most vigorous measures, their parliament voted laws against the destruction of these animals, which, introduced in great numbers multiplied with prodigious rapidity. The soil and the climate so marvellously suited the rabbits that they reproduced much more rapidly than in England. The animal itself underwent transformation—of small size and of an average weight of two and one half pounds it here became enormous and attained to ten pounds. In vain were the rabbits enclosed with iron lattices; the rabbits crept through everywhere and regained the open country to the despair of the proprietors, who redoubled their efforts to increase the number. They succeeded so well that to-day the rabbits are a desolating pest. Lands which a few years ago produced seventy-five bushels of wheat to the acre appear to be abandoned. All culture in some districts has become impossible. The vineyards have been ruined, and as we have seen up to the present time, the means employed to destroy them have not secured any appreciable results. Rabbits are hunted, killed, poisoned, and still they swarm. This inability to cope with the pest is an interesting commentary on the boasted powers of man, that all his ingenuity, stimulated by the offer of a reward of \$125,000, is insufficient to enable him to deal effectively with one of the gentlest and least pugnacious animals on earth.

It is doubtful whether the recent honor of D.C.L., conferred upon the great African explorer by the authorities of Oxford University, will carry with it any particular advantage; for what with doctors of law, doctors of medicine, doctors of theology, doctors of philosophy, etc., the title is losing all its distinctive character. Indeed it is said that the medical doctors for this reason are seriously considering the question of dropping the title altogether. There will be nothing individualizing by the expression, Dr. Stanley. Of course it is conceivable that Mr. Stanley may be fortunate enough in having the public retain the initials H. M., though in these days of telegraphic abridgements and compressions, his chances in this respect are not very great. All the same, the Oxford University has honored itself by recognizing in this manner the greatness and worth of the man who has done so much for Britain and for the human race. May Dr. Stanley long live to wear his honor.

The vulgar phrase, "you make tired" used by one who is weary of a pestering companion or an unwelcome subject is not likely to greet the ears of him who in this hot weather recommends a sail upon the cool and refreshing waters; unless, indeed, the advice should come to those who find it impossible to indulge themselves in the luxury. Now it goes without dispute that the pleasure of the sail is greatly enhanced by the character of the vessel and the conduct of those in charge, as well as the nature of the localities visited. In these particulars the "Niagara River Line" ranks among the first. For comfort and safety her two magnificent steamers the *Cibola* and *Chicora* are among the finest on the lakes. All their appointments are of the most modern pattern, and designed to meet the wants and wishes of the travelling