

keeping back reinforcements from England and the colonies.

That the present war was inevitable is now quite apparent. The preparations made by the Boers show that, sooner or later, they meant to contest with the English the question of supremacy in South Africa. Referring to the unpreparedness of the military, the Anglican bishop of Pretoria says :

It seems hard on poor Natal to be the victim of the war ; and, to one who has felt as sure as I of war, and of the plans and claims of the Boers, it looks amazingly like the same determination to ignore the true character and action of the Boers, or, rather, of those to whom England handed them and us over, which has ruined South Africa so long. These last proceedings will, however, I hope, wake up the old country to the true character of the Boers and their real long-standing aims and purpose. Planned and practised for years, my only wonder has been that England could so persistently ignore them, and be so unready as to allow, not to say invite, the course they have taken.

Commenting on the extension of British territory, the New York *Herald* says :

England is the only nation capable of carrying the torch of civilization into Darkest Africa. Her traditional love of personal liberty, her dislike of functionaryism and red tape, and her defence of the "open door" policy, have enabled her to carry out a noble mission of civilizing benighted parts of the world with a success that has been a distinct benefit to all the nations of the earth. Wherever Anglo-Saxons have made headway they have left a path into which the French, Germans, Russians, and every other enlightened people are invited and are welcome to walk.

Very gratifying is the friendship of the United States at this time, as expressed by their public men and in their leading journals. Even those who were inclined to sympathize with the Boers before their declaration of war are now outspoken in their sympathy with us, and glad that their government can now make return for the friendly neutrality of Great Britain in the Spanish-American war.

H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught has been appointed to succeed Lord Roberts as commander-in-chief of the forces in Ireland. His offer to resign his rank in the army and take a subordinate position on the staff of one of the generals in the field in South Africa was not accepted by the military authorities.

The latest news from the seat of war is not encouraging. A sortie from Mafeking to take possession of a strong Boer position outside the town, failed, though the attack was skilfully made, and with greatest courage on the part of the British. Our loss was heavy in

officers and men. Gen. French, who is operating in the vicinity of Colesburg, has met with a check in the loss of seventy men of the First Suffolk regiment. The situation at Ladysmith causes the greatest apprehensions. The Boers are drawing their intrenchments closer to the beleaguered garrison, and the latest advices show that they, contrary to their custom, made an attack on the British which was repulsed after desperate fighting. Gen. Buller has not yet attempted to renew his advance, and further news is awaited with feverish anxiety.

'ROUND TABLE TALKS.

The discussion in the December REVIEW of the grammatical relationship of the word "worth," in the expression "is worth," showed that many authorities treat it as an adjective, while one, at least, regards it as a preposition. Is it not, in most cases, equal to "worthy of," and therefore to be regarded as an adjective with a preposition suppressed or understood?—V.

A. M. P.—Allow me still to differ from your decision respecting the word "worth" in the sentence, "Flour is worth five dollars." I still think it a noun, because it fills the office of a noun. You say it is an adjective, because it is an adjective in the following sentences, "To reign is worth ambition," "This is life worth preserving." These sentences are similar, but not the same. Worth, in the flour sentence, means *value*, but in these it means *worthy*. You can say "flour is the *value* of five dollars," but you cannot say "flour is *worthy* five dollars." You can say "to reign is *worthy* of ambition," but you cannot say "to reign is *value* of ambition." Therefore, when worth has the sense of the word value, it is a noun ; and when it means worthy, it is an adjective.

But worth in the sentence quoted has scarcely the sense of value. In "flour is worth five dollars," worth means "equal in value to," or is "valued at," both phrases being plainly adjectival.

R. S.—(1) In what respect have the county school fund and district assessment a bearing upon each other ?

(2) State in order (a) the territorial divisions recognized in the school system ; (b) the several educational objects or purposes involving these divisions ; (c) the relation of any or all of these divisions in behalf of each object respectively.

(3) It is said that at the poles the year is divided into two periods, six months day and six months night ; also, that when the sun is vertical at the equator, the days and nights are twelve hours long, over all parts of the earth. Explain these contradictory statements.

(1) The county school fund and district assessment have no bearing upon each other, except that there is a similarity in the mode of making up. Both are based upon the parish assessment lists. District valuation may affect the amount of county fund received. (See School Manual).

(2) (a) City, incorporated town or country school district ; (b) Parish, which for the last named is the unit of assessment, and for the others as well, except