

# The Canada School Journal.

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### The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

Edited by J. E. WELLS, M.A.

and a staff of competent Provincial editors.

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#### —O—T E R M S.—O—

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### The World

The party papers are just now giving us a pitiful illustration of the workings of partyism in politics. While the one set of organs is exaggerating the symptoms of destitution and distress in the city of Montreal to the last degree, the other set is equally intent on minimizing or disguising the actual facts. As usual the truth no doubt lies midway between the extremes. But it is sad when the energy that should be devoted to devising measures of relief is absorbed in the effort to manufacture political capital out of popular misery.

The latest and deadliest of the series of dynamite explosions has naturally roused intense excitement in London. It will be strange indeed if the origin of this cruel and cowardly crime cannot be traced. The result must almost surely be the adoption of stringent measures by the American Government to put a stop to the villainous trade of men of the O'Donovan Rossa type. No effort or expense will be spared by the British Government to track the treacherous wild beasts to their lair, and every good citizen of the world will earnestly hope for their speedy discovery.

A good illustration of the practical benefits that may result from thorough geological surveys is given by Mr. Selwyn, Director of the survey, in a letter to the *Week* of the 22nd inst. Mr. Selwyn says that the thickness of the Crowfoot seam in the Canada Pacific Railway shaft is nine feet, being one inch more than the thickness assigned to it on Dr. Dawson's map. Mr. Selwyn quotes from a recent letter of Mr. Van Horne, that the results reached by the experimental shaft at Crowfoot "exactly corresponded with the information received from Dr. Geo. M. Dawson before the shaft was commenced."

The latest correspondence between General Grant and Vanderbilt shows both parties to unexpected advantage. Mr. Vanderbilt attempts in various ways and with gentlemanly delicacy to induce the General to accept a release from his indebtedness. Gen. Grant, on the other hand, steadiness and sturdily refuses to accept the favour either personally, or as a gift to Mrs. Grant. But, as an exchange points out, a man in possession of an annual income of \$15,000 and capable of earning \$10,000 more by the use of his pen, need be dependent on no man's generosity.

The first blow has been struck in the Soudan and victory has perched upon the British banner, though not until scores of gallant British soldiers, as well as hundreds of the opposing horde, had bitten the dust. A stern moral necessity alone can justify either such a sacrifice of brave Englishmen or such a slaughter of fanatical Mohammedans. Meanwhile there is an uneasy feeling in the public mind. No one can feel sure that the whole story has been told, while the despatches as we have them indicate that only the indomitable pluck of officers and men saved the affair from proving a catastrophe and converted it into a triumph. Further news is awaited with intense anxiety.

Mr. Chapleau seems in one respect to have exhibited more political prescience than any of his fellow orators at the banquets. He sees what must be patent to every mind that gives the matter attention, that any scheme of Imperial Federation implies as its first corollary the absolute independence of each of the contracting parties. When a father offers his son a partnership in the firm, he, in the very act, implies that that son has attained his majority. Otherwise such an offer would be to the child a command rather than a proposition. There may be senior and junior partners in a firm, but each must enter on terms of freedom and equality. The moment that Great Britain approaches Canada or Australia with a proposal for a federal league, that moment she says in effect: "You are free and independent. Choose or refuse, as you see fit." It seems well to point this out for many favour the Imperial Federation scheme, who are strongly opposed to independence. Full liberty of action cannot be withdrawn after having been once distinctly conceded.