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The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

An Educational Journal devoted to the advancement of Literature, Science, and the teaching profession in Canada.

— T E R M S . —

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CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL PUB. CO. (Limited)

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The World.

Servia has declared war against Bulgaria, invaded her territory and fought one or two battles. The object of Servia is, no doubt, to enlarge her own territory by the addition of a part of Bulgaria, in which the population is largely Servian. Her first alleged successes have been followed by severe defeat at the hands of the Bulgarian forces. Though the trouble has been caused by what was practically a revolt against Turkey, Bulgaria is now calling upon Turkey for help. The fire ball has been set rolling. If, as seems highly probable, it should roll beyond the boundaries of the little states immediately concerned, and kindle a conflagration amongst the Great Powers, no one can tell what the end may be.

If the New York *Herald's* abstract of the Pope's forthcoming encyclical proves correct, the world is about to have a great and pleasant surprise. The *Herald's* extracts contain such expressions as that "the church is not the enemy but the friend of all healthful and legitimate liberty," warmly "patronizes all true liberty," "will accept with joy all that contributes to the

conquests of science, particularly of natural science," "is in perfect harmony with all modern progress," &c. If these are the views of the present Pope, they are in marked contrast with those of his immediate predecessor who declared it an error to suppose that "the Roman Pontiff can and ought to reconcile himself to and come to an understanding with progress, liberalism, and modern civilization."

A determined effort is being made in the United States to get the Government to institute legal proceedings to set aside the Bell Telephone patent. The ground alleged for such action is fraud. The case was argued the other day before Secretary Lamar and some pretty strong affidavits presented. An important one by the examiner of the Patent Office, who was in charge of the Electrical Division at the time the patent was issued, asserts that there is reason to believe that the Bell process was borrowed from a previous invention by Professor Gray. Canadians who know the Messrs. Bell will be slow to believe that they would be guilty of any crookedness in the matter. It is not yet known whether the Secretary has decided that there is enough evidence to warrant an official investigation or no.

Some of our contemporaries are inclined to smile at the idea of the newly enfranchised electors in Great Britain being called upon to give their opinions, by their votes, on the great questions of British and European State-craft. Taking Hodge as he is to-day, there seems certainly something farcical in his solemnly pronouncing upon the reform of the House of Lords, and the Disestablishment, Land, Irish, Bulgarian, and Egyptian questions. But how much less is his opinion worth even now, on such questions, than that of millions of the old voters, many owners of property and titles included? And then Hodge can generally read and will soon learn to think, and the possession of the power of the ballot will be one of the most effective incentives to reading and thinking. The use of the franchise for a generation will do more to promote intelligence and mental activity amongst the masses than almost any other agency.

From the party standpoint and with the immediate future only in view, it may have been a clever move of the Conservative leaders in England to sound an alarm in reference to the Church. To create the impression that Liberal success means destruction to the Establishment is a most effective way to stir sleeping Conservatism to activity, and to enlist a good many moderate Liberals in the army of defence. But in the interests of the stability of the State Church worse tactics could not have been adopted. The issue has been joined, and a controversy aroused that will shake the whole national Church fabric to its foundations. Free and fearless discussion of underlying principles is the one thing its supporters have the most to dread. The strength of such revered but illogical institutions