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## Table of Contents.

| EDITORIAL:—                            | PAGE |
|--|------|
| The World.....                         | 481  |
| The School.....                        | 481  |
| Religious Training in the Schools..... | 482  |
| SPECIAL —                              |      |
| Elementary Chemistry.....              | 483  |
| The Study and Teaching of English..... | 484  |
| High School Literature.....            | 486  |
| EXAMINATION PAPERS.....                | 487  |
| PRACTICAL DEPARTMENT:—                 |      |
| Golden Rules.....                      | 488  |
| The Geograph Class.....                | 488  |
| Her Grammar.....                       | 488  |
| Drawing.....                           | 488  |
| EDUCATIONAL NOTES AND NEWS.....        | 490  |
| QUESTION DRAWER.....                   | 491  |
| LITERARY CHAT.....                     | 492  |
| TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.....            | 492  |

## The Canada School Journal and Weekly Review.

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

—o—TERMS.—o—

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## The World.

President Cleveland goes bravely on in the new path of Civil Service reform which he has laid out for himself. His last act has been to shut the door square in the faces of the great army of office seekers, by refusing, since November 1st, to see them. This step will commend itself to all good citizens who think their President has something better to do than to submit to be badgered for hours every day by selfish applicants for office, but it is a step which no one but a man of high moral courage and an iron will could have taken. The beauty of the thing is that, whatever becomes of Cleveland, no future President will dare to go back to the old system.

The Canadian transcontinental railway will be in a very few weeks or days an accomplished fact. The driving of the last spike will mark the completion of one of the greatest railway enterprises of the century, not simply in Canada, but in the world. The Canadian Pacific Railway was clearly a political necessity if British Columbia was to be retained in the Dominion. To what extent this iron band will prove a real bond of union between the Atlantic, Pacific, and intermediate provinces

is a problem whose solution is still in the future. Equally uncertain is it how far the dream of Canada becoming, by means of this great road, a thoroughfare of travel and traffic between Western Europe and Eastern Asia, may prove to be not baseless. The road has been constructed with an energy and celerity equal to the most sanguine expectations of its promoters a few years ago.

Great Britain is rapidly nearing one of the most serious political crises through which she has ever passed. Whether Tory or Radical gains the ascendancy at the coming elections, the new Parliament will be committed to a series of almost revolutionary changes. The Liberal leaders seem to be sinking their differences and closing up their ranks, and the certainty of their triumph is pretty generally conceded. The main question is whether they will come into power with a majority large enough to overcome the combined Conservative and Parnellite vote. If not, the latter party will hold the balance of power. One of the wonderful signs of the times is the complacency with which those who have so long been the ruling classes seem to contemplate the coming changes. They would, not many years ago, have thought their rights and privileges seriously menaced. A contemporary accounts for their apparent apathy by supposing that they have "helplessly abandoned themselves to the current," and have "allowed their resolution to be paralyzed by a vague feeling of fatalism." Is it not preferable to suppose that they are learning to recognize that "a man's a man for a' that," and to feel sufficient confidence in the good sense and love of justice of the masses to be willing to allow them their proper share in the work of self-government?

## The School.

If, as reported in the cablegrams, the British Cabinet is sending a commissioner to the continent to study the free school systems, it would seem that the free school doctrine is taking a deep hold of the public mind in England. Meanwhile the discussion is evoking a strong opposition. The *Schoolmaster* asserts that the weight of opinion on the part of both Conservatives and Moderate Liberals is overwhelmingly against free education. But on such a question the public mind is sometimes rapidly educated, and we should probably be risking very little were we to prophesy that the establishment of a system of free Public Schools is amongst the reforms of the near future in Great Britain.

The experiment of allowing college students to have a voice in college government has been tried for some time at Amherst and Bowdoin Colleges, with notable success. Harvard is now adopting the principle with some modifications. A permanent conference committee is to be established, made up of five members of the Faculty and sixteen students chosen from the different classes according to a fixed scale. The functions of