

(moss pink), and the old-fashioned garden pink—annuals, mignonette, candytuft, lobelia paxtonia is pretty but rather tender. In addition to the perennial plants mentioned by Mr. Forsyth, some of the hardy bulbs may be planted, such as narcissi, including jonquils and daffodils, grape hyacinths and tulips. In a somewhat shady corner a bed of sweet violets, pansies and forget-me-nots will afford much pleasure. Every school might have planted on the north side of a fence a few of our prettiest wild flowers. If the grass is kept in check about them the following will do well: Hepatica, spring beauty, violets, adder's tongue, sanguinaria, jack-in-the-pulpit and asarum. The chief cause of failure in window gardening in schools is that the pots are watered too much. The easiest way to success is to have wooden boxes which may be papered on the outside, made to fit nicely on the window sill; put broken moss or sand (the former is better) in the box and pack the flower pots in it. Water carefully. The school flower garden makes a pleasant, healthful and instructive recreation for the pupils at play time. All the attention required can be given it without encroaching one minute on school hours. Its influence is not confined to the school yard, but blossoms out more or less by the door of almost home in the section to cheer and brighten the daily round of life.

Miss Peacocke said her pupils wheeled black earth to mix with the clay soil for the beds, and stones to make a pretty rockery.

Miss Geeson showed how to make "hanging baskets" of cut carrots—scooped out, inverted and filled with sand. A sponge pushed into a bottle of water and having the protruding part sown with flax makes a pretty and curious ornament.

The offer made by Mr. Dearness to give a short course in practical botany was discussed, and the teachers decided to form a class. — *London Advertiser.*

ARBOUR DAY IN SMITHVILLE.

FRIDAY last dawned fair and bright on eagerly expectant pupils and enthusiastic teachers—all inspired with the desire of celebrating in a worthy manner this now legally appointed holiday. The trustees had gladly offered to expend whatever was necessary in the purchase of trees to replace any that had failed and to increase the number of trees for shade and screen, and of soil for the adornment of the grounds with flower beds, etc. Messrs. Crosby and Cullen, at the head respectively of detachments of high and public school pupils, hied them to the woods in search of trees, while Mr. Somerville remained to superintend the preparation and planting of flower beds. Messrs. A. Morse, chairman, and R. Murgatroyd, treasurer of the high school board, were on hand and lent their willing hands and valued experience in the work of pruning and arrangement.

As the desired kinds of trees were not easily obtainable and this the first "upturning" of the sod, the work was not completed till four o'clock, although all had laboured faithfully and well. At that hour all the available trees had been planted and mulched, the flower beds filled with the liberal contributions of seeds, plants, and shrubs from the pupils of both schools and their friends.

Now the entire four sides of the grounds, the dividing line fence and the space before the out-

buildings, which have also been rebuilt, are planted with maples, pines, and horse chestnuts, while the northeast corner of the front is adorned with tastefully designed beds containing rich variety and profusion of flowering plants and shrubs.

All who took part are deserving of the highest praise for rendering this first Arbour Day in Smithville a success. — *Smithville Advertiser.*

Correspondence.

A SCHOOLROOM MISNOMER.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL WEEKLY.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to present the exposition of an error which, it seems to me, is becoming quite common to English-speaking Canadians, and which is especially noticeable and objectionable to persons of the teaching profession of Ontario. I refer to the use, in a wide national sense, of the word English for British; in a sense that emphasizes an unwarranted sectional superiority, and consequently conveys to the young hearer a wrong idea.

There is a saying, the truth of which is undoubted by most people, that first impressions are lasting. Now for this reason, the teacher, in all matters of schoolroom statement, should endeavour to be the ideal of exactness. That such is not the chief endeavour it has been my unpleasant privilege to observe.

Why pedagogues should call the eminently British military exploits of the Indian mutiny English ones, and England the first empire in the world, on the accession of Chatham to the chief control, is a puzzle to one who deems them students of history that belies the statements. If they be not students of such, let them refer at once and become persuaded of the honorable conditions of Scottish union, of the predominance of Scottish and Irish participants in all great military, political, literary, scientific, and other undertakings that have added to the lustre of the British name.

That persons ignorant of the facts might be led to believe in the ascendancy of the part, from the writings of a certain present-day historian of the empire, we can understand. But on such grounds only should blunders of the kind be borne with.

Perhaps the most lenient way to proclaim the cause of these mistakes, is to say that those who made them were thoughtless. Leaving out of consideration this possibility, and believing that they must have had some knowledge of the events referred to, we are constrained to pronounce them bigots, too prejudiced to be entrusted with the government of children who are hot for impress, alike, of right and wrong.

Hoping that those of the profession who read may take heed and guard against misstatement, I am, yours truly,

EPSON, ONT.

MARS MORTON.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS BUY YOUR BOOKS from S. U. NELSON & Co., Library Association, and save from 10 to 50 per cent. We are in a position to furnish any book published at wholesale prices. Books not in stock procured on shortest notice. Special tenders made for School and College Libraries. Send for our catalogue of standard authors, and full information concerning our Association. Address all communications,

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

Drawer 2674.

TORONTO.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ONTARIO,

TORONTO, 29th April, 1886.

SIR, I have been informed that many High School Masters and Assistants would gladly avail themselves of a course of lessons in Botany during the summer vacation, provided arrangements were made by the Education Department for that purpose.

It has occurred to me that a series of lectures by some competent teacher each forenoon for three weeks, with field work in the afternoons, would be such a happy combination of both theory and practice as would secure the best results, and at the same time prove the least irksome to many who could not very well dispense with the relaxation which the summer vacation is intended to provide. The lectures would be given in the Public Hall of the Education Department by Mr. Spotton, M.A., and the field work directed according to his instructions.

As it is desirable to ascertain the number likely to take this course in order to complete arrangements, would you kindly let me know, at your earliest convenience, how many of your staff are prepared to join this class.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. ROSS.

CIRCULAR TO PUBLIC SCHOOL INSPECTORS.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ONTARIO,

TORONTO, May 1st, 1886.

SIR,—The Drawing Classes conducted at the Education Department, Toronto, during the last two summers will not be continued during the current year. It is nevertheless desirable in order still further to qualify teachers in this subject, that facilities of some kind should be offered for their self-improvement. Instead of the classes formerly taught at the Department it is now proposed to give a grant to each Inspectorial Division in which a class is formed for instruction in elementary drawing.

The conditions on which such classes may be formed are:—

1. The class must consist of at least ten persons holding a Public School Teacher's Certificate.
2. The teacher in charge must possess a legal certificate to teach drawing, or be approved of by the Education Department.
3. At least 30 lessons of two hours each must be given.
4. Teachers who attend this course will be allowed to write at the Departmental Examination in Drawing in April, 1887.
5. The Primary Drawing Course only shall be taught.
6. A grant of \$20 will be made for each class of ten pupils, but only one class will be paid for in any Inspectorial Division.

Will you be good enough to inform the teachers of your Inspectorate of these proposals in order that they may make the necessary arrangements for organizing classes.

Yours truly,

GEO. W. ROSS.

Minister of Education.

ORDER YOUR BOOKS (NEW OR SECOND-HAND) from DAVID ROYLE, 353 Yonge Street, Toronto.