

ions, notions, wordings, allusions of the Bible. Zion and Babylon are their Athens and Rome; their Ida and Olympus are Tabor and Hermon; Sharon is their Tempe. These and the like Bible names can reach their imagination, kindle trains of thought and remembrance in them. The elements with which the literature of Greece and Rome conjures have no power on them; the elements with which the literature of the Bible conjures have. Therefore I have so often insisted, in reports to the Education Department, on the need, if from this point of view only, for the Bible in schools for the people. If poetry, philosophy and eloquence—if what we call in one word, letters—are a power, and a beneficent, wonder-working power, in education, through the Bible only have the people much chance of getting at poetry, phil-

osophy and eloquence. Perhaps I may here quote what I have at former times said: "Chords of power are touched by this instruction which no other part of the instruction in a popular school reaches; and chords various, not the single religious chord only. The Bible is for the child, in an elementary school, almost his only contact with poetry and philosophy. What a course of eloquence and poetry (to call it by that name alone) is the Bible in a school which has and can have but little eloquence and poetry! and how much do our elementary schools lose by not having any such course as part of their school programme! All who value the Bible may rest assured that thus to know and possess the Bible is the most certain way to extend the power and efficacy of the Bible."—*Matthew Arnold*.

GEOGRAPHY.

TWO MAYORS, ONE THOUSAND MILES APART, CONVERSE. — The long distance telephone line between New York and Chicago was open in time to permit the mayor of the former to wish the latter success in the forthcoming Columbus celebration. Chicago's mayor congratulated the mayor of New York and the people of the country on the American invention which enables people with a thousand miles between them to communicate orally. The wires are strung on 50,000 poles.—*The School Journal*.

THE "Traveller's Tree" is a native of Madagascar. Its stem is crowned with long leaves which grow out on each side of the stem towards the top, in the shape of a fan. The leaves are of enormous size, varying from ten to fifteen feet in length. They

are used for thatching houses; but what gives them great fame, and confers its popular name on the tree, is their property of retaining water. Even in the driest weather a quart of water can be obtained by piercing a hole at the bottom of each leaf stalk, and the liquid is always pleasant and pure to the taste. This tree is sometimes called the "traveller's fountain," and sometimes the "fan palm." —*The School Newspaper*.

ATLANTIC CURRENTS.—The prince of Monaco had upwards of 1,670 large bottles, encased in a thin, copper covering, thrown into the sea at different points of the ocean between Europe and America, and of these, 226 have been returned to him by the governments of the various countries to the shores of which they had drifted, and their progress has been