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AD The subscription price is only thirty-five cents a year. Canadian or United States stamps taken; denominations of 1 cent or 3 cents preferred.

DURING the past few months we have sent specimen copies of the SCIENTIST to a large number of Teachers of Nova Scotia, who are not already subscribers, with the request that they return the same, or otherwise notify us, if they should not wish to become subscribers. This was done as an act of courtesy towards our fellow-teachers, and we hope that it was so understood by all. Though we are endeavouring to build up a journal largely in the interests of Teachers, we do not wish any one to become a subscriber unless he can see that the SCIENTIST is likely to be of interest and value to him. It is, however, an encouraging fact that while *very few* of the copies thus sent out have been returned, many of those to whom they were sent have written us expressing their thanks and approval.

Several of those who returned their papers neglected to send name and address therewith. Such receiving this copy will please return it, with name and address written on the *wrapper*, or notify us by postal card.

THE BELL TELEPHONE.

It is probable that the recent decision of the United States Courts recognizing Bell as "the discoverer of a new

and useful art, (the electric transmission of speech), to which he has exclusive title," will soon be reversed, inasmuch as it is now established beyond question that Bell was not the original inventor of the telephone. That honor, according to Prof. S. P. Thompson, an eminent scientist, belongs to a German, Johann Phillipp Reis, "who discovered the electric transmission of speech in 1861, and used devices and instruments corresponding with those now used in what is known as the Bell system of telephony."

The establishment of these facts is a matter of great public interest, as this invention which gives such large promise of practical usefulness in everyday life cannot henceforth be monopolized by companies or individuals, who would retard its usefulness by heavily taxing a patronizing public. The priority of Reis's discovery gives the telephone to the world unrestricted by patents and free to all.

Louis Bell describes a natural sea-wall on the New Hampshire coast in the August Popular Science Monthly. At Cow Bay in Halifax County, there is a similar structure, but shorter and less perfect. This is a justly famous watering place for the Haligonians in the heat of the summer. There is much more of a fine sandy beach than of the sea-wall. The locality is also interesting to the geologist for the tales of pleistocene activity told by the material exposed in the neighboring headlands.