

thousand school children, as now, and demoralize to a certain extent the school system." The Convention is, however, postponed until an opportunity arises when it may be held without interfering with the regular attendance of the school children. The expression of the Board was directed against the absence of teachers from their duties, on frivolous excuses, but it has been interpreted as being levelled against the Teachers' Institute. Surely the Board did not mean that!

There has been, and still is, a great deal of discussion going on in Perth, of affairs connected with the High School. A local correspondent writes a very pointed letter to the *Perth Courier*, Oct. 16, from which we clip this extract:—"Has the school been a failure under the present principal? Let us see. Mr. Rothwell took charge of the school in 1882. At the first examination in July, 26 passed the intermediate, one took a scholarship at Queen's University, and one at Cobourg—total, 28. In 1883, 45 passed the intermediate, and one in Toronto University—total, 47. In 1884, 43 passed the intermediate, and three at Toronto—total, 46. In 1885 the intermediate examination was done away with and one for teachers' certificates substituted, thus reducing the number able to pass in this year. Ten passed at this examination, four at Toronto, one at Queen's, and one at McGill. This high record was attained by the principal under very discouraging circumstances."

The direct effort to prevent the re-engagement of Mr. Rothwell as Principal of the Collegiate Institute, having either failed, or it being attended with difficulties not easily overcome, those who have control of the Board at present seem to have adopted the expedient of lowering the salaries of the teachers for the ensuing year, under the supposition and hope that two of the staff will decline to re-engage in such a contingency. In this they are no doubt right. It is not likely Mr. Rothwell would accept any Principalship under \$1,200, for the position, responsibilities and troubles are worth all that. But the Board know well, and the ratepayers also should know and consider it, that the result of this reduction would be a lowering of the grade of the Collegiate Institute accordingly, and likely reducing its status to that of an ordinary High School. If the school is to be kept up, good salaries will have to be paid, and the grade of teachers kept up. It is full time the people were showing their wishes and opinions more decidedly in these school matters and the "machine" management of them.—*Perth Courier*.

QUEBEC.

From our own Correspondent.

The educational institutions of the Province opened in September under favorable circumstances. An unusual number of our leading schools changed teachers this year. Among the more important changes may be noted, the Rev. McAdams' arrival at Bishop's College, Lennoxville; the Rev. Dr. Kennedy's at Stanstead College, and Mr. Bannister's at St. Francis College, Richmond. The collapse of the two denominational Ladies' Colleges of the Province is a significant fact in the history of Protestant education of the Province. Notwithstanding a special Government grant of three hundred dollars to each of these institutions, Compton College has been closed for a year, and a recent effort to re-open it has proved unsuccessful. Dunham College, which has been fighting for an existence for the past two years, has been compelled to close its doors, with a large debt upon the late Management. It is impossible for these Protestant Colleges for young women to compete with the numerous excellent Convents of the Province. These institutions furnish board and tuition at such low rates that Protestant parents swallow their principles and place their daughters there for their education, rather than pay the higher rates which Protestant institutions are obliged to charge.

Religious Instruction.—The question of religious instruction in the Public Schools has been receiving considerable attention of late. Religious instruction is obligatory in all the Public Schools of the Province; ratepayers may refuse to pay their taxes if religious instruction is not given. The selection of text-books on this subject rests in the hands of the Priest or officiating minister. This provision was made with special reference to the Roman Catholic population, where it works satisfactorily, but in districts where several Protestant denominations are represented, it is not easy to determine who is to make choice of text-books on religion and morals for the Protestant pupils. It is now proposed to give the selection of text-books on religion and morals to the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction so far as Protestant schools are concerned.

Montreal.—The small-pox epidemic has seriously interfered with the educational work of the city. The city schools have about one half of their usual attendance; but the High Schools and the University have their usual quota of pupils. The accountant of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners has been unfortunate in his funds. On three different occasions large sums of money have disappeared while under his care, and no really satisfactory explanation has been given. The recent loss of \$2000 has induced the Commissioners to seek the services of another accountant.

McGill University has improved its accommodation for students very greatly during the Summer holidays. The Arts and Medical buildings have been thoroughly renovated and improved and furnished with the best modern appliances. A dinner and public meeting was held by the Medical Faculty in honor of their entrance upon their new and spacious class rooms.

The Fraser Institute.—After years of litigation, the funds which were left to establish a public library have been made available for the citizens of Montreal. A very central site has been secured in the old High School building, and the opening was made the occasion of a large public gathering.

The French Secretary of the Department of Public Instruction.—The appointment of a successor to the late Oscar Dunn, is the chief subject of conversation in Quebec circles at present. The question is an interesting one: There are two secretaries in the Department, one French and one English. They are appointed by the Government, upon the recommendation of the Committees of the Council of Public Instruction.

In September, after a severe contest between the *Castors* and the other members, the Roman Catholic Committee recommended M. Paul de Cazes to the Government for appointment as French Secretary. M. de Cazes is a Clerk in the Department, having a thorough knowledge of the business of the Department—and every way a desirable man for the post; but he is a brother-in-law of the Hon. Mr. Mercier, the leader of the opposition. The question upon everyone's lips is "Will the Government appoint M. de Cazes?"

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition.—The Lieutenant-Governor has appointed a Commission, consisting of the Hon. Gédéon Ouimet, Rev. Dr. Bégin, Rev. Elson, J. Rexford and M. Paul de Cazes, to prepare an Educational Exhibit from the Province of Quebec, for the London Exhibition. The Commission has issued circulars to the various educational institutions and bodies throughout the Province, giving information concerning the preparation of materials for the Exhibition, and calling upon all persons interested in the work of Education to cooperate with the Commission in preparing an exhibit that shall worthily represent the educational system of the Province.

Question Drawer.

QUESTIONS.

Dear Sir, - I wish to submit the following for the consideration of your readers: -

According to the rule found in Mason's Grammar (new edition) anent the use of the comma, we should punctuate as follows: - "Poetry, music and painting are fine arts." Professor Nichol, in his English Composition, ch. ii., 4 b, gives sanction to this. Dr. Davies, in his "blue" book, that was the terror of our youthful days, gives it thus: - "Poetry, music, and painting, are fine arts." Dr. Reid, in his "Composition," § 1, I., gives sentences similarly punctuated. Then we have as a medium between these two methods, Mason (old edition), § 483-5, where he gives us, "Poetry, music, and painting are fine arts."

Now, what are we to do when doctors disagree to so great an extent? Method No. 3, as far as I can see, is the one most in vogue in the new Ontario readers. I think it is followed in every series of words.

I am very anxious to hear your own opinion and that of any of your readers. JNO. STUART CARSTARES.

The following points have come up in the class-room; your correspondent in some of the cases has not a great deal of confidence in the meaning he attaches, therefore he would desire the editor's opinion.

Ancient Mariner: -

"With far-heard whisper, o'er the sea,
Off shot the spectro bark." - Part III., 59-60.