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- 4.—All the MSS. sent in to become the property of THE WEEK.
- 5.—THE WEEK will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfilment of the conditions.

WE do not profess to settle the dispute which has arisen respecting the meaning of the Separate Schools Act. Certain things, however, were wanted, and we understood that certain things had been provided. It is, we believe, now quite clear that no one is to be rated for the Separate schools, unless at his own request. This is a reasonable and necessary provision. But it is said that a man's name may be put on the list by some one else; and of course this is quite possible. But surely there are ways of rectifying such errors in the case of Public schools, as well as in other institutions. It would be very easy to publish a provisional list, at the same time giving notice that any one whose name had been improperly placed on the list or omitted from it should have the power of withdrawing it or adding it within a certain number of days. By such a method, if misunderstandings could not be avoided, yet mistakes might be rectified.

WE heartily agree with *The Bystander* in many of his remarks on the expenditure connected with our Public schools. He remarks truly that of those who use the Public schools, three-fourths are just as well able to pay for the schooling of their children as for their bread and clothing, and that they are equally bound to do so. He also points out that there is reason to fear that the very

class for which gratuitous education is needed do not avail themselves of the provision. Of course, this should be seen to, and if the present state of the law is not such as to enable us to get the children of the poorest educated, it should be altered for that purpose. But there is, as has been pointed out in our columns before, something more unreasonable than the gratuitous education of all classes at the Public school, and that is the free education which, in many cases, is given at the High schools. It is not merely unjust to those who make no use of those schools; but it is frequently injurious to those who are induced to make use of them when they might be better employed in manual labour.

THE Prison Reform Commission seems to promise real results in the shape of a better knowledge not merely of the state of our prisons, but of the causes of crime. Thus, we learn from one source that sloth is undoubtedly a principal cause of the evil-doing which the law is invoked to repress, a cause more prolific than drunkenness itself, nay, generally the cause also of drunkenness. So remarkably is this the case that in one prison where the criminals were employed in stone-breaking, and the supply of stones fell short, this became known to the fraternity outside the walls, and crime greatly increased, as these gentry objected more to the hard labour than to the durance vile. Another very serious matter came out at Kingston, where Chief of Police Horsey said he considered the Reformatory for boys a nest to propagate crime. They learned more crime, he said, inside than outside. He favoured an Industrial School and compulsory Education. This is really a very remarkable quality of schools called reformatory, and it is much to be hoped that immediate attention may be given to the subject.

WE hear of complaints respecting the appointment to the new McGill professorship, recently set up in Experimental Physics. One learned gentleman has remarked that a Senior Wrangler ought to be good enough even for McGill; but a correspondent tells us that "it seems an absurd mistake to elect a mathematician, solely on the strength of his Senior Wranglership, over the heads of good Physicists." We don't much like this new word, we may observe in passing, and we believe it is Professor Huxley who says that it is hideous. Our correspondent says that there were three others, one of them a Canadian, who have been long and favourably known to the scientific world by their published papers in the leading physical journals. He also says that "if the McGill Board had a little more patriotism or healthy chauvinism, they would not have stultified themselves." Now, *prima facie*, we are at variance with our correspondent. There may be reasons, with which we are not acquainted, for preferring one of the other gentlemen to whom he refers, or for disapproving of the Professor actually appointed. But these reasons should be other than patriotic. It has often been said in this journal that if a Canadian can be obtained who is as good as the best of the candidates for any appointment, then the Canadian should have it; but we must protest, in the interests of our country, against the complaints which are almost always heard among us when our teachers are brought from another country.

ALL reasonable and patriotic Americans as well as British subjects will rejoice to hear that there are good hopes of an early and satisfactory settlement of the Behring Sea difficulty. That two great nations should even entertain the idea of going to war on such a subject is out of the question, one might imagine; and the thing would be utterly impossible if the decision of those matters now rested with those who are capable of right reason and true patriotism. But no one can predict the course which may be taken by an inflammable mob, liable to be set on fire by agitators. Unfortunately, too, the mob of America is not purely American, so that hatred of Great Britain may be a much stronger influence than any love for the land they live in. We are afraid there are some on this side who are addicted to a kind of vapouring which is almost as bad as the "tall talk" on the other side. While we are on the subject of our relations to our neighbours, it may be profitable to give heed to some words written by our most distinguished English

soldier, Lord Wolseley, to a gentleman at Baltimore. "The closer the bonds of union between mother and child, England and the United States, the better it will be for both, for our race, and indeed for civilization. Those who rant about causes of quarrel between us are no friends to either nation and to humanity. There must never be war between us, no matter how much either or both may be egged on by those who hate the English race, and would therefore like to see us at one another's throats. We feel quite as proud of the United States as any of its people can feel. Its honour and reputation are as dear to us as they can be to those on the other side of the Atlantic, and I rejoice, above all things, to think that the mutual respect we have always had for one another is now maturing into a sincere and mutual affection." Now, there is nothing at all new in the sentiments or in the expression of them. But it is well that they should be repeated until they sink into the hearts of all who speak the English tongue. No one doubts, for a moment, that these are the deliberate convictions of all educated Englishmen and Americans; but we must lay it upon ourselves as a duty to abstain from all boastful and contemptuous language when we are dealing with the subject of our relations to the United States. It ought not to be difficult for us to bear with, or even to love, our own flesh and blood.

THE death of the Earl of Carnarvon leaves vacant a niche in English politics and literature that will not be easily filled. Everyone has been told during the last few weeks how his lordship deserted his colleagues three several times on account of a disagreement in policy; but different estimates have been formed of his conduct on those occasions. According to his admirers it was a supreme evidence of his conscientiousness. According to others it was a proof of over-scrupulousness, of a want of robustness. We believe that those who knew Lord Carnarvon, and most of those who had even seen him, would say that there was truth in both theories. That he was a pure, honourable, able, cultivated man no one would ever have thought of denying; but neither in body nor in mind was he what could be called a powerful man. His manner and his very speech approached what might be called the finical. He was a fine scholar and a good speaker, yet he had nothing of the eloquence which could sway the multitude, and often when the time of action seemed to have arrived he was only in the period of criticism. It has been remarked as something surprising that Lord Salisbury should have given Lord Carnarvon a third chance of deserting after his two previous exploits; but it is probably forgotten by many that Lord Salisbury was himself the partner of Lord Carnarvon in his secession from Lord Derby's Government in 1866. It is a curious circumstance that Lord Carnarvon's residence at Highclere should have been near the field of the battle of Newbury, in Berkshire, on which Lord Falkland met his death. If Lord Carnarvon could have consciously chosen a type to which he would have conformed himself it would have been a man like Lord Falkland. Both were scholarly men, having as much interest in literature as in politics. In the words of the late Mr. J. R. Green, Falkland was "a man learned and accomplished, the centre of a circle which embraced the most liberal thinkers of his day, a keen reasoner and able speaker whose intense desire for liberty of religious thought, which he now saw threatened by the dogmatism of the time, estranged him from parliament, while his dread of a conflict with the crown, his passionate longing for peace, his sympathy for the fallen, led him to struggle for a King whom he distrusted and to die in a cause that was not his own." With certain differences the circumstances of Lord Carnarvon had also considerable resemblance to those of Lord Falkland. A man of liberal opinions, yet of more conservative leanings than his prototype, he yet feared to entrust the liberties of England to the care of the uneducated masses; for the Elementary Education Act came three or four years (not thirteen years, as has recently been said) after the Reform Act. It may turn out that he was right; but in any case he gave the noble example of following conviction and not sacrificing this to party ties. He left office not from weariness or disgust, or because he disliked public life, but simply because he could not conscientiously retain it.