

famous Italian navigator. Invitations have been extended to the Corporation of the City of Bristol, from which Cabot sailed in 1497, to notable geographical and historical societies in Europe and America, as well as to the City of Venice, and it is expected that a number of distinguished gentlemen will be present at the meeting of the Society. During the week, when the Society will hold its meeting, of which the Cabot celebration will be an incident, interesting naval and military displays will be given by the Imperial ships and garrison in honor of the Diamond Jubilee.

#### A History of New Brunswick.

Among the papers read at last year's meeting of the Royal Society of Canada was one by W. F. Ganong, on a plan for a general history of the Province of New Brunswick. Dr. Ganong sets forth his plan in brief and in detail. In brief it is as follows:

- Vol. I. General Introduction to the entire work.  
 Sec. I. The Physiography and Natural History of New Brunswick.  
 Sec. II. The Indian Tribes.  
 Vol. II. Sec. III. The Early Explorers—Norwegian, English, Portuguese, Spanish, French, 1000-1604.  
 Sec. IV. The Period of French Occupation, 1604-1760.  
 Vol. III. Sec. V. The New Englanders and the English, 1760-1783.  
 Sec. VI. The American Revolution and the coming of the Loyalists. The Founding of the Province of New Brunswick.  
 Vol. IV. Sec. VII. The Progress of the Province of New Brunswick down to Confederation.  
 Sec. VIII. Critical Study of the Character of the New Brunswick People in the light of their origin, surroundings and history.

This is certainly an attractive table of contents, and the full details show a plan so comprehensive and full of interest, that a feeling of keen disappointment is felt at the preliminary announcement made by the author of the paper that he is compelled to abandon the design. It is well known that Dr. Ganong has spent many years of his active life in collecting and arranging material for his work. His plan is so excellent that one wishes that he would reconsider his decision, and give to his native Province a work that promises so much of interest and value.

The Natural History Society of New Brunswick has on hand ten sets of Volume I (Bulletin I-V), which are being offered for sale. Students of science in the Maritime Provinces who want these publications should apply at once to Mr. P. G. Hall, the secretary of the Society, St. John.

#### TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

A parent said to a teacher a few days ago, "I have a boy and a girl in the same grade in different schools. It takes the girl three solid hours to do her homework, while the boy does his in less than half the time, and I think he cannot be getting along as well as the girl."

On inquiry, it was found that with the girl's teacher the out-memorizer system prevailed, and she was spending her time in the useless and heart-breaking task of committing her home lessons to memory, word for word. The boy was getting ideas and knowledge, and acquiring the faculty of expressing them. He was making far better progress with less than half the exertion. It shows the competency of the average parent to judge of the nature of home work. The parent mentioned thought his girl was doing the most satisfactory work, while she was merely becoming an automaton, repeating in parrot-like manner the words of the texts.

What shall be said of the two teachers? I would say that one of them was trying to do his duty according to modern and progressive methods of teaching, and the other was either disregarding all the maxims of the normal school or was too indolent to make the effort to draw from the child what was in her, finding it easier to be a hearer of lessons than to be a teacher. I can fancy to see her with the text book before her, the only effort required being to note that the lesson was recited word for word.

This happened in a city in which it is doubted whether a superintendent is required or not. It is time these old-fashioned teachers awoke to the signs and requirements of the times.

I think it is most desirable that an opportunity be afforded teachers to visit other schools, especially those having the same grades. This can be arranged very well in cities where there are reserve teachers. A comparison of ideas and methods must be of mutual benefit; especially is it requisite that young teachers should be given the chance to visit those of larger experience. Theory is first rate, but practice is better; and an hour or two devoted to observation of actual class work will convey more instruction than any amount of telling how it may be done. Avail yourself of all opportunities to visit other teachers at work, but go with the spirit of the learner, not of the critic.

Which arrangement is the best in city schools—One grade with two classes or two grades?

Nearly every teacher will answer at once—*one grade!* I agree if the two class idea is carried out as it should be. This is not always done. Teachers very often