

thus give every man in Scotland an independent right to free education for his children, without running the risk of having to choose between the two evils of either being fined for non-attendance or becoming a pauper?"

"Eh, but the tax would be ower heavy," said my cautious trustee.

I could not but think that to the majority of the people, whose prolificity increases as their means of subsistence decrease, a general tax for absolutely free education would be very much less oppressive than the present tax with the additional imposition of such heavy fees.

I had the opportunity of being present at a school examination last week, and a more comical farce it has seldom been my lot to witness. For weeks past the teachers had been in a state of nervous worry and anxiety, getting the children instructed, drilled and thrashed up to the passing point. For, be it known, "the tawse" a flat, leathern thong, with five cruel fingers, hard and sharp, still continues to be the most convincing argument in a Scotch school; although I noticed they were all carefully gathered up and hid away on examination day. That there had been a universal scouring and plaiting of flaxen hair the previous night was evident from the many crimped, shining tresses, set off with brand new knots of blue ribbon, which adorned the heads of the girls, who, all prim and proper in their Sunday "braws," sat patiently, with the boys, hour after hour, waiting the coming of the Inspector.

The children had previously been examined in arithmetic and grammar by the assistant inspector, but they had yet to undergo the ordeal of being personally examined by the great man himself. "Great man" here means, not personal greatness, but the being endowed with absolute power to pass or not pass—to give or withhold Government grants—just as to him seemeth good. The payment of grants by results is the rule, and by one man's judgment of results a whole county of schools is punished or rewarded. From his judgment there is no appeal, except to Parliament—and Parliament, composed of men whose children do not attend such schools—upholds in every case the Government appointee.

Last year the teachers of the county of Perth, an intelligent, educated class of men and women, unanimously rose and denounced the unreasonable tyranny of the Inspector for that county, and petitioned Parliament for a change. But the petition was pooh-poohed, and thrown out, and the small tyrant upheld in his authority. And so on things will go till they come to the end of the tether, when, let us hope, the whole system will snap, and Scotland at last have free education.

How these results are obtained I witnessed with wide-eyed wonder. When the Inspector entered the room where the class of boys and girls ranging in age from nine to thirteen had been waiting for two hours, I said to myself, "Falstaff!" Falstaff in broadcloth, with heavy gold chain and seals adorning his sleek paunch, gold spectacles gleaming on his prominent blue eyes, and an unmistakable flavour of fire old port about his rubicund visage. Evidently he was in a jolly humour, for he smiled on all as he strutted in, sniffing the air, and remarking that the room was cold—too cold. The teacher had just let down the windows to freshen the air for the weary children.

"And now," said he, after some preliminary questions were answered, "we come to the Seven Years' War. Wars, like people, you know, have their ancestors. What wars were the ancestors of the Seven Years' War?" No answer. "Come, now, I cannot be losing my valuable time with you like this," he exclaimed with asperity, while the younger children began to tremble; "I ask you who were the ancestors of the Seven Years' War?" Still no answer, while the teacher, behind his broad back, shook his head menacingly at the children. "Oh! dear me! dear me! this is awful. Now, look here, children—Do you know what ancestors are? You have fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers, haven't you?" "Yes, sir," they all spoke up promptly, for had they not many of them grandfathers and great-grandfathers, who, since ever they could remember, had sat in the big chair by the ingleside, waiting for the end, poor bodies? "You wouldn't be here without your father and grandfather, would you?" "No, sir." "Well, then, what was the father and grandfather of the Seven Years' War?" Silence and dumb consternation followed the question. The children thought of their grannies and grandfathers, but could connect their venerable old memories with the Seven Years' or any other war now. The Inspector was now red and ablaze with wrath. He spread out his palms in an attitude of despair as he strutted up and down before the class and exclaimed, "Well! well! well! I tell you what it is, if I had children like you to teach all the year through, I'd resign my situation. I would positively not waste my valuable time upon you. Let us take something else. Now, girls, who was Prince Charlie?—I ask at you because you know all the lassies were daft about Prince Charlie. Bonnie Prince Charlie, he was called, because he inherited a great deal of his mother's beauty. His father wasn't much, but his mother was a beautiful and accomplished Polish lady. And girls, I wish you to call him Charlie, not *Charlie*, any poodle-dog could be called *Charlie*. Say Charlie; bonnie Prince Charlie." It would be impossible for me to reproduce on paper the fat caressing tone in which this was said; however the girls all answered to his apparent satisfaction.

The boys, who had been nearly annihilated by their previous crossquestioning, had not quite recovered their spirits when he came back to them and questioned them about the taking of Canada by the British. Though well up in this history, they were so nervous and alarmed lest

they might possibly give a wrong answer, that they, much to the discomfort of their teacher, held back when they could well have spoken out. It was no joke to bring down instant upon their defenceless heads the sarcastic and wrathful denunciations of this Man of Fate. At last they were floored by the question, "What Marquis led the French forces at the taking of Quebec?" In their histories Montcalm had not once been mentioned by his title, so the boys sat trying to think of some Marquis. "The Marquis of Mont—? Mont—? come now, Mont—?" Suddenly a show of hands went up. "You!" said the Inspector, pointing to one whose parental consanguinity had well nigh eliminated intellect. "The Marquis of Montreal!" "Ha—ha—ha!" laughed the Inspector; "this is rich; a very good title, upon my word. Her Majesty might take the hint."

In the lesson on India he put this question: "What province did they try to wrest from the British?" "The Black Hole of Calcutta," promptly replied the same bright youth; nor was he at all abashed by the inextinguishable laughter of the Inspector and his classmates.

During a most delightful lesson in music, in which the children acquitted themselves splendidly, reading from the notes, and striking each one clear and decidedly, the following remarkable precept in hygiene was inculcated by the Inspector. Finding them so well up within the limit, he went beyond it a little, when the children faltered, finding themselves less certain. "Never mind," he said, good naturedly, "that was a little more than was necessary. But it won't hurt you; you will be there by and by. You know when you are going a long journey you always take a much bigger breakfast than you need, for fear you may not get any dinner. Always when you are going on a journey take twice the usual quantity of breakfast!"

I have space for no more than to say that in this way are found the results which decide whether the people of any school district shall or shall not have a grant of the money for which they themselves have been taxed. *Vice Canada!* especially Ontario, and Toronto in particular.—*Jessie Kerr Lawson, in The Week.*

THAT OFFER OF \$5,000.

Our readers will doubtless call to mind the offer so widely advertised for the past ten years by H. H. Warner & Co., the proprietors of Warner's Safe Remedies, that they would pay \$5,000 to any person who would prove to an impartial referee that they had ever published a testimonial that was not genuine so far as they knew.

This offer had the ring of honesty about it, and as the matter has an especial interest just now we give a copy of the offer as it appears in the Messrs. H. H. Warner & Co.'s pamphlet:

AN OFFER OF \$5,000.00.

Every Testimonial published by us is Bona Fide, and, so far as we know, is absolutely true. To any one who will prove the contrary to an impartial referee we will give \$5,000. Rochester, N.Y., January 2, 1888. H. H. WARNER & CO.

We ask the reader's careful attention to the following testimonials, as bearing on the offer, and their unbiased opinion of the same with reference to the \$5,000.

STRATHCLAIR, P. O. Manitoba, April 17th, 1888.—As I have been cured of Bright's Disease I know a great many more who could be cured by Warner's Safe Cure, if the medicine was brought before their notice.—JOHN L. WILSON HAMILTON, (105 Elgin St.), Ont., July 6th, 1888.—I have been troubled with Kidney disease in its worst form for from three to four years. For six months I could not attend to my business at all. As a last resort I tried Warner's Safe Cure, and found almost instant relief. I consider Warner's Safe Cure the best medicine known for all diseases of the kidneys.—A. J. DIAMOND.

PORT HORE, June 21st, 1888.—Between two and three years ago I was suffering a great deal of distress across the loins and kidneys. I was recommended Warner's Safe Cure, and before taking two bottles I passed a stone from the bladder, very hard, and have suffered nothing of any account since.—E. PHILIS.

KINGSTON, July 28th, 1888.—Two years ago my wife was confined to the bed for eight months the most of the time. She suffered great pain across the kidneys with a burning sensation in the abdomen. Her case was pronounced by her attendant physician to be one of the worst cases of diseased kidneys and prolapsus uteri. I advised her to try Warner's Safe Cure, and before she had taken two bottles was much better. She continued its use until she had taken over a dozen, and is now well and strong, and able to attend to all the cares of our home.—THOMAS HELOREN (Lumber dealer.)

There is no getting away from such testimony as the above. The offer is genuine. In fact Messrs. H. H. Warner & Co. have always requested that doubters should always write direct to persons giving testimonials (enclosing stamp), and who are of necessity, in the great majority of cases, totally unacquainted with the firm.

The Brompton Hospital for Consumptives, London, Eng., published a statement that fifty-two (52) per cent. of the patients of that institution have unsuspected kidney disorder. Prof. Wm. H. Thompson, of the University of the City of New York, says: "More adults are carried off in this country by chronic kidney disease than by any other one malady except consumption." The late Dr. Dio Lewis, in speaking of Warner's Safe Cure, says over his own signature: "If I found myself the victim of a serious kidney trouble, I would use Warner's Safe Cure."

British and Foreign.

DUNDEE U.P. Presbytery asked the Synod to take steps to prepare a supplement to the Hymnal.

THE Rev. Hugh Aird, M.A., of Brechin, is to receive the degree of D.D. from Glasgow University.

THE Rev. Henry Bremner, B.D., of Partick, is to receive the degree of D.D. from Glasgow University.

FIFTY thousand singers are to take part in the concert at the temperance *fete* in the Crystal Palace on July 9.

AN application for a hotel license for premises next to the new church in Argyll Square, Oban, has been refused.

MR. JAMES LEITCH, formerly rector of the training college at Glasgow, and a literateur of some distinction, is dead.

BOTH Mr. Smith, of Broughton Place, and Mr. Moffat, of Rose Street Church, Edinburgh, are at present sojourning in Rome.

THE whole amount contributed by the British aristocracy to Christian missions would not half support their own fox-hounds.

THE women of Edinburgh and Leith are signing a petition to the Queen and Parliament for the Government inspection of nunneries.

MR. JOHN TOD, author of "Bits from Blinkbonny," has been appointed president of the Edinburgh Sabbath School Association.

IT is stated authoritatively that the Rev. Thomas Hamilton, D.D., has been appointed President of the Queen's College, Belfast.

MR. WILLIAM MACKINTOSH, Q.C., formerly procurator of the Church, succeeds the late Lord Fraser as a judge of the Court of Session.

ABOUT \$40,000 has been subscribed towards the scheme for the endowment of fifty parishes, of which ministers have contributed \$5,000.

THE Revs. Allan Menzies, B.D., of Abernethy, and Henry M. Hamilton, of Hamilton, are to receive the degree of D.D. from Glasgow University.

FOR the first time since the Reformation the ceremony of the reception of a nun to a Roman Catholic sisterhood was performed lately at Dumfries.

MR. McKAY, Clerk of the Free Synod of Caithness, thinks the evictions in Strathnaver are a divine judgment for the illicit distillation of whiskey in the district.

THE past session of the theological society in Glasgow University, has been one of the most prosperous in its history, there being on the roll over sixty members.

ABERDEEN Presbytery, in view of the rapid growth of the city, contemplate church extension, and two ladies not connected with the church promised a site worth nearly \$7,500.

THE Rev. Alex. R. MacEwan, B.D., of Anderston Church, Glasgow, will, it is rumoured, be asked to accept the pastorate of Claremont Church, of which his father was the first minister.

THE commission in Scotland intrusted by Knox Church, Dunedin, with the duty of selecting a co-pastor and successor to Dr. Stuart consists of six laymen; and the stipend offered is \$3,000.

MR. MARK STEWART, M.P., besides providing Dalbeattie with a sick nurse at a salary of \$350, is about to erect a church at Caulkerbush, which he will endow with a stipend of \$2,000.

PRINCIPAL EDWARDS, seeing no reasonable prospect of establishing a strong theological college in North Wales, has declined the invitation from Bala, and decided to remain at Aberystwith.

MR. WILLIAM DICKSON, of Edinburgh, for upwards of a quarter of a century Convener of the Sabbath School Committee, and for many years editor of the *Monthly Visitor*, has died in his seventy-second year.

DR. JOHN MACLEOD, of Govan, emulates a section of the Episcopal Church. His "Easter services," extending from Thursday evening till Sunday, will probably be suggestive of Puseyism to staunch Protestants.

PRINCIPAL CAIRNS will be the preacher at the Secession celebration at Gatheshaw Brae, near Morebattle, on Tuesday, July 2, and addresses will be delivered by Dr. Oliver, of Glasgow and Mr. M'Tavish, of Morebattle.

THE turnover of Bass and Co. is a little less than £2,400,000, and only one shilling and a penny farthing in the pound is paid for manual labour. Manual labour in distilling is paid by not quite wopence for every sovereign's worth of liquor.

THE report submitted to the Glasgow Presbytery on the Augmentation of Stipends was more favourable than had been presented for several years. Of sixty-four congregations twenty-eight have increased their contributions, the total increase being \$780.

AN East-end London pastor has shocked even the least sensitive of his neighbours by issuing a card with this inscription: "Admit bearer, Sunday evening, at 6.30. Subject, 'The Recent Murder: a description of my visits to the prisoner in Holloway Gaol.'"

DR. ANDREW THOMSON became faint in the pulpit of Broughton Place, Edinburgh, towards the close of the forenoon service on a recent Sabbath, and had to be assisted to the vestry. Principal Cairns, who is a member of the Church, and was present, conducted the remainder of the service. His illness is not regarded as serious.

THE Belfast *Witness* says: We are authorized to state that the venerable Professor of Church History in the Assembly's College, Belfast, having intimated that he intends asking the Assembly to permit him to retire from the active duties of the chair, the Rev. James Heron, Dundela, purposes being a candidate for the vacancy which no doubt will be thus created.

AN old ball room, part of an ancient palace in the Rue Rivoli, has just been added to the Parisian preaching stations of the M'All Mission, and a very citadel of Satan converted into a citadel for Christ. The accommodation in the various stations has increased from 512 in 1872 to nearly 20,000 in the present year. The work now extends to sixty-seven towns and villages.