

Echoes of the Past

60 YEARS AGO

(From the Spectator files of
Monday, September 12, 1887.)

Mr. G. W. Johnson, of this city, has compiled a book to which he has given the title, The Public School Speller and Word Book. The compilation of the book has given Mr. Johnson much labour, and the result is a fairly accurate work which, as far as it goes, will be a great help to those school teachers who have forgotten some of the things they were taught when they were pupils. Inasmuch as the Public School Speller and Word Book treats only of the words found in the lessons of the Second and Third Readers, it is not by any means a complete guide to the spelling and pronouncing of the words of the English language. In fact, only some twelve thousand words are shown in the book. Although the book might be of great assistance to the teacher, it is difficult to understand how it can be made profitable to the pupil. It contains no word not found in the readers; it contains nothing that a teacher is not supposed to know.

The seam of rock in the Cherry Street sewer is two feet thick, and is giving the workmen lots of trouble. Thirty dynamite blasts were made on Friday.