

## Notes and Comments.

WE regret to say that owing to an accident in the process of electrotyping the cuts for Mr. Reading's first article on Elementary Drawing, we are unable to insert this in our present issue. It will appear next week without fail.

MR. ARTHUR J. READING writes to us as follows:—"I notice a couple of errors that have crept into my last article. On page 269, first column, twelfth line, LG should read LD; and in the thirtieth line, in the same column, 10' should read 6'.

WE have this week placed under the head of Public School matters a selection from the New York Nation on "Shall and Will." Though perhaps properly belonging to public school work, we can recommend it to all who are in any way doubtful of the proper use of these auxiliaries, or who take an interest in the rules which govern them.

PROF. FAY, of Tuft's College, recently asked three hundred and fifty college professors their opinion as to the proper modern language equivalent for the Greek required for admission to college. Sixty-seven per cent as between German and French, advocated German, on account of its superior disciplinary value.—*The Current*.

*The Atlantic Monthly* for May does not differ materially from its predecessors. "The Prophet of the Great Smoky Mountains," by Charles Egbert Craddock is continued, as also is Oliver Wendell Holmes' "The New Portfolio." Richard A. Proctor contributes an article on "The Misused H of England," and Henry James offers some remarks on "George Eliot's Life."

It may perhaps seem strange to our readers that we should cull from the pages of a blue-book for our Literature and Science columns. Mr. Phipps, however, the writer of the Report of Forestry for 1884 which is now in the hands of all interested in that science, is not merely a compiler of blue-books. Added to this is the fact that many will, we doubt not, be glad to receive hints from a competent authority as to the selection of trees with which to adorn the school grounds on the 8th of May next.

WE have received from Messrs. Selby & Company, of Yonge-street, Toronto, two tracts, of a series which they have had prepared for gratuitous distribution, descriptive of the Kindergarten methods and movement. They are well worth reading, and will be useful to those who desire to obtain Kindergarten information. Messrs. Selby will send them to any address on application. We are pleased to learn that the business of the Messrs. Selby has so much improved that they are about to remove to new premises on

Wellington-street, where they will devote themselves entirely to the wholesale trade.

THE last Johns Hopkins Circular contains President Gilman's anniversary address (Feb. 22nd). His subject this year is "The Benefit which Society Derives from Universities," and richly does it deserve the large and clear print in which it appears. Such a theme indeed cannot be "writ" too large and clear, though few are capable of presenting it so suggestively as the accomplished head of the new University. No matter what President Gilman's subject may be, he always contrives ingeniously to touch on every discipline taught in the University, and thus harmonize the "sweet bells" which are apt to be "jangled" by this or that over-ambitious professor. He writes in the interest of a true cosmopolitan culture, and tries to give every Cæsar his due.—*The Critic*.

THE people of Toronto on Tuesday last undertook a most laudable and philanthropic project. Subscriptions were solicited and a committee of ladies formed for the purpose of sending to the North-West parcels for the comfort of our troops there employed. Merchants supplied goods for the volunteers generally, and private individuals prepared packages to be sent by the committee to the scene of action. A most liberal donation was forthcoming, and parcels were carried to the premises chosen for their deposition from 9 a. m. till 2 p. m. without cessation. A goodly pile of goods, both of necessities and comforts, was accumulated, and no doubt the donors are thinking with pleasure of the glee with which they will be welcomed by those who have undergone so many hardships so far from home.

THE teachers, in some of the educational journals, are pleading earnestly for permanent tenure of office. Miss Mary A. Livermore advocates it in the *Journal of Education*, on the ground that the system of annual elections frequently compromises the integrity and justice of the school committees, and also because it prevents the teachers from taking that stand in public and social affairs which they have the right to take and could take with honor to themselves and benefit to society. President Eliot, of Harvard University, in the same journal also favors it, and, logically, the retirement of superannuated teachers upon pensions or annuities. The States of California and Maryland, and the City of New York already appoint their teachers without limitation of time.—*The Current*.

Nos. 19 and 20 of the *American Journal of Philology* (Baltimore) show unabated ability in the scope, variety, and importance of the articles. In the former there is a delightful and affectionate memorial sketch of the great Humanist, Friedrich Ritschl, from the pen of Prof. Gildersleeve (the editor),

who was one of his pupils. Prof. Whitney writes learnedly on the study of Hindu Grammar and of Sanskrit. In No. 20, perhaps the most interesting article is Mr. T. Davidson's review of Prof. Child's book of ballads. Reviews in the technical field of linguistics, reports of the "big-wig" German classical and Oriental periodicals, such as the *Philologus*, *Mnemosyne*, *Rheinisches Museum*, etc., fill up the background with things new and old. This *Journal* is a most creditable exponent of American scholarship.—*The Critic*.

POLITICS and international relations seem at present to be absorbing the interest of the world. The imminence of war between Great Britain and Russia, the quarrel between France and Egypt over the affair of the *Bosphore Egyptien*, the quickly-patched-up peace between the French and Chinese, to say nothing of our North-West expedition, are matters which all talk of and which over-top all others in prominence. War between Russia and England, according to the consensus of opinion, is inevitable sooner or later. Many believe that Mr. Gladstone is doing his utmost to gain time. Russia has been preparing for many years for the contest; England has been taken somewhat unawares. The latter is now straining every nerve to put her army and navy on a thoroughly efficient footing. India, too, is perfecting all her military forces. A struggle between two such nations in this civilized age would be something terrific. The whole of Europe and the greater part of Asia would be convulsed. Commerce would probably suffer in ways at present impossible to conjecture. And if, as is said, France is seriously proposing entering the affray as England's antagonist, it is difficult to see what the effect of the meeting of such belligerents would have upon the world at large. One would think that no stone should be left unturned, both by the nations directly concerned, and by those who merely take the part of on-lookers, to prevent war. Yet, according to late telegraphic despatches, Germany decries arbitration, France, as we see, is eager to join in the tumult—in short, no power seems willing to exert herself in an endeavor to prevent bloodshed and misery. Our own troubles in the North-west are attaining serious proportions. The rebels fight well and hard. In the recent engagement our forces lost heavily. Fifteen per cent of those in action were wounded or killed, and, as far as appears, without a proportionate amount of injury being inflicted upon the enemy. Riel is said to be determined; his followers certainly are; and it will probably be some time yet before our militia set foot again in their own homes. Teachers might, by short conversations, acquaint their pupils of what is going on around them. Such things will never be forgotten, and will rouse their interest and curiosity.