

tors trained to this special work. What then can be done? Can we get the department without the expense? The excellent and practical little problem of B. R. W. suggests that we can. Open a department, Gentlemen, to publish problems (especially those suited to second and third class teachers) and their answers with occasional hints for the solutions, provided that no mathematical formulæ or diagrams are needed in the problem or the answer; give the names and addresses of the proposers, and solvers; add to this notes on special methods in teaching mathematics, and notices of any recent discoveries or researches, in the science; and finally for those who like such things, *curiosities*. The first part will meet the wants of those who fail in word-problems, the very class that needs training; the second may give rise to intercommunication between teachers regarding the problems leading to mutual encouragement and perhaps to many friendships; the third part would be for the more advanced students, especially for those who direct their attention to original researches,—it is well for these not to fritter away their time on questions long solved, or in rediscovering known theories. A department of this kind would also be an experiment, to test whether the number of your subscribers who take an interest in such a department is sufficient to warrant you in going to extra expense for their sake, and in devoting to them space which properly belongs to all.

And now a word to those who desire a Mathematical Department. If such is opened show your appreciation by taking an *active* part in discussions in it, and by doing your best to extend the circulation of the TEACHER. The first will justify the editors in specializing a column or page, the second will no doubt be a very acceptable way of thanking these gentlemen for their extra outlay for your benefit.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

J. C. GLASHAN.

THE NEW SCHOOL BILL.—Very near the close of the session, Attorney General Mowat introduced his promised Bill to amend and improve the School Acts of Ontario. We had intended giving the Bill in full in this Number, but as several members objected to many of its clauses, and there was no time for discussion, the Bill was withdrawn and will not come up again till next Session; it is therefore quite unnecessary to give it in this issue. We will take an early opportunity of pointing out its merits and defects, and would only now say that it provided for three elective members of the Council of Public Instruction, one elected by Inspectors, one by Masters of High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, and one by Head Teachers of Public and Separate Schools. It gave to the County Councils entire control of the High Schools, and provided a dif-

ferent process for the admission of pupils. It also made a number of provisions of more or less importance in preference to Public Schools.

EDUCATIONAL TURMOIL IN ENGLAND.—As our readers are aware a great educational question has recently led to a Government crisis in England. Mr. Gladstone's University Bill was regarded by him as a natural sequence to his Irish Church Disendowment Bill; he bestowed on it a great deal of labor, made it his pet measure, and staked on it the very existence of the Government. He proposed to make the University national and undenominational, to banish from it the chairs of Theology, Philosophy, and History, and make it open to all classes and sects of her Majesty's subjects. Although the attempt failed by the narrow majority of three, in a house of five hundred and seventy-one, yet the progress of truth is ever onward, and we confidently believe the time is not far distant when the principle of Mr. Gladstone's Bill will triumph.

IS IT SO? The *St. Catharines News* has recently been making some very heavy charges against the Council of Public Instruction, the Chief Superintendent, and by implication against members of the Ontario Government. The charges made by our contemporary are substantially as follows: That the Council virtually consists of four men with the Chief Superintendent; that three of these four have been on their trial as High School Trustees before the Toronto public for summarily dismissing at a packed meeting two competent Masters to make a vacancy for a Trustee's son who had never taught; that they have preferred very serious charges against each other, that while dictating school architecture to the Province they were building their own School House without chimneys; that some of them have already solemnly pledged themselves to Hon. R. W. Scott that they will, in any event and against all competitors, support certain Roman Catholic nominees of Mr. Scott's for the Masterships of the unbuild Normal School at Ottawa, so as to make that institution a denominational training school; that Dr. Ryerson is assisting Mr. Scott in this scheme; that certain members of the Council, while pretending to work for nothing, extorted large sums from publishers of school books, under regulations drafted by themselves. These, certainly, are very grave and weighty charges, and though Dr. Ryerson denies several of them explicitly in the *Toronto Mail*, we believe nothing less than a full and complete vindication will satisfy the public. Without giving any opinion of our own at present, we promise to watch the controversy closely, and present to our readers such conclusions as we may be able to arrive at in reference to it.

BACK NUMBERS.—We regret that in consequence of rapid increase in our circulation, far exceeding our expectations, we shall henceforth be unable to supply back numbers. All subscribers will, however, receive 12 numbers.

ADDITIONAL NORMAL SCHOOL.—The Legislature has sanctioned the Government appropriation of \$96,000 to build an additional Normal School at Ottawa.