

there may have been some questions given in the past which tended to create this impression, but for the future those who study Notes and Comments chiefly will be apt to be disappointed. In this connection special mention may be made at present of Tennyson's *Princess*, prescribed for Grade B next year. There are over 3,300 lines in the poem, and it is possible to buy an edition with two pages of editorial matter to one of Tennyson's poetry. However useful such an edition may be to a teacher who may happen to need it, it is not at all the sort of book which our pupils should be asked to buy. It is the poem itself which they are to read, and study, and enjoy. What difficulties they meet with they should be encouraged to try and overcome by their own research and thought, and when these fail, then the resources of the teacher may be drawn on. If there happen to be some puzzles so very hard that they cannot be solved by these means, they may well be left over for a future day, and then the pleasure of solving them, or of finding them solved, will be much greater than it would have been if the solution had been forced upon the attention by some editor at the first reading.

BAY OF FUNDY TIDES.

The following correction of text book and newspaper errors in reference to the Bay of Fundy Tides is issued by the Tidal Survey, Department of Marine, Ottawa :—

"In the Bay of Fundy the height of the tide, while quite exceptional, has been much exaggerated. From careful measurements made daily for four months by the engineers of the Chignecto Ship Railway, the extreme range in Cumberland Basin, at the head of the Bay, was 49 feet; and the average spring range was 42.21 feet. From the lowest level of low water then observed to the level of the highest tide ever known, which flooded the country in October, 1869, during a severe storm, the greatest range in Cumberland Basin is 53 feet. At Noel Bay, near the head of the other arm of the Bay of Fundy, the range of ordinary spring tides, as stated in the Admiralty charts, is 50½ feet. These measurements are re-published in "Report of Progress, Canadian Tidal Survey," for 1898. The noteworthy tidal bore, which occurs at Moncton, on the Petitcodiac River, at the head of the Bay of Fundy, is described and illustrated with diagrams in the Report for the same year."

SHORTHAND.

Shorthand will probably be added as an "optional" to the High School Course of Study next year. Possibly the Council may grant special licenses for those capable of teaching it, as it is proposed to do in the case of Manual work in wood and in the Domestic Arts. The certificates of trustworthy institutions may be accepted by the Council from year to year on the applications of Boards of Trustees, instead of those of a Provincial Examiner, in the meantime.

Now there is an endless variety of shorthand systems. It is desirable, *first*, to select the best, and *secondly*, and of greater importance, a system which even should its being the best be doubtful, gives promise of becoming universally used.

The Sir Isaac Pitman Phonography is undoubtedly, when all points are considered, the best system. Of this there are, unfortunately, two more important varieties, one an older form of Isaac Pitman's Phonography, generally known as the Benn Pitman system, largely used in the United States. The principal difference is simply the transposition of the position of the vowel sounds *ah* and *ee*. The reader of the one system can in a few minutes learn to read the other in a more or less halting fashion. But they are different; and an easy knowledge and use of the one does not imply the same with the other except after much practice, and even then there is danger of confusion.