

ledge rather than a mere dictionary of words."—*Sir Wm. Dawson.*

"Webster's Unabridged Dictionary is, in my opinion, unequalled by any work in the field of lexicography. I would like to see Boards of School Trustees place a copy of it in at least every Grammar and Superior School in the Province.—*Wm. Crockett, M. A., Chief Superintendent of Education for N. B.*

"Webster, in its present form, holds an easy pre-eminence. I may add that it has been the standard of appeal in the Provincial Normal School, Truro, N. S., since the establishment of the institution about thirty years ago."—*J. B. Calkin, M. A., Principal N. S. Normal School.*

RECITATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS. Published by Charles A. Bates, Indianapolis. Price 25 cents. This contains many appropriate Christmas pieces, both in poetry and prose.

A NEW PART-SONG AND CHORUS BOOK. For high schools, academies, choral societies and families, by Charles E. Whiting, formerly teacher of music in the Boston public schools. D. C. Heath & Company, Boston, 1887. It consists of six departments, namely: condensed elementary course; vocal exercises; two, three, and four-part solfeggios; three and four-part songs; anthems and choruses; and hymn tunes. Our readers can form an idea of its size when we say it is about eight by ten inches, with 256 pages. From the reputation of its author and the publishers, our readers must conclude that the work must be one of the best of its kind. An examination of the work will not fail to convince the sceptical.

FRESH WATER SPONGES. A monograph by Edward Potts, member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. This is a synopsis of all the forms of American fresh water sponges known, with descriptions of those named by other authors throughout the world. It is the latest and most complete presentation of this department of zoology in existence, and reflects much credit on the author who has distinguished himself by a contribution to science of lasting value. It contains a series of plates illustrating general and specific structure. These representations have been superbly and accurately executed.

THE CITIZEN'S READER. By H. O. Arnold Forster, with an introduction by Hon. W. E. Forster. This book, referred to in Mr. Parkin's paper on "Teaching the Principles of Civil Government," is published by Cassell & Co., of London and New York, and can be ordered through any bookseller. The English price is only one and sixpence. Of it the *English Journal of Education* says: "We have no hesitation in pronouncing Messrs. Cassell's 'Citizen's Reader' the most important contribution to the literature of elementary education that has appeared in the last decade." This is high praise, but the very large sale which the book has had seems to prove that the popular verdict ratifies the critical opinion. Any boy in the British empire would be the better citizen for reading this volume, and we

trust it will find its way into many Canadian homes. In style it is as far as possible removed from the dryness of the ordinary text-book, and the volume will be found interesting reading for grown up people as well as for the young.

NATURALISTS' LEISURE HOUR AND MONTHLY BULLETIN. Published by A. E. Foote, 1223 Belmont Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa., U. S. A. 75 cents a year. Contains lists classified of the largest American collection of books and works in every department of science. Mr. Foote has also one of the largest mineralogical collections of any individual.

The Conchologists' Exchange. Are you interested in the collection of shells? then get this exchange Monthly; only 50 cents a year. Published by Wm. D. Averell, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa., U. S. A. . . . *The Illustrated London News.* It is, perhaps not generally known that this enterprising and magnificent weekly, printed in America from London advance plates, is now, under this arrangement, obtained at considerably reduced rates. The Christmas number has been received. Its illustrations are elegant and beautiful and in the highest style of art. . . . *The Acadia Athenaeum,* the organ of the students of Acadia College, is one of the finest looking of our college exchanges. . . . *The Fordham Monthly* issues a magnificent annual number. . . . *The Dalhousie Gazette* means business. It is published fortnightly, and never looked better. It points out that nearly twenty of its graduates and alumni are in the academies and high schools of Nova Scotia. . . . *The Swiss Cross* for December is an admirable number. It gives evidence of a desire to meet the wants of its numerous readers. As a magazine for furnishing delightful instruction in natural history it has no equal. We are glad to hear of its success. The lesson on ferns, by Prof. W. W. Bailey, in the current number, is well fitted to create an interest in an interesting subject. . . . *The Century* for December contains a fine portrait of Lincoln. The illustrated "Notes on Parisian Newspapers" is a graphic sketch of Bohemian life in the great metropolis. *The Century* gives promise of unusual excellence for the coming year. See advertisement in another column. . . . *Science* for December devotes its leading article to a discussion of manual training in New York schools, showing the advance of public opinion on this question during the past year. This scientific periodical is doing much in behalf of practical education. . . . *The Popular Science Monthly* for December has an interesting and varied table of contents in which is an article by Grant Allen on American Potentillas, a genus of plants well known and widely diffused throughout the Atlantic Provinces. Mr. Allen frequently refers in the article to observations made during his recent visit to Canada. . . . The Christmas number of *St. Nicholas* is well fitted to inspire a keen and lively relish for approaching festivities. It is an admirable number. No more appropriate Christmas present for a boy or girl could be devised than a year's subscription to *St. Nicholas.* Refer to the advertisement in another column for the attractions it promises next year, and it will keep its promises. . . . *L'Evangeline,* a new weekly French paper published at Digby, N. S., has come to hand. It makes a very creditable debut, and has commenced a series of articles on education.