

source from which all else must spring in the education of children? My answer is certainly, no. The central interest should be for them their natural and their human surroundings—plants, animals, and human beings. It is from intercourse with these that the stories must spring, not knowledge of these merely from the stories. In what I have been just saying, I have been dealing with one only of the means at the teacher's command, one only of the higher uses of fact. There are other means and other uses which have to be considered before we can decide on what shall be predominant. But, whatever may be our decision, the firm basis of all must be reality, matter of fact. There is no valuable art, there is no sound morality, which is not firmly rooted in fact, and does not grow up from thence by means of experience. But in both there is something more than matter of fact—the aspiring spirit of humanity,

Still climbing after *wisdom* infinite  
And always moving as the restless spheres.

We shall not compass our great ends as teachers, we shall not rear true men and women, by restricting children to matter of fact, and clipping the pinions of their roving fancies. As imagination and idealization without fact become empty dreaming vanishing phantoms, so fact without imagination and idealization makes man a beast of burden or a machine.—*Educational Times.*

One of the greatest mistakes that can be made by teachers in beginning school in September, is the sudden change they feel called upon to make in their out-door life. There should be just as little change as possible. The longer the vacation feeling can be cherished the better for everybody. Let the "new leaf" be turned very slowly, and the "settling down to work" be one of those things that comes of itself.

## THE TRANSVAAL.

BY EDWARD J. PARROTT.

### THE TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC.

IN 1852, the Transvaal Republic, under the title of the South African Republic, was formed. The British Government recognized the independence of the emigrants beyond the Vaal in 1853 by the Sand River Convention, and two years later granted the "Orange River" Boers permission to set up their own government as the "Orange Free State." For a time the Boers lived quietly, peopling the country, growing their crops and amassing great flocks and herds. The Transvaal before the gold discoveries, languished in poverty, and in 1876 its Government practically collapsed

owing to the impoverishment of the country due to the heavy strain of military service against the Kaffirs and Zulus. In 1877, the Government decided to establish the Queen's authority in the Transvaal, and a commission was issued empowering Sir Theophilus Shepstone to take the necessary measures. The Boers resisted from the first. They armed and drilled for three years, and early in 1881 began their War of Independence by massacring a company of the 94th Regiment at Bronkhorst Spruit.

### THE TRANSVAAL WAR OF 1881.

This war has been described as "unfortunate and wretchedly misman-