

PROMOTIONS.

There is no better criterion of a teacher's honor than the scrupulous care he displays in the promotion of his scholars. It is not uncommon to find pupils promoted simply to avoid the dissatisfaction arising from parents, on account of their children being too long, as they say, in one book. Yielding to this pressure works irreparable mischief to both teacher and pupil; to the former by the self-betrayal of his own act; to the latter, by an introduction to work for which he is not prepared. On the conscientious successor who undertakes to rectify the classification so falsely performed, falls a storm of abuse which may take months to turn, so as to gain as much popularity as his less deserving predecessor.

Most parents are keenly sensitive to their children's success or failures, hence the greater necessity for clear judgment in promotion. To do, in grading as in many other things, is much easier than to undo.

The important lessons of thoroughness and industry are seldom learned in a school where good scholarship as a condition of promotion, is not insisted upon. Nothing is more valuable in acquiring an education than that each step be taken well. It is a training for future years. If a boy be brought to overcome difficulties in early life, the practice becomes so fixed in his character that he will disdain everything that has the semblance of sham. Students who are kept back, naturally are annoyed at what seems to them a loss of time, but also feel disgraced by having a junior class overtake them. When it is once discovered that a pupil cannot slip in without he bears the merit of scholarship, it will have a good disciplining effect upon the school as a whole.

It is true that some fall behind on account of ill health and immaturity. All cannot learn with equal facility, and not unfrequently a person whose mind acts slowly will prove to be capable of excellent attainments in the end. But this is the measure of an individual not of a class, and as the greatest good to the greatest number would require that a scholar who was not able to keep up should be set down to a lower class, no one should ask the standard to go to the scholar, but the scholar to the standard. Unfortunately for our schools the former is too often the rule. Pupils are advanced in the N. S. common school course on an average mark of 50, and even less in graded schools where the press of lower rooms necessitates it. This is lamentable if the pupils are asked to do the work of the higher room.

No system, however well graded, can avoid the congestion of grades at intervals. No school board would be warranted in employing sufficient teachers to meet the emergency of the case, as some other room

has a very small number for the very reasons that the other was overfilled. Consequently there is but one remedy for the block, this is—to give teachers different grades of work just as their classes increase or decrease.

THE WORLD MOVES.

On the 12th of October next year, the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus, the railways of America will probably adopt the 24 hour notation. A Canadian, Mr. Sanford Fleming, has taken the lead in the introduction of improved time notation. In 1883 the hour zone system was adopted by our railway systems, and our cities. The rapidity and amount of railway travel, and the common use of the telegraph, calls for further advance. We now need world time to suit their interests. And world time will after a little temporary inconvenience be as simple as our old-fashioned local time. Every clock and watch in the world will, under the new order, show the same time at the same instant. If it will be agreed to take the sun's noon passage over the 180th meridian from Greenwich to make, say, the beginning of Monday, hour 0, then our Sunday midnight (Monday morning) here would occur at four o'clock world time. School would open at thirteen, noon dinner come at sixteen, five o'clock teas commence at twenty-one o'clock, and the old-fashioned eight o'clock evening prayer-meeting would open at twenty-four o'clock and close at one o'clock next day. The legal local day in different parts of the country would have to be specified as lasting from one given hour to another, depending on the longitude of the locality. We shall have much pleasure in noting, as soon as we get it, the full scheme of the American Society of Civil Engineers, who are heavily responsible for the proposed innovation.

SOME of the inspectors are complaining of the weather. Such a January is not remembered. In the southern part of the Province of New Brunswick there has been no snow to make sleighing at all, and the inspectors there have not been able to do any country work at a distance from their headquarters.

THERE is a prejudice in some quarters against married women teaching. This exists in some places to such an extent that local regulations have been passed excluding them. Why should married women not teach? There is nothing in the training of the home at variance with the qualities required of a teacher; on the contrary there is much in it to fit a woman for the fulfilment of a teacher's duties. This province owes much to the work of married women in its schoolrooms.