

TOPICS FOR THE SCHOOL ROOM.

The famine in Russia still continues and the suffering is becoming more intense and widespread. It is estimated that 30,000,000 people are in want of food, and fears of an insurrection are entertained. The government has prohibited the exportation of grain, but relief measures are very tardy and ineffective. It is thought by some that Russia must engage in war in order to distract public attention from the condition of the country. The government discourages measures for private relief, and has undertaken to deal with it from an administrative standpoint. It has been discovered that very little of means devoted to relief reaches its destined end, being appropriated by corrupt officials.

There is a rebellion going on in China and foreigners are being very badly treated. It is rumored that there is an alliance between China and England against Russia, who is encroaching on the Chinese frontier.

At the next session of the United States Congress applications for admission as States will be presented from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Oklahoma.

France and Morocco are disputing over the ownership of Touat, an oasis in the Sahara. The oasis is valuable, as it is on the route between Algeria and Senegal, both French possessions.

A recent survey of the Alaskan boundary line between Canada and the United States has shown that the line has heretofore been located too far east. This has always been the Canadian contention. The change will give Canada the most valuable mining privileges in Alaska.

Preparations for the World's Fair go on apace. Montana is to erect a miniature mountain and construct within it a vein of ore, shafts, tunnels, drifts and levels. On the outside will be trees and grasses native to the country. On one side of the mountain will be a miner's cabin and on the other side a waterfall. California is to exhibit ostriches. A proposition is made to construct an immense globe building resting on the back of a giant and capable of seating 10,000 or 15,000 people. From the ground to the top of the building is 450 feet. A balcony represents the equatorial line. The semi-circular ceiling will represent the heavens, with the stars placed as they were on the night of October 11, 1492. The outside is to be of glass, except the space occupied by the continents. When lighted by electricity from within a distinct outline of the continents and oceans of the world would be shown.

France and Bulgaria are quarreling. Bulgaria expelled a French newspaper correspondent for meddling in political affairs. France, instigated it is supposed by Russia, demands his recall. Bulgaria, encouraged by Germany and Austria, refuses.

The United States government is hurriedly getting its navy ready to cope with Chili. It is not thought that there will be a conflict between the two countries, but often the best way to secure peace is to prepare for war. How do the two countries compare in products, wealth and population?

The British have had a brush with some of the border natives in India. The locality is called the Pamir Territory, on the border of Russia, China and India, the boundaries of which have never been exactly defined at this point. Russian intrigue with the natives is supposed to have caused the conflict. The British were victorious.

Some Mexican rebels have taken refuge in Texas where they were attacked by United States troops. There are conflicting reports of the result.

QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

STUDENT.—In teaching English text-books available, I find a lack of clearness as to when we shall use the past tense, when the perfect. My custom has been to teach the pupil to use the past tense when the action occurred at a certain time now past, and the perfect when the time though past is indefinite. Will some of your readers give their method of dealing with the subject?

As several mistakes occurred in the solution of the following problem, sent by Mr. D. R. Boyle, West Arichat, C. B., in the November REVIEW, it is here republished: A says to B, if the number of my apples squared be added to yours it will be 40; but says B to A, if the square of mine be added to yours it will be 22. How many apples had each?

$$\begin{aligned}
 x^2 + y &= 40 & (1) \\
 x + y^2 &= 22 & (2) \\
 (1) \times y &= x^2 y + y^2 = 40y & (3) \\
 (3) - (2) &= x^2 y - x = 40y - 22 & (4) \\
 (4) + 4(1) &= x^2 y + 4x^2 - x = 36y + 138 & (5) \\
 (5) \text{ Resolved,} &= x^2 - \frac{x}{y+4} = \frac{36y+138}{y+4} & (6) \\
 (6) \text{ Comp. eqrs.} &= x^2 - \frac{x}{y+4} + \frac{1}{4(y+4)^2} = & \\
 &= \frac{144y^2 + 1138y + 2209}{4(y+4)^2} & (7) \\
 (7) \text{ Ext. roots,} &= x = \frac{1}{2(y+4)} = \frac{12y+47}{2(y+4)} & (8) \\
 (8) \text{ Transp.} &= x = \frac{12y+48}{2(y+4)} & (9) \\
 \therefore x &= 6 & (10)
 \end{aligned}$$

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

The following students of the Tonic Sol-fa system under Rev. James Anderson, M. A., have been awarded elementary certificates: Alberta Forbes, Malcolm McLeod, Hannah McDonald, Laura Roberts, Murray Harbor, P. E. I.; Emma McInnis, G. W. Dill, Harriet D. Gregg, Lydia E. Williams, Grace L. Orr, Mary G. Gunn, Annie M. Hea, Eveleen Enslow, Bessie Wilson, June W. Estey, Belle Thompson, Kate Cotter, Mary E. Hayes, Bessie G. Thompson, Sister Ann Teresa, Sister Mary Joseph, Sister Mary De Chantal, Sister Mary Marcellina, Sister Mary Bridget, St. John; and the intermediate certificates to Harriet D. Gregg and Emma McInnis, St. John. Emma McInnis, St. John, has also received an elementary theory certificate.

The School at Eel River, York Co., N. B., under the charge of Mr. Girdwood, has a library of over 50 volumes. A recent entertainment enabled teacher and pupils to add quite largely to the number.

Misses Brown, Ganong and Beattie have been appointed by the St. Stephen Board to take the places of Misses Dibblee, Bridges and Lyle.

Miss Bessie Williamson, of Fredericton, has been appointed to the principalship of the school at Lincoln, Sunbury Co., N. B., in room of Mr. D. L. Mitchell.