

nearly inaccessible cliff, over a water-fall which gouges its wild way into Pirate's Cove on the Strait of Canso; and over the Niagara of Nova Scotia, where the tawny flood of the Moose river leaps from the Cobequid Range to the lands beneath; and over the crystal Minnehaha, where the falling white foam forms a portiere in perhaps the most picturesque sylvan cave scene of these provinces? How could this delicate little plant, this fragrant arctic member of a coarse and common family, plant itself in so few and at so distant points? It never could. It never did. It tells a pathetic tale. Long ere Glooscap and his people played their pranks in the virgin forests of Nova Scotia, when the glacial winter of ages was slowly retreating northward, and the arctic sting was even in the summer breath, then *Aspidium fragrans* probably flourished in every ravine and along every stream. Possibly the increase of temperature made the habitat less favorable, and the fern is slowly but surely dying out, remaining yet only in the most favored spots where deep gorges and the vapor from the water-falls combine to keep it cool. It is a most interesting relic of a past age; older than the red-man's skull, or the treasures of the stone age.

WEBSTER'S INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY.

This great work has just been published by G. & C. Merriam & Co., Springfield, Conn. It marks another era in the history of the famous dictionaries that bear the name of Webster, and is the legitimate successor of the great Unabridged Dictionary, published in 1864. The International Dictionary is the "Unabridged" thoroughly re-edited by Dr. Noah Porter, of Yale University, with a staff of co-laborers; the work extending over ten years, costing in editing, illustrating, etc., over three hundred thousand dollars. A glance through its pages shows its completeness as a work of reference, as well as its marvellous typographical excellence. In an introduction of 100 pages it includes a comprehensive history of the English language. The body of the work comprises nearly 1,700 pages, with over 114,000 words, with pronunciation and definitions, accompanied by nearly 4,000 illustrations. In an appendix of over 300 pages we find a Dictionary of Noted Names of Fiction; a Geographical Dictionary; a pronouncing Biographical Dictionary, etc., with a selection of pictorial illustrations — the whole work of over 2,000 pages forming a library in itself. The work is for sale by Messrs J. & A. McMillan, St. John; price \$10.

The school trustees who would invest in Webster's International and place it in the school room would confer an inestimable boon on the rising generation.

GEOGRAPHY.

The text book, with its regular order of procedure—area, population, coast line, mountains, rivers, products, etc., is a capital arrangement for the review of geographical study or for a geographical book of reference. But it is, in the first place, monotonous to the young scholar; and secondly, the associations by which the facts are linked in memory are so artificial and removed from the practical applications of geography, as to be but of little use in life afterwards if the facts even should be remembered in their original mechanical fashion. We would recommend a thorough oral course of geography in the common schools, using no apparatus except maps, and a teacher who knows geography—a phenomenon that is very rare, and will be until teaching becomes a profession.

Geography is of use to us on account of the dealings between peoples of different countries. The first and yet the most important are commercial dealings. In every home numerous articles are used, which, when traced backward in the line of their transit to the point of production, will carry us through the most important parts of the world, leaving a picture on the mind which cannot readily be effaced, and arranging the knowledge in a form which is always ready for utilization, and in fact prone to suggest original developments of trade.

Take tea. It is carried from the village store in a wagon on the high road. It came to this village from a town or city in large cases with strange letterings, and was carried on a railway train. It came into the city from a large vessel, which hoisted from out of its hold many hundreds of cases. Trace the high road on the map of the village. Trace the railway to the city. The high road passes through a wood, over a brook, around a mountain, through a marsh. We know the people and how they earn their livings. We next have a picture of the life of the city, the number of people in it. How they earn their livings. The ships came in with merchandize of all kinds, but we follow now the tea ship far across the ocean to China. Suppose we are in that distant country. We see a tea farm which is pictured. The Chinaman is pictured at work. What he does to the tea is shown. How much tea does he prepare in a year? What does he get for it? How does he live on it? What is his house like? His family like? Describe them at their meals and the articles which they eat. Then follow the tea down to the great warehouses at the shipping towns. How many Chinamen are doing as the one we just saw? How many pounds of tea are brought