

Examine new methods. Be keen to note the condition of your pupils' work. Be vigilant, dear teacher, and finally be good tempered."

IN connection with our Minutes of the Teachers' Convention, we gave what may be called the practical part of Principal Dickson's paper on the proposed "Ontario College of Preceptors." "Copy" of the introductory part of the paper was not then to hand. Realizing that this question of organization is decidedly the most important matter now before the teachers of Ontario, we propose to publish the omitted part of Mr. Dickson's paper in our next issue, after which we may have something to say on the subject editorially. Our columns will also be open for its discussion. We shall follow this as soon as possible with Mr. Wetherell's and Mr. McHenry's able and interesting papers, and others of those read at the Convention. Mr. McHenry's on "Prizes and Scholarships" opens up another subject of special interest to all educators. It will thus be seen that our readers will not want for matter worthy of earnest thought and discussion for some time to come at least.

THE Education Department has issued a circular announcing that every recommendation made by the local boards of examiners has been adopted, and that in addition several candidates whose marks were high have been passed. The cases of others whose standing is doubtful, have been referred to the local boards for consideration. Under the circumstances some such action was necessary to reduce to a minimum the injustice and hardship resulting from the lack of judgment displayed by some of the examiners. At the same time this action introduces an undesirable and dangerous precedent. If the Department can lower the standard, or change the regulations after the event, in order to admit large numbers who did not pass the examinations, why may it not on another occasion take the opposite course, and shut out those who have passed? The Department thus becomes absolute, and the examinations a farce. Some teachers argue with great force that the lesser of the two evils would have been to abide by the results of the examination, however great the injustice wrought to individuals. The public would then have had the satisfaction of knowing that the educational work was based on fixed principles.

ONE of the most important measures passed during the late session of the United States Congress, was the bill making education as to the effect of alcoholic drinks compulsory in all schools controlled by the Federal Government. No doubt such instruction is needed, and will be salutary, but great care should be taken to have it thoroughly scientific and reliable. We yield to none in our conviction of the monstrous evils wrought by the use of alcoholic beverages, and we believe in the justice and necessity of proper prohibitive legislation in order to stamp out the evil. At the same time there is, perhaps, some danger that some of the popular manuals may sanction extreme and consequently erroneous views as to the physical effects of such beverages. No exaggeration is necessary to stamp the drinking usages of the day with the disapproval and abhorrence of all right-thinking minds. The point

we wish to make is the great importance of teaching the pupils in our schools to love above everything truth for its own sake. In all scientific instruction of the kind indicated, great care should be taken to teach as truth only that which is susceptible of the fullest demonstration.

AFTER an able and animated debate, the College Confederation scheme has been approved in the Methodist General Conference by a considerable majority. This foreshadows a new departure in the university policy of the Methodist Church. Steps will at once be taken, it may be presumed, for the removal of Victoria College to Toronto. The wealthier members of the denomination may doubtless be relied on to contribute liberally to the large fund that will be required to put up buildings, and inaugurate the work in Toronto on a scale worthy of the Canadian Methodists. Mr. John Macdonald intimated before the Conference his intention to give \$25,000. Another gentleman offered land for a building site. There is room for difference of opinion as to whether the work of higher education can be carried on more efficiently under such an arrangement as that which is to be the basis of the confederation, or by independent institutions scattered over the Province. Much may be said, and much has been well and forcibly said, on both sides. The other denominations having universities, or about to have them, seem to have finally decided in favor of independent development, so that for the present at least, Victoria will be the only one entering into the new arrangement. The matter having now been pronounced upon by the highest ecclesiastical court, the Methodists will, no doubt, with their usual loyalty, accept the decision and spare no efforts to make the new arrangement a great success.

THE NEW HISTORY PRIMER.

I HAVE now read through the English portion of the History of England and Canada, by Messrs. Adam & Robertson. It is a book fairly done on the whole, not by any means without blunders, but showing considerable reading. Its main fault is that it is inexpressibly dull. The writers do not seem to be able to put important things in relief, a failing which results from a want of grasp in their own minds. Every now and then mistakes occur which show that they have painfully got up their knowledge without being men of knowledge themselves. The position of Normandy in the map at page 5, is a good instance of this. Another is the statement at page 7, that in early days the nation chose for King him who seemed most fitted for honor and trust; in forgetfulness that the choice was made out of the Royal family, and the following words seem to point to the election of the "wise men" by some popular body, which is certainly not the opinion of either Stubbs or Freeman, much as they differ from one another. To say at the end of page 8, that by the Treaty of Wedmore, Alfred surrendered to the Danes only the Kingdom of East Anglia, is a pure blunder; and the telling of the story of Godwin and the men of Dover, page 13, by leaving out what is really most interesting, the attack of the Frenchmen on the Dover townsmen, gives a good example of the slovenly way in which the story is told. At page