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BUSINESS NOTES.

WE forwarded the orders for premiums, clubbing, etc., under our offers for '88, on Tuesday of last week. Will those who by any chance fail to receive their books after a reasonable term of waiting notify us of the fact by post card. We shall send any further such orders about Jan. 15th and 31st, after which the arrangement will come to an end.

ONCE in a while a subscriber sends back a paper without inspecting the date on the label. This is evidence of a forgetfulness of the able and kindly discourse which we recently delivered on this subject. One terrible example of such forgetfulness, or something worse, occurred lately, in which a subscriber, after regularly receiving the paper from the P.O. for over a year, returned it with the remark that it "had never been ordered." We tried to comfort ourselves with the reflection that there was not another teacher in the country who would do a thing like that. Better to examine the date and calculate the arrearage. Or, better still, to avoid the risk of such a misdeed, don't send back at all. Send the year's subscription instead. For we believe every teacher, recognizing the character of the paper, and the improvements which have been made in it, will consider it a necessity with which none can afford to dispense.

Editorial Notes.

IN view of the fact, announced some time since by the Education Department, that the Normal Schools in Toronto and Ottawa had already their full complement of students engaged for the session beginning on the 17th January, and that therefore new applicants must wait till August, the Kingston papers urge, not without force, that more normal school accommodation is needed, and that the site held in reserve by the Government in that city for the purpose, should be made use of without delay.

SOME clever journalist tries to satirize the prevalent demand that moral men be elected to fill municipal offices, by suggesting that "moral candidates be chosen as school trustees." We hope facts render the satire pointless, but if it has any point more's the pity. The Toronto *Mail* goes so far as to say, "Something more even than good character is required of a trustee. He should be a man of sense and of some education." The London *Advertiser* caps the climax with the alleged fact

that the Forest City has in the past had trustees, or a trustee—we forget which and wish to be accurate—who could neither read nor write. We trust that was in the long ago.

THE Belleville Board of Education are about to adopt an original method for the detection of truancy. The teachers are to be furnished with truant cards and punchers. The cards have numbers representing the days of the year. When the pupil is present the number for the day is punched out, otherwise it stands as a witness against him. The plan may not be without its merits, if it can be carried out without too great a draft upon the teacher's time. It is to be hoped, however, that the teachers will regard it only as a last resort to prevent truancy, relying first of all and as far as possible on making the school and its work so interesting that the average pupil will deem absence itself a heavy penalty.

WE should have noticed sooner the new and probably unique departure which has been taken by our contemporary, the *Supplement*. From a monthly educational magazine it has transformed itself into a monthly school textbook, or exercise book on some subject of the public school curriculum. These manuals are prepared specially for the purpose, and are issued from the office of the *Supplement Co.*, 50 Bromfield St., Boston. The samples we have seen are skilfully prepared and neatly got up, and seem likely to prove helpful to teachers in their work. The names announced as authors of forthcoming numbers give good reason to expect that the quality will be well kept up. The price of the monthly series of books is the same as that of the former magazine.

THE people of St. John, N.B., are taking steps for the establishment of a reformatory for juveniles. Such an institution must be greatly needed, especially if the alternative is, as we suppose it must be, to send young offenders just taking the first steps in crime to the common jails, to herd with confirmed criminals. We hope the movement may be successful, and the institution to be founded made really what its name implies, and not a mere penal establishment. We hope, moreover, that the necessity, at least equally strong, of having industrial schools will not be overlooked. Just as the well-conducted reformatory intercepts and saves many a youth on his way to the penitentiary or the gallows, so the well-conducted in-