

ON Thursday, Dec. 30th, the usual semi-annual conference of the Chief Supt. with the Inspectors was held in the Education Office at Fredericton. All the Inspectors were present.

THE REVIEW briefly noticed a few months ago an article entitled "Limæ Labor" in the *McMaster University Monthly*, Toronto, from the pen of Dr. Rand, formerly superintendent of education in New Brunswick. A recent number of the *London Athenæum* reviewed the article appreciatively and copied a portion of it, and Lord Tennyson, the subject of the sketch, has sent an autograph letter to Dr. Rand thanking him for the kindly article.

THE meeting of the Executive Committee of the Provincial Teachers' Institute was held in the library of the Normal School, Fredericton, on the evening of December 29th last. There was an unusually large attendance.

The usual routine business was transacted, Mr. H. C. Creed was re-elected secretary and treasurer. St. John and Fredericton were both proposed as places for the next meeting which is to be held on the last three teaching days in June, 1892. St. John was chosen. A list of subjects to be dealt with was fixed upon. Before the meeting Dr. Inch entertained the members of the executive and a few others at a dinner at the Queen Hotel. A very pleasant time was spent.

The Calendar of the Summer School of Science, of the Atlantic Provinces has been published, and copies of it can be obtained on application to W. T. Kennedy, Secretary, Halifax, or to E. Thompson, Local Secretary, St. John. As our readers are aware the school assembles in St. John July 4th, immediately after the meeting of the N. B. Educational Institute. The programme is more varied than that of any previous year, and gives promise of increased advantages to the students who may attend.

The plea of Chief Supt. Inch at the St. John, Teachers' Institute for more individuality among teachers and that of Supervisor Metcalf for a closer study of nature, are worthy of being carefully thought out and acted upon.

THE publishers of the *St. Croix Courier* have sent out a circular asking for traditions and documents bearing upon the history of Charlotte County, N. B. In the introduction to the circular is a bit of historic writing that bespeaks an interesting work if the writer is to be the future historian of Charlotte County.

ARE EDUCATIONAL PAPERS TEXT-BOOKS?

Are educational papers text-books, and do teachers rely upon them to take the place of text-books? Are the lessons with which some of the so-called educational papers are filled from title-page to the end, taken, and with little or no preparation on the part of the teacher, made to serve the purpose of the text-book?

These questions are suggested by looking over the legion of "practical educators," for which teachers are asked to subscribe. One of thirty-eight pages before us has lessons so arranged that the teacher, if he is weak or lazy enough to avail himself of such "helps," may *teach* almost every subject found in a school course. Can it be possible that teachers spend their leisure out of school without diligent and constant preparation of the lessons of the following day, and at the last moment seize an educational journal (*sic*) and come before the class, perhaps with paper in hand, and give the lesson from it?

Now, every intelligent teacher knows that nothing can take the place of conscientious and diligent preparation of the lessons he is to teach, and that any patched up lesson, made for him by another, is a delusion and a snare. The conscious power that a teacher gets from mastering the subjects he is to teach, adding something fresh and new every time he has to teach it, will give him an enthusiasm that will soon infect the class, while children will soon detect the imposition of a patched-up lesson upon them, and resent it with restlessness, and perhaps open mutiny. Give the children grain, not husks, especially husks sampled out by some one in the trade, sorted and labelled and sent to you by mail.

GRADING PUPILS.

"The city teachers, at a meeting at the residence of Hon. A. F. Randolph, discussed several matters affecting school interests. Strong objections were taken to the manner in which the examiner has been grading the pupils, passing many of them to grades for which they are entirely unfit, and thus handicapping the teachers and making it difficult for them to do justice to their other pupils. A resolution was passed expressing the opinion that five years was too young an age to send children to school, and recommending that the law be altered to require children to be six years old before being admitted.—*Fredericton Correspondent St. John Globe.*

Bad grading is not confined to Fredericton, but as the Model Schools are there and the principal of the Normal School is the examiner, the highest ideal should be attained in that city.

The teachers and the pupils themselves have the most accurate idea of the attainments and qualifications of those seeking promotion. The judicious