

boys who wanted to strike. Mr. Justice Mathew said that when parliament laid down a chart showing the particular regions of the body to which corporal punishment should be

confined, the courts would take care that the regions outside should not be invaded. At present there is no such chart. — *The School Guardian* (London).

GEOGRAPHY.

THE NORTH POLE.—A movement has been started in Norway for the despatch in the summer of 1890 of an expedition which would try to reach the North Pole, and it is proposed that the leadership shall be offered to Dr. Nansen. Those who are arranging the plans maintain that no other country could furnish such a crew of experienced and hardy ice-men and Arctic travellers as Norway, and that a winter or two in the Arctic regions would affect these men very little. The intention is that an attempt shall be made to reach the Pole by way of Franz Josef's Land, a route advocated by the most experienced Norwegian Arctic travellers as well as by several well known men of science who have studied the problem. — *School Newspaper*.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.—Says the Administration Report of Railways in India for 1888-89: "The length of railways open for traffic in India at the end of 1887-88 was 14,383 miles; the length added during 1888-89 was 886 miles; deducting certain branch lines which have been closed, the total length of open line at the end of 1888-89 was 15,245 miles. Of the total open line of 15,245 miles, 9,796 miles are worked by Guaranteed, Assisted and other companies; 4,998 miles are worked by direct Government agency; and 451 miles are worked by Native States. During the year sanction has been given for the construction of additional mileage to the extent of 680 miles. The total sanctioned mileage on 31st

of March, 1889, was 17,507 miles, showing an increase over the corresponding figures at the end of the previous year of 637 miles." — *Allahabad Pioneer*.

OUR LATEST ANNEXATIONS.—The Suwarrow, or Suworroff Islands, which have just been annexed to the British Empire, are simply a few uninhabited reefs, although a wharf was built on the main islet some time ago by an Auckland firm. The group is composed of three low wooded islands connected by a reef, on which are a number of hummocks and rocks. The whole group, including its encircling reef, is only twelve miles long by nine miles broad. The eastern island has cocoanut trees. There is an entrance for ships into the lagoon, but no drinking water in the islands. They lie about 450 miles north-north-west of the recently annexed Cook or Hervey Islands, and about the same distance east of Samoa. They are in a line with Maldon, Starbuck and Penrhyn Islands in the north-east, and Fiji in the south-west, and might be useful for cable-laying purposes. Christmas Island, one of the natural curiosities of the world, has been annexed by Great Britain. The island has been recently included in the official list of British possessions. It is of no political or strategic importance, and must not be confused with the island of the same name in the Pacific. The Christmas Island we have just annexed is remarkable as the highest coral island known, rising some 300 or 400 feet out of