

Yet I think they'll be sorry, and miss me,
When took right away from this here;
For sometimes I catches them slyly
A-wipin' away of a tear.

And they says as they hopes I'll get better;
I can't be no worse when I'm dead;
I ain't had so jolly a time on't—
A-dyin' by inches for bread.

I've stood in them streets precious often,
When the wet's been a-pourin' down,
And I ain't had so much as a mouthful,
Nor never so much as a "brown."

I've looked in them shops with the windors
Chokeful of what's tidy to eat.
And I ve heerd gents a-larfin' and talkin'
While I drops like a dorg at their feet.

But it's kind on you, sir, to sit by me;
I ain't now afeerd o' your face;
And I hopes, if it's true as you tells me,
We'll meet in that t'other place.

I hopes as you'll come when it's over,
And talk to them here in the court;
They'll mind what you says, you're a parson;
There won't be no larkin' nor sport.

You'll tell them as how I died happy,
And hopin' to see them agam;
That I'm gone to that land where the weary
Is freed of his trouble and pain.

Now open that book as you give me—
I feels as it never tells lies—
And read me them words—you know, gov'nor—
As is good for a chap when he dies.

There, give me your hand, sir, and thank'ee
For the good as you've done a poor lad
Who knows, had they teached me some better,
I mighn't have growed up so bad.

Matthias Barr, Night and Day.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL.

SIR,—As we teachers are compelled to attend our County Associations, I think it is time to take some steps toward revising our almost stereotyped programme. What will benefit us most materially is the paramount question.

How much real benefit do we get from a thirty minute exhibition of practical (?) teaching?

How much longer are we to sit in "admirable dumb," listening to the rapid nonsense and general 'taffy' exchanged by the literary 'big-bugs,' not to mention the 'logical' disputations' that frequently take place, calculated to impress on the common herd the bigness of the debaters? We must not presume to differ with such autocrats, and their views must be taken as *ex cathedra*, not *cum grano salis*.

We want information about the mind, its faculties and the order and method of their development—the educative power of the various branches of study, the proper time to introduce these subjects, the motive powers in moral education, in short, more knowledge of the factors that tend to develop manhood, moral, physical and intellectual.

We want free discussion on the use of examinations, the merits and demerits of our text-books, especially the advanced readers, and on any vital questions.

Yours,

TEACHER FOR FIVE YEARS.

Literary Gossip.

Professor Mommsen is at Brussels, and is hard at work at his *Corpus Inscriptionum Romanarum*.

The new edition of Miss Edna Dean Proctor's poems will contain "El Mahdi to the Tribes of the Soudan," and other of her later writings.

Of the new biographies to be published this Autumn none promises to be more interesting than "The Life and Letters of Louis Agassiz," announced by Houghton, Mifflin and Co.

Harper & Brothers, New York, have issued a new volume of Will Carleton's poetical works, entitled, *City Ballads*. His unique books now consist of "Farm Ballads," "Farm Legends," "Farm Festivals," and "City Ballads."

Ella S. Leonard and Caroline G. Lingle, two graduates of Vassar, have purchased the Atlantic Highlands *Independent*. They will edit and publish the paper jointly.

Half a million dollars were expended in connection with the library of the British Museum in 1884.

Dr. D. G. Brinton, of Philadelphia, has now in press Vol. VI of his *Library of Aboriginal American Literature*, being "The Annals of the Cackchiquels," written by a native about 1560, and hitherto unprinted.

Professor Huxley's ill health has obliged him to resign all his appointments in England. He will hereafter reside altogether in Italy. The English government will allow him a pension of £1,200 a year.

Mr. Stopford Brooke, Mr. Saintsbury, Mr. Gosse and Professor Dowden, have been engaged by the house of Macmillan & Co., to write a joint history of English literature, each to cover the field to which each has devoted special attention. The work will be in four volumes.

Tennyson's forthcoming new volume (Macmillan & Co.), will contain several poems that have not before been published.

"Two Thousand Years Ago," or "The Adventures of a Roman Boy," is the attractive title of a work for children, representing the last days of the Roman Republic by Prof. Church.

Question Drawer.

QUESTIONS.

What are the best *text-books* on the following subjects for a student preparing Second Class work without a teacher, viz.: Chemistry, Drawing, and Book-keeping? MAC.

What is the object of suspect, as used in the third stanza of "An Incident at Ratisbon." M. L. F.
Brockville.

ANSWERS.

MAC. — For Chemistry, the papers edited by Dr. Kirkland, Principal of the Normal School, Toronto, and now being published from week to week in the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL, are no doubt the best for your purpose.

For Drawing, the authorized series of drawing books, or Walter Smith's Manual.
Gage's Standard Book-keeping is, we think, generally used.

"The more you fill a barrel the more it will weigh," said the teacher.

"Please ma'am, is there any exception to the rule?" asked the urchin.

"None whatever. Everything you put in a barrel adds weight to it."

"I know an exception," broke in Bobby Sharp.

"I guess not. What is it?"

"Well, ma'am, the more holes you put in a barrel the lighter it gets."