

salary paid. Such a mode of procedure merits the strongest condemnation, and makes one wish that matters were arranged more after the method of trade-unions, the members of which, at least, would not tolerate such a line of action.

School trustees in some instances urge that they have a right to put the district up at auction, as it were, and employ the cheapest teachers. It is a good thing for education that all school boards do not think so. What would be the effect if the school boards of the cities should put their schools up in the same way? Take the City of St. John, for example. Suppose its school board put up its schools to tender each year. There is no doubt that teachers could be had to conduct them for perhaps less than two-thirds of the present cost. Would it therefore be wise to pursue such a policy? Argument in favor of such a plan is superfluous, and no intelligent man or woman would advocate it. Yet this is what is being done in some places, and teachers are lending their aid to that which, if generally adopted, would drive every ambitious teacher from the service and prevent all desirable material from entering it.

Many of our teachers are beginning to dread the long winter and the difficulties they will experience in getting through the snow. Let me make a suggestion, especially to the lady teachers. Invest in a pair of snow-shoes. Nothing will give you greater comfort or independence. Many of you know well what it is to walk a long way through the snow to your schools, to reach there wet and cold, to find no fire, or a very poor one, and in consequence to contract a cold which will cling to you for the rest of the winter. Anyone can walk on snow-shoes, and very little practice makes perfect. You can take the most direct route, as the fields are preferable to the roads, and the higher the drifts the more you will enjoy it. If after school hours you wish to go in any direction, bad roads are no impediment, beside there is no exercise more healthful or more enjoyable.

"Wait a little before you encourage a child to paraphrase a stanza from a master into his own halting, hesitating phrase. It is hardly a literary performance." How frequently we find teachers requiring some of the most highly poetic productions of the great authors to be paraphrased by pupils who have not the faintest conception of the depth of meaning contained therein. Is it any wonder that the productions are marvels of absurdity. Be sure that the pupil has a clear conception of the author's thought and then let him tell it in his own language. See that the selections are well within the pupil's grasp.

S.

For the REVIEW.] NATURE LESSONS.

Clouds—II.

"Yonder cloud
That rises upward always higher,
And onward drags a laboring breast,
And topples round the dreary west,
A looming bastion fringed with fire."

Tennyson—*In Memoriam*, Pt. XV.

T. What kind of a cloud has the poet Tennyson described in these lines?

S. One of the "heap" clouds—a cumulus cloud.

T. I think you are right. What kind do you think is noticed by Longfellow in his *Christus* where he says:

"See yonder little cloud that borne aloft
So tenderly by the wind, floats fast away
Over the snowy peaks."

Longfellow—*The Golden Legend*, Pt. V.

S. Oh, I think that must be one of the low clouds, because it goes fast. It must then be a small portion of the "sheet" clouds from which rain often falls.

Another S. I have seen them scudding over the mountain near us after a storm breaks up, often.

T. Very good. See what you will make of this from Shelley:

"I bring fresh showers for the thirsting flowers,
From the seas and the streams.
I bear light shade for the leaves when laid
In their noonday dreams.
From my wings are shaken the dews that waken
The sweet buds every one,
When rocked to rest on their mother's breast,
As she dances about the sun.
I wield the flail of the lashing hail,
And whiten the green plains under,
And then again I dissolve it in rain,
And laugh as I pass in thunder."

Shelley—*The Cloud*, St. I.

S. I suppose that cloud with the fresh showers belongs to the "sheet" cloud kind.

T. Yes; but to a particular variety of it which has been called a "nimbus" or as you may call it, the "rain-cloud." And the drizzling rain that is "shaken" like "dews" is generally a very wide sheeted "stratus" cloud. But is any other cloud referred to, do you think?

S. Yes, I think the "lashing hail" and the laughing thunder would be more likely to come from the "heap" or cumulus cloud.

T. Very likely. Perhaps the "weather" people might call it a "strato-cumulus" cloud if it partook of the character of each kind. But what do you think of this stanza from Scott:

"We often praise the evening clouds,
And tints so gay and bold,
But seldom think upon our God,
Who tinged these clouds with gold."

Scott—*The Setting Sun*.