

strengthened by scientific training; and the child who has been taught how to *learn* will acquire specific knowledge in the great school of the world. The more spontaneously knowledge is acquired in childhood, the better; and the attention of the true teacher will be directed in the first instance to developing the mental powers and strengthening the faculties of attention, observation, and memory, rather than filling the child's stomach with crude indigestible meals of hard-cornered, miscellaneous facts. There is a touch of pharisaism in Mr. Johonnot's avowed preference for an ignorant teacher who does not smoke over an intelligent teacher who does; but doubtless the ruling fashion in American religious society which has concentrated its repressive energies on whiskey and tobacco, and is before all vicariously virtuous in the persons of its ministers and teachers, is accountable for this. On the whole the intelligent teacher will find in Mr. Johonnot not by any means a guide to be blindly followed, but a pleasant and often a suggestive companion. We commend his book to their notice: it is well worth its very moderate price, and the time which will be occupied in its perusal.

HISTORY PRIMERS.—*Europe*, by E. Freeman. Toronto: James Campbell & Son.—*Greece*, by C. A. Fyffe. London: Macmillan & Co.—*Roman Antiquities*, by Prof. Wilkins. London: Macmillan & Co.—*Canada*, by J. F. Jeffers. Toronto: James Campbell & Son.—*Geography*, by Geo. Greve. London: Macmillan & Co.—*Classical Geography*, by H. F. Tozer. London: Macmillan & Co.

The series of Primers which are being produced under the able editorship of Mr. J. R. Green, the well-known author of the "History of the English People," deserves a very considerable amount of praise, and will, doubtless, receive a very considerable amount of patronage. Handy and compact in size (the first on the list, which is the largest, containing only 150 pages), well and clearly printed, and strongly put together in neat covers, they bid fair to be deservedly popular among both teachers and pupils. If their contents are not, in all cases, of equal merit, they at least keep up to a decidedly high aver-

age standard of excellence, and in some instances, as we shall presently see, attain a position unusual among merely elementary treatises.

To go over them in detail would be no light task. In the first work on our list, for instance, Mr. Freeman has, with commendable diligence, "boiled down" the history of Europe from the days of Aryan immigration to those of the Ashantee war, into a sort of essence, resembling ordinary history in much the same way as a spoonful of Leibig's extract of meat resembles a dish of vegetable soup. How, then, can any reviewer do justice to such a subject in as many lines as Freeman has pages, especially when five other authors all clamour for recognition within the same narrow space?

Although Mr. Freeman is a clever man and a great scholar, he, like others, occasionally "naps." At p. 63, speaking of the dual division both of Christians and Mahometans in the days of the Eastern and Western Empires, and the Ommiad and Abbasside Caliphates, he says that "each of the four powers was an enemy of the more distant power of the other religion, and a friend of the nearer one."

The very reverse is the fact. The Christians in the West of Europe naturally and inevitably fought a bitter fight against their immediate neighbours, the Moors of Grenada and of Africa, and were on comparatively friendly terms with the unobtrusive Caliphs of Bagdad. Mr. Freeman himself shows the true state of things on the same page, and it is matter of wonder that such an oversight should have escaped his editor's notice.

We cannot refrain from noticing the vast change that has come over the spelling of proper names since we were boys; for, — strange as it may seem, — even a reviewer was once a boy. C, which used to be a pretty hardly-worked letter, has quite a holiday now-a-days, and K, especially in Greek names, has come to the front with a vengeance. Our old friend King Pepin, is touched with a conjuror's wand, and lo! King Pippin usurps his place. There is, however, some lack of rule among the new lights of the spelling-world, for even Mr. Green cannot get all his authors to spell Dido's chief city