

who have entered into an agreement with the Argentine Government for the construction of a system of railroads connecting the capital with the different provinces and the neighboring States. Other internal improvements are also included in the contract and ample harbor accommodations are to be provided at Buenos Ayres. The improvements are to be completed within five years and are to cost fifty-nine millions. The territory of the Republic embraces considerably more than a million of square miles. Although sparsely populated its natural resources must be great, and the result of thus opening them up will be watched with interest.

We are glad to see that the question of what shall be done with our North-West Indians is eliciting some discussion, though it does not even yet get a tithe of the attention to which it is entitled on the ground of national self-interest, as well as of humanity. Several of the newspaper correspondents who claim to speak with some knowledge, advocate the gathering of the tribes together on one great reserve in the Peace River district, or elsewhere in the great North country. Such a proposition cannot be too strongly deprecated for two reasons. First it only postpones and does not solve the difficulty. Any region which can support Indian tribes is sure to be invaded by adventurous whites, who will revive the old issues. In the second place such a scheme shuts once more the door of civilization in the face of the red man and condemns him to continued barbarism. It may be that the combined forces of civilization and Christianity are unequal to the task of transforming a few thousand wild Indians and their descendants into industrious citizens, but we do not believe it.

The United States Senate is treading on delicate ground in its zeal for the eradication of the cancer of polygamy from the Union. The anti polygamy bill, which passed the Senate in 1884 has been reported back from the Judicial Committee, and stands a fair chance of becoming law. Some of its provisions are certainly rather remarkable for the "land of freedom." It provides, for instance, that fourteen persons appointed by the President shall be added to the trustees of the Mormon Church, and it empowers the Attorney-General to extinguish the "Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company," a Mormon organization. The American Government is probably acting within the right of the Government of a free nation in taking proper measures to put down polygamy, which is a palpable violation of the laws of the Union. But how it can claim the right to appoint trustees for a religious society, or to crush out a lawfully constituted immigration company, without trenching dangerously upon its own cherished principles of civil and religious freedom, we cannot conceive.

If you notice your pupils restless and inattentive, allow them to spend a minute in some simple physical exercise.

Make your boys feel that their future success in business depends on their doing their work well in the present.

On no account allow your pupils to do at one time what you have forbidden under the same circumstances at another.

Your chief business is to make pupils think, not to think for them; to make them talk, not to talk for them; to draw out their powers, not to display your own.

The School.

The article on "Our Future Supply of Teachers" (in England), referred to last week, was unavoidably crowded out. We insert it in this issue.

Secretaries of Teachers' Associations, or Inspectors of Schools, will much oblige by sending us notice of the dates of their forthcoming conventions, and where they will be held, for publication in our columns. We shall be pleased to note any special events in programmes; our space does not admit of giving details.

Amongst the things the *Christian Union* would like to see in 1886, is "an industrial workshop introduced into the public schools in every large city, in every State in the Union." The wish is a good one. We should like to see the same thing in Canada, and not only the workshop for boys but the "kitchen garden," or something of the kind, for instructing girls in cooking and house work. The benefits resulting from teaching the waifs of the cities how to use their hands would be simply incalculable. It would transform them by hundreds from helpless weights or social pests, into useful, honorable citizens.

Some of the American papers are commenting on the strange prevalence of the fashion of wearing glasses, especially amongst ladies, and queries whether the practice is a mere fashionable whim, or the natural eyesight is really failing. We have no doubt that both causes are at work. Many are weak enough, we dare say, to wear glasses simply because they imagine they give them an interesting or literary appearance. But such a custom could scarcely originate were the wearing of these helps not a necessity to many of studious habits. There is too much use of text-books in the schools, by both teacher and pupil. It can scarcely be doubted that the eyes of many children are permanently injured by too much poring over the printed pages. The more real mind-work the teacher can elicit without the aid of books, the better. The fault is often not so much that of the teacher as of his conditions. The number of classes to which he has to attend, and the constant high pressure under which he works, make the constant use of text-books a necessity. When parents and the public grow wiser they will so arrange matters that each teacher will have on his hands only such a number of pupils and of classes as may leave him leisure to do more genuine teaching and less rote book-work.

Some of the papers are discussing the teacher who sneers. We wonder if he is to be found in Canadian Schools—the man, or woman, we mean who takes advantage of a position of superiority to launch jeers and jibes at the defenceless pupil. The latter of course cannot retort. To do so would be insubordination. We can think of few meaner little cruelties. And yet we fear most of us have been guilty of it in moments of irritation. Even that we should hold inexcusable at the bar of conscience. It is ingenuous, contemptible. But what shall we say of the teacher who uses this weapon habitually. There are too many such. They do incalculable mischief. Many a