

pupil who attempts, as required in the questions, to "give an account of the extension and remodelling of the Public School system of Ontario by Dr. Ryerson," and finds himself obliged to evolve it out of the following, which is all the text contains on the subject :

"During Lord Metcalfe's governorship, the Rev. Dr. FERGUSON RYERSON, who had been at the head of VICTORIA (Methodist) UNIVERSITY, was appointed Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, a position he was to hold with great profit to the country and honor to himself for a period of over thirty years. Under Dr. RYERSON the present admirable system of Public and High School education was established, with the generous aid of Parliament."

We had marked other passages of similar character, but, for want of space, must withhold them for the present. Let us repeat, that for such glaring defects in the book, even as a book for *cramming*, which is the sole use of such a work, not the compilers, but the instructions are, no doubt, responsible.

Special.

ENTRANCE LITERATURE.

LESSON LXXXV.—MARMION AND DOUGLAS.

J. STUART CARSTAIRS, CHESTERVILLE.

The writer would advise the teacher to read at least the narrative portion of Marmion to his class: certain parts that do not bear directly on the story may be omitted. Ten minutes a day will be sufficient. Summaries of each Canto should be written, and frequent reviews of the subject-matter made. These will increase the interest. This has been the writer's method. A copy of Marmion may be got from John B. Alden, New York, for eight cents. A short summary is added.

CANTO I.—The Castle.

Marmion and his train on his way to Scotland as an ambassador approaches Norham Castle, of which Sir Hugh Heron is the lord. Heralds proclaim his coming and his warlike deeds. His reception is in accordance with his rank. Sir Hugh, in the course of the evening, refers to a page Marmion had when they last met, and hints that the page was a woman, disguised. Marmion answers his host by referring to Lady Heron, of whom fame, not unjustly, spoke lightly. Sir Hugh informs him that Lady Heron is at the Court of James IV. of Scotland, in attendance on Queen Margaret. Marmion desires a guide, and a Palmer, — a holy pilgrim who had arrived at the castle that day — is spoken of as a suitable guide. The Palmer becomes Marmion's guide.

CANTO II.—The Convent.

The Abbess of St. Hilda and her nuns are on their way to Lindisfarne. Among the nuns is a kinswoman of the Abbess, — Clara de Claro, who is only in her novitiate. At Lindisfarne they are welcomed by the islanders. In a secret vault of St. Cuthbert's Abbey that night, the Abbess, the blind old Abbot, and the Prioress of Tynemouth, sit in judgment on two church criminals, whom they sentence to be immured alive. One of the criminals, a brutish monk, acts like a craven; he whines with terror, &c.: the other, a beautiful girl, in the dress of a page, wearing the falcon badge of Marmion, boldly addresses her judges. She tells them that she had broken her vows as a nun to follow Lord Marmion as a horse-boy. Such life had been hers for three years. Marmion had grown tired of her; he wished to marry Clara de Claro, the rich heiress of the house of Gloucester, who was betrothed to Sir Ralph de Wilton. Marmion falsely accuses Sir Ralph of treason, meets him in mortal combat and defeats him. Clara had fled to the Convent of Whithby, but King Henry VIII. had sworn that Marmion should have Clara. Constance had hired the monk, her fellow-prisoner, to poison Clara. He had disclosed the scheme. Constance tells them to do their worst. The judges withdraw; the executioners perform their task; the knell is heard miles away.

CANTO III.—The Inn.

Marmion, under the Palmer's guidance, marches northward and at nightfall he reaches the Scottish village of Gifford. Here he takes quarters at the inn. His train are drinking; he, like a politic general, gives countenance to their pleasures; the Palmer, who has not spoken all day, stands apart with his eyes fixed on Marmion. His moodiness damps the spirits of the train. Marmion calls for a song. Eustace, his squire, sings a song that had been commonly sung by Constant, the page, whose absence he deplores. The subject of the song was unfaithfulness in love and its punishment. Marmion, rendered more low-spirited, speaks of a ringing in his ear. The Palmer answers that it portends the death of a dear friend. This brings on a story from the innkeeper: Alexander III., when beset by the Danes, sought Lord Gifford, who was a magician of great power. Lord Gifford could not give him any information concerning the future, but told him that on the adjoining moor, in an old Roman camp, at midnight, he would meet an elfin knight in the form of his worst foe; that if he conquered the knight, the future would be unfolded to him; if he failed, he would not answer for his life. The King met and conquered his foe in the form of Edward I. After all have gone to bed, Marmion awakes Eustace and alone sallies forth to meet the elfin warrior. He returns shortly afterwards, bearing such marks as indicate that he had been unhorsed in combat.

CANTO IV.—The Camp.

Marmion's train, next morning, had many complaints against the inn-keeper. One could not find his spear; another's armor was misplaced; the second squire's horse was in a foam (ridden by fairies he said); Marmion's charger was dying. They start on their journey northward and are met by Sir David Lindsay, whom King James IV. has sent forth to escort Marmion. They spend two days at Crichton Castle. Sir David here relates how the Apostle John had appeared to King James to warn him against the war. Marmion tells of his encounter with the elfin knight, in whom he recognized one long dead who had great reason to be his enemy. Unhorsed, he lay at his foe's mercy, but was spared. Marmion and Lindsay set out for Edinburgh and on their way get a fine view of the Scottish army in camp, which was to march next day.

CANTO V.—The Court.

James IV. is represented in his last banquet. Lady Heron sings for her royal suitor "Lochinvar." He insults and apologizes to the Earl of Angus, who, with the wisdom of age, foresaw the result of this war and opposed his sovereign. Marmion is instructed to await James' final answer at Tantallon Castle, the stronghold of Douglas. The King gives into Marmion's charge the Abbess of St. Hilda, her nuns, and Clara, who had been taken prisoners by a Scottish cruiser. The Abbess of St. Hilda, who fears that Marmion will try to take Clara away for the purpose of marrying her, meets the Palmer at midnight to entrust to him the packet of Constance de Beverley, which contains copies of forgeries which she had helped Marmion make for the purpose of implicating De Wilton in Simnel's conspiracy. Similar copies had been placed among De Wilton's papers, and when found, had condemned him. While the Abbess is telling him this, a phantom appears on the summit of St. Giles and summons certain nobles to appear at the judgment bar within forty days. The names of Marmion and De Wilton are in the list; at mention of the latter name, the Palmer appeals to Heaven, thus showing he is De Wilton. The Abbess falls in a swoon. The next morning they all set out for Tantallon. The Abbess stops at a Priory on the way, but Clara is separated from her shortly to be taken to the house of her kinsman, Lord Fitz-Clare. Marmion is detained for some time at Tantallon. The varying reports and the changed demeanor of his host finally impel him to set out for the battle-field.

CANTO VI.—The Battle.

Clara who had, by Douglas' command, laid aside her attire as a nun, was accustomed to seek solitude on the battlements. Here, one evening, she saw a knight's arms lying. De Wilton, her lover, appeared and told his story: After his defeat by Marmion, in the garb of a Palmer he had sought foreign lands. Failing to find peace he had returned, and, by chance, had become the guide of his greatest enemy. At the inn he had supplied himself with armor from the sleeping train and had gone forth by a back-gate to meet Marmion on the moor. His promise to an old servant had prevented him from killing his prostrate foe. Now Douglas was about to knight him. He was going to Flodden. There the stain on his name would be effaced.