

slightly darker gray surface is more or less indistinct and trying to the eyesight. The resistance of the hard pencil upon the hard slate is tiring to the muscles, and the resistance to which the muscles are thus trained must be overcome when beginning to write with pencil or pen upon paper. The use of slates, slate pencils and sponges is a very unclean custom and leads to and establishes very uncleanly habits.

—Sir Donald Smith, Chancellor of McGill University, stated to a newspaper interviewer that no Principal has yet been selected for that institution. He had just returned from Great Britain, and though he had visited Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh and Dundee, no offer of the Principalship had been made to any one. One of Sir Donald's favourite projects, the establishment of a "Royal Victoria College for Women," is still under consideration. The RECORD once tried to report, through the influence of a circumstantial account in the newspapers referring to the appointment of a principal to McGill, that a Scotsman had been appointed. The statement was made in good faith, but, alas! turned out disastrously to our reputation for accuracy. It will be safe after this to speak of McGill's new principal only after he has "grow'd up."

—Dr. Francis Parkman, the late historian, had a strict idea of justice. A friend met him one day walking along the street leading a street boy with either hand. "What in the world are you doing, Parkman?" asked his friend. "I found that Johnny here had eaten all of the apple instead of dividing with his little brother. I am going to buy another for the younger boy and make Johnny watch him while he eats it."

—A college settlement has been founded among the mountains of North Carolina. Miss S. C. Chester, a graduate of Vassar, has taken up her quarters in a log cabin about three miles from Asheville, to work among the mountaineers. One or more helpers will stay with her at intervals. Clubs and classes for the children and a library and reading room for elders will be opened and in other ways religious and educational work will be done. Miss Chester has made preparation for her work by a study of the college settlements in cities.

—The special schools for poor children in Berlin whose parents are unable to pay tuition fees are discouraged by the Minister of Instruction, on the ground that attendance upon such a school will act in after life as a reproach or detriment to success. The abolishment of tuition fees will be found also to act as a leveler of class distinction in that it gives all children equal school advantages and puts them on the same plane.