

THE SCHOOLMASTER CONSIDERABLY ABROAD.

DIOGENES, as a Philosopher, takes a deep interest in the question of Education. He regards Education hopefully, as the "cheap defence of nations" from many great national evils; and, take it for all in all, it is the strongest antagonist of crime. He has read with considerable pleasure the accounts given in the daily papers of the condition and prospects of the City Schools, and he congratulates all connected with them on the apparent efficiency of these institutions. But much—very much—still remains to be accomplished. Education in Montreal is for the most part limited to what is, in reality, mere elementary instruction; and the public shew but little inclination to copy the example of "Oliver Twist," and "ask for more."

It is not long since a writer in the *Evening Telegraph* asserted that

"The University of McGill and its High School are barely solvent, or at least, they cannot maintain a sufficient staff of highly-educated men for the proper education of their under-graduates and scholars."

If this assertion is correct, (and it has never been contradicted by those who are most interested in showing it to be untrue), the prospects of a higher education in this city are, indeed, gloomy and far distant. But DIOGENES, for his own satisfaction, will appoint a Commission of Enquiry into this matter, and present a Report to the public at an early date. Meanwhile, he will confine himself in this article to a less gloomy phase of the Education Question; and, with this view, he offers as food for reflection, some samples of ingenious answers that have, ere now, been given in written and oral examinations, to apparently simple queries.

BLOOMFIELD, formerly Bishop of London, was once questioning a class at a Sunday School on some clauses of the "Church Catechism." He asked a girl of about sixteen, "What is the meaning of succouring one's father and mother?" "Giving of 'em milk," was the unhesitating reply.

Equally sensible in its way (but the way is not much to boast of) was the answer of another girl when asked by her School-Teacher, "what the Israelites did first after crossing the Red Sea?" "I don't know, Ma'am; but I guess they dried theirselves."

Let it not be supposed, however, that such answers as the foregoing are confined to charity children and Sunday Schools. The responses occasionally uttered at the English Universities, by the writhing martyrs of a so-called "divinity examination," are (in the language of Jonathan) "a real caution." Here is an encouraging reply imported from the banks of the Isis:

*Examiner*: "What became of all the locusts after the plague of Egypt?"

*Undergraduate* (eagerly): "John the Baptist ate them all!" And here is another reply, attributed, on respectable authority, to a "light-blue" passman:

*Examiner*: "Why did Moses leave Egypt?"

*Undergraduate* (with bashful hesitation): "Why, Sir—hem—hem—"

*Examiner*: "Come, come; pray answer, if you know."

*Undergraduate* (blushing): "Well, Sir, I suppose that little affair with Potiphar's wife!"

But the answers that are, perhaps, the most amusing, because they are authentic, may be found in some Parliamentary Blue-Books, that are now being issued, on Secondary Education in England. For the encouragement of young Canadians, who may be inclined to be despondent, DIOGENES here publishes a few select specimens:

ENGLISH GRAMMAR.

To the question, writes one Inspector, "how is the past tense of verbs formed?" I have received a vast number of answers like this one—"By adding d, or ed, as sing, sang." One girl answers the question simply thus—"More, most."

SPELLING.

The late lamented ARTEMUS WARD has many powerful rivals in almost all the Schools that have been examined. "Free competition" was spelt "Fhre copetician," and "juicy pears" became "jussy pairs," &c., &c.

GEOGRAPHY—(From an Upper-Class Girls' School).

Answers to questions in half-year's work on the United States, Scotland, and Ireland:

United States is very subject to earthquakes, and all the houses are built low in consequence. Its population is 200,000, and its capital is Mexican. Each State manages its own affairs, and has a Consul-General appointed by the People, and a Governor by the Queen.

The population of Scotland is 2300000 square miles. Its religion is Protestant, but the people is Catholics. One quarter of the globe lives in Scotland. Its climate is in a thriving condition, and oats are their favourite food. Capital, Renfrew on the Spree.

HISTORY—(From a Middle-Class School of Boys).

CHARLES I. was a weak man; he was separated from his wife, but in a few years lived together in peace. He was beheaded by Bishop JUXON in the Isle of White because he would not let CROMWELL be King, on account of his stealing the mace.

Habeas Corpus; a bill passed by EDWARD I. to protect a man's body in time of war.

The National Debt is what the English owe other nations, and was intended to be paid off by the South Sea Bubble, but it didn't answer.

NELL'S SON, a great Sailor, killed in China on board the "Royal George."

BONYPART, slain by MARLBOROUGH in a duel, near Windsor Castle.

HISTORY—(In some Girls' Schools).

LORD BEACON was a celebrated philosopher, and he invented electricity, tobacco, and gunpowder. He lived in abject poverty and the reign of HENRY VIII.

Sir THOMAS MOORE, Lord Chancellor of England. Wrote plays and novels, and lived in HENRY IIIV.'s time. He was knighted by WOOLSEY at York Minster.

BURKE, a navigator and elegant writer. Was a partner of HAIR, once.

Sir W. SCOTT, flourished with BACON, in the reign of Bloody MARY. He wrote a novel called "Guy Fox."

BEN JONSON, one of the brightest luminaries of the 13th century. Wrote a big Dictionary, in which he was assisted by WALKER.

LUTHER became a scullion in RICHARD III.'s kitchen. He married JOAN OF ARK.

FRENCH—(In an Upper Girls' School).

*English to be translated into French.*—I know it as well as he. Je sais il, come bien, come il.

*French to be translated into English.*—L'hôtesse dormait dans un coin de la cuisine. (By a pupil aged sixteen)—The hostess slept in a ——— with the cook. (By a pupil aged twenty-two)—The hostess slept in a ——— with her cousin.

ARITHMETIC.

Question—Subtract one thousand and one from one hundred millions, forty thousand, seven hundred and six.

Specimens of answers:

(I) 100040706

000101000

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100939706

(II) 1000000004000000007006

(III) 140706

10001

100001

100000000399999997005

40706

DIOGENES will recur to this subject at his leisure. Jam satis!