

be pleased to accept my application they may depend upon it that they will not regret their choice." But the serene self-confidence which inspired the following is probably superior to disappointment: "I feel confident that should you honour me with the appointment, I shall be able to afford you every satisfaction, and achieve for your school distinguished success." The philosopher whose lengthy application is chiefly a disquisition on the advantages of "experimental psychology," concerning which he has made an "exhaustive study" and some "unique experiments," would appear either to have omitted from his investigations one important class of humanity, viz., practical business men, or to have profited but little from his experiments. And the gentleman who seeks to impress the trustees with the splendour of his intellectual attainments by informing them that he is a "graduate of the American Institute of Phrenology" has apparently not a very high estimate of Western intelligence. Many of the applicants think—and, it may be, rightly—that to be a Methodist, or a Presbyterian, or a member of some other denomination, is a very important recommendation; but one appears to base his claims almost entirely on the following qualifications: "I am a member of the Methodist Church, the Christian Endeavour, and the Royal Templars of Temperance, have never used tobacco in any form, and can supply references from those who know me showing my character to be blameless." It is indeed sad to think that one so excessively immaculate should have to content himself with the reflection that virtue is its own—and often its only—reward. The lack of intelligence shown by some applicants in submitting "recommends" and testimonials is indeed surprising. One is not impressed favourably with an applicant's past experience by looking through a dirty, greasy package of letters, some in red ink, some in violet ink, some in black ink and some in pencil, execrably written and spelled, certifying to the opinion held by the school trustees of some obscure township as to the holder's abilities. I cannot forbear quoting one of this class of testimonials: "We the undersigned Trustees for—School District do hereby certify that they have known—for a number of year in the capacity as School Teacher and that he is thorogly competent to teach a graded school according to the laws of the School act for the Dominion of Canada and we take great pleasure in recommending him to any community in want of a teacher. You very truly." Unless assured that the applicant who relied on a testimonial such as this held a Second Class Teacher's Certificate, one would not suspect that his intelligence had been expanded and elevated by high education. One cannot but tremble for the interests of education in a community where such trustees have the management of school affairs. Some of the applicants send printed copies of their testimonials, but apparently they do not realize that this creates the inference either that they are so often applying for situations as to render copying their recommendations in each case too great an undertaking, or that they are displaying vanity and bad taste. One individual has not only his testimonials printed, but prints even his application itself, blanks being left for dates, salary, etc., the whole being surrounded with a very fancy border; and he evidently intends to make use of the application elsewhere if unsuccessful, for he concludes: "Return this pamphlet (sic) if my application is rejected."

It is, of course, not possible to cite every instance of lack of knowledge, culture and intelligence, but enough has been said to indicate what a large proportion of the sixty applications in question gave evidence of these defects in the applicants. And it must be remembered that in making an application for a situation the applicant naturally endeavours to present himself in every way in the most favourable light. When so much is gathered from merely letters of application, what would be the result of a more complete and searching examination into the applicant's abilities and characters? As I have said, these teachers are, or should be, the best results of our advanced education, and it is they who are conducting the education of the rising generation. Under the circumstances a doubt as to the practical results of our educational methods cannot but arise. I do not at present attempt to assign a cause for what I can only regard as a failure somewhere or to suggest a remedy. I merely call attention to the serious fact.

F. H. TURNOCK.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FORESTRY.

To the Editor of THE WEEK:

Sir,—The general principle that an undue clearance of the timber is harmful to the fertility of the land is understood by very many people who take little practical interest in forestry for the reason that they are unaware of the extent to which the process of stripping away the woods has been carried. It needs only a perusal of the forestry report for 1891 to convince the most indifferent that the danger from this source is by no means remote, but a peril that must be faced at once unless our agricultural interests are to suffer greatly.

The report reviews the existing condition of the counties of the Province as regards forestry, and discloses a state of affairs which ought to arouse public opinion to the urgent need of measures to arrest destruction and preserve the remaining forests. It ought to afford food for reflection to learn that in some localities the process of

clearance has been so thorough that only some five per cent. of the total area of the land remains in timber. In many neighbourhoods wood has become so scarce that the farmers have difficulty in procuring a supply of fuel, being obliged to haul it from a distance to their homes.

The greatest injury inflicted upon agriculture by the cutting down of the forests, however, is the alteration for the worse in the climate and the fertility of the soil. Observers of climatic conditions for many years are practically unanimous in testifying to the increasing frequency and severity of droughts and floods, the only assignable cause for which is the wholesale clearance of the forests. The rainfall is now rapidly dissipated, whereas when a considerable area of the country was heavily timbered a large volume of moisture was absorbed by the light soil and vegetation and given out again gradually mitigating the dryness and heat of the summer season. The creeks and streams which formerly ran full all the year round have dwindled in volume or dried up altogether in some instances. As a consequence both crops and stock suffer greatly from drought whenever there is a long dry spell in summer.

It will be thus seen that no class has a stronger or more direct practical concern in forestry than the farmers. Yet the number of them who throw any active interest in those measures intended to arrest the evil is comparatively few. The Ontario Government deserves much credit for having grappled successfully with the problem of the prevention of destructive fires—which are now of rare occurrence—and also for the setting apart of a forestry reserve in the Northern portion of the Province which will be kept permanently timbered. But it must be remembered that the Government is not in a position to do everything that is needed as the lands in the settled part of Ontario, where the evils and deforestation are necessarily greatest, are mainly in private hands.

The farming community should take the matter up themselves. Men of local influence ought to set the example of replanting and the preservation of such strips and patches of woodland as remain. Public opinion should be educated as to the urgent necessities of the case, or else in a very few years far worse injuries than any already inflicted upon our prosperity will be experienced.

Let me say in conclusion that I shall be pleased to send a copy of the report free of expense to anyone sending me his name and address.

R. W. PHIPPS.

251, Richmond Street W., Toronto.
August 24, 1892.

THE BALLADE OF THE LOST FAIRIES.

THE long, bright day is drawing to a close,
The purple hues of sunset fade away,
Beneath the forest boughs a soft wind blows,
As yet the moon wields not her silver sway;
But when she starts upon her upward way,
The denizens of night awake once more;
The whip-poor-will is calling from the shore
Of the dark river, vocal yet unseen.
But, though the moonlight dapple all the floor,
Alas! no fairies dance upon the green.

The Northern Light its soundless lightning throws
In errant spears across the blue astray
An endless phantasy; from green to rose,
And back again to green, the colours play.
Sure 'tis a night for every jocund fay
Who waits the coming of the moonlight hour
To prank himself to dance his Queen before.
But all unpeopled is the woodland scene,
No magic can the buried past restore,
Alas! no fairies dance upon the green.

Where are they, then, the little folk, who knows
Where they have gathered 'neath the moon's pale ray?
They are not where the Western forest grows,
And those old haunts in which they used to stray
Have been deserted by them many a day.
They will return to England nevermore,
Ousted from all their haunts by that harsh roar
Of smoky furnaces, which nightly screen
The moon from bosky dell, and silent moor,
Alas! no fairies dance upon the green.

ENVOI.

Gone are the good old times they knew of yore,
And this new world holds not within her store
Sweet fancies of another world, unseen,
And, though we may be wiser than before,
Alas! no fairies dance upon the green.

BASIL TEMPEST.

A SUDDEN lie may be sometimes only manslaughter upon the truth; but, by a carefully-constructed equivocation, truth always is with malice aforethought deliberately murdered.—*Morley.*

WHENEVER vanity and gaiety, a love of pomp and dress, furniture, equipage, buildings, great company, expensive diversions, and elegant entertainments get the better of the principles and judgments of men and women, there is no knowing where they will stop, nor into what evils, natural, moral, or political, they will lead us.—*John Adams.*

ART NOTES.

To M. Maignan has been awarded the Medal of Honour of the Salon for his picture of "Carpeaux," representing the death of the great sculptor among the vivified figures of his creation.

AMONG those who have been elected as associates of the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, better known as the Champ de Mars Salon, are Burne-Jones, Elliot I. Guthrie, Jan Van Beers, and Hubert Vos.

SIR FREDERIC LEIGHTON and Sir Everett Millais have received from the German Emperor the Order of Merit, the highest distinction that can be offered to achievement in Germany—a reward that must be fairly earned to be obtained.

THE magnificent marble pavement in Peterborough Cathedral, the gift of Dean Argles, has now been completed, and the Italian artists who have for many months been engaged upon the work have proceeded to Truro Cathedral to carry out a similar scheme.

AN American artist, Mr. Arthur Jule Goodman, has established himself in London, at 57 Alexandra Road, where many of his studies may be seen. These include his portraits of Richard Watson Gilder (editor of the *Century Magazine*), William Winter, George William Curtis, Salvini as Othello, and Edwin Booth as Shylock.

THE latest rage in the matter of house decoration is for Japanese embossed wall papers. These, owing to their cost, have hitherto only been used in big houses; but they are now creeping into more general use, and big manufacturers in Japan are making them specially for the English, American and Continental markets. But the designs of these embossed papers are not native; the Japanese have borrowed some of the most beautiful Venetian, Dutch, French and old English designs, and adapted them to their purpose, as will be seen from the papers which may be found at any of the London West End decorators. If the fashion grows, it will be a bad time for the artists, for people will desire no pictures. The Japanese are also devising a broader artistic scheme for wall decoration, though the fashion is not altogether new. Their water-colour workmen are designing panels, some of them twelve feet in height, full of flowers, birds, or fishes, for decoration of the room. Each in itself is a painting in water-colours, and is a work of original art; and, without a doubt, the idea promises to open up a new road to our younger artists if they will but take the hint, though it is doubtful if they could work at the low rate of wage that must be paid to these Japanese folk. Possibly there may be some secret in the matter. The *Pall Mall Gazette* suggests the submerged tenth in Japan may all be born artists.

Two more new pictures have been hung in the London National Gallery. One of these is a little work entitled "The Ratecatcher," by T. Woodward, the animal painter (1801-52). It was bequeathed by Mr. E. Archer. It is numbered 1,374 (in error, we understand, for 1,379, as "Hogarth's Servants" is already numbered 1,374), and hangs in Room XIX. The other is an addition to the portraits bequeathed by the late Lady Hamilton. It contains life-size portraits of two sons of Frederick, Prince of Wales, with their tutor, Dr. Ayscough—the father of the Lady Cockburn whose portrait by Reynolds is in the same room (XVI.). Though this large canvas is by Richard Wilson, R.A., its artistic merits (says the *Pall Mall Gazette*) are not conspicuous. Here are some authentic figures showing the investment side of pictures. An admirer of the modern Dutch school bought a mauve for £48. He was setting out for a holiday, and asked the dealers to keep it for him till his return. Meantime the painter died. On the purchaser's return he was asked if he would part with the picture, which he readily did, to the dealer, it never having left the gallery, for £60 (£12 profit). After changing hands once or twice again the picture fetched £180; the dealers again bought it back for £220, and resold it for £280. The market value of the picture is now probably £400. In the report of the Department of Science and Art just issued is a statement by Mr. Armstrong, the director of art, concerning his visit to Italy in 1891, when he noted all the works of art which might be interesting for purchase or for reproduction. It seems that the drain on specimens of decorative art of a moveable kind in Italy has been so constant during the last twenty years that the supply of genuine works that can be offered for sale must soon have been exhausted. The Government, however, has stepped in, and works cannot be sent out of the country now without the certificates of local councils.—*Exchange.*

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

TORONTO COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

THE recently issued calendar for 1892-93, of the Toronto College of Music, is an interesting pamphlet: By it we see that the progress of the institution has been something remarkable, not merely from the standpoint of attendance, but also in its symmetrical and complete development. Mr. Torrington, the musical director, has moulded the college upon an evidently clearly and carefully preconceived plan, and he, with his board of directors, is to be congratulated upon the results attained.

In building up the large staff of teachers, Mr. Torrington keeps a watchful eye upon the work of each