

The consequence of this is I have scarcely any running out, each pupil thinks the rule is just, therefore there is no grumbling about the "master being awful cross"

I think this a much better plan than the "School Ma'am's," as I believe hers to be unjust to the dull pupils.

Now, Sir, this is the first time I have attempted to write to the "Journal," a paper which I could not do without, and if you deem this worthy of space I would like to write upon a couple of other matters before long.

A YORK COUNTY TEACHER.

Practical Department.

"Migwout?" "Me getter rink?" "Mis peak?" this is the language often heard in the school-room. This ought not to be. Teachers should not allow it. When a pupil asks a question in such a vulgar, ungrammatical way, he should be taught to ask the question properly before receiving any grant or favor.—*Iowa Normal Monthly.*

The fears entertained by many intelligent persons, at the opening of the schools, that the admission of the colored children to the white schools would cause disturbance and the withdrawal of many white children, have not been realized. It may seem strange, but it is true, that the children most difficult to control come from well-to-do and wealthy families. I do not mean to say they are vicious, disrespectful, and impolite, but are indolent and averse to doing anything contrary to their own sweet wills. There is a good reason for this. They come to school without knowing what it is to do anything that requires any sacrifice of pleasure.—*R. W. Stevenson, Supt. Schools, Columbus, O.*

AN ESSENTIAL THING. — Pupils must be trained to read and write their mother tongue correctly. Teach them to do this so that every scholar, at fifteen years of age, shall be able to read a newspaper readily; shall be able to spell common words correctly; shall be able to converse free from provincialism in pronunciation; shall be able to write a legible letter in correct English. In reading, teach them not merely to pronounce words, but to get at the meaning of what they read. There must be no sham scholarship here. Good spelling is a conventional test of education, and even a spelling lesson may be made the means of valuable mental training.—*John Sweet.*

COL. PARKER AND SPELLERS.

In his very practical address delivered before the Teachers' Association in August, Col. Parker said, "Burn your Spellers." His advice on this subject was coldly received. About twenty years ago he would have been loudly applauded in Toronto, if he had expressed the same opinion. Oral spelling had been the only method of teaching spelling. Thoughtful teachers saw the absurdity of this method. Unfortunately for the Speller it had been as long associated with oral spelling, that the reformers regarded them as inseparable and thoughtlessly concluded that the Speller could only be used in connection with oral spelling. The wave of progress that swept away the one carried the other with it. It was unquestionably a mistake to discard the Spellers. Most of them were bad enough in themselves to deserve condemnation, and this made it easier to offer them up as a sacrifice of "burnt offering" on the altar of dictation. It does not seem to have occurred to those who led in the crusade against them, that the Spellers might be improved. Dazzled by the light of the truth which they saw on one side, they were made blind on the other side, and failed to see that the Speller might be used as a basis for the work in written spelling. So they took the children's bread from them and gave them the stone—dictation from the reading lessons. The bread was not so good as it should have been, but it was better than the stone. Their method, learning to spell words by writing them was excellent, but the source from which the words were taken was utterly inadequate. Even if it were possible to teach all the words in the Reading books, pupils would still be unable to spell many of the common words used in every-day life.

Most teachers will fully endorse Col. Parker's method of teaching spelling chiefly by means of composition. It is certainly our duty to teach the child his own vocabulary; but it is also our duty to extend that vocabulary. We can do neither in a definite and systematic manner, without a well arranged series of lessons. Such a series of lessons, when printed we call a Speller, and such a Speller properly used must prove of immense advantage in the school-room. I join with Col. Parker in condemning the old-fashioned Spellers filled with terrifiers ending in "osity" and "ation." They were bad, and the oral method associated with them was worse; but a logically arranged Speller, with the words classified, generally under topical headings, may be used as the basis for dictation lessons, and composition exercises, and it then fills a place which nothing else can fill so well.

Such a Speller may occasionally be used with advantage in oral spelling, as there are some pupils in whose memories the spelling of a word is more firmly fixed by perceptions received through the ear.

Yours, &c.,

JAMES L. HUGHES,
P. S. Inspector, Toronto.

Educational Notes.

At the annual banquet of the Toronto School of Medicine, Prof. Clarke, of Trinity College, in reply to the vast "Universities and Colleges," said Trinity College would not be greatly benefitted by federation. But he regarded too many Universities as an evil, as where there are so many Universities the value of a degree is not properly recognized. Canada, in his opinion had too many Universities and he thought the number should be diminished.

The annual dinner of the students of Toronto School of Medicine was a great success this year. As usual, many of the distinguished men of the Province were present, and the numerous toasts proposed elicited much enthusiasm and many good speeches were made in reply. The students are to be congratulated upon the excellent character of these banquets as well as upon their good judgment in excluding from the tables all intoxicating liquors.

The Stratford High School has been constituted a Collegiate Institute, to take effect the first of the year. Application has also been made for changing the High School at Strathroy to a Collegiate Institute.

The closing examinations of the Normal Schools at Toronto and Ottawa begin on December 11th, and continue for four or five days.

Additional Intermediate Certificates have just been granted by the Education Department to the following pupils of the Whitby Collegiate Institute: John G. Campbell, Josephine McBrady, George Emmett, James McBrady, Laura R. Gordon, Henry McBrien, Robert M. Holtby, Thomas Nolan, Thomas B. James, T. E. Robinson, James R. Lawler, M. Wilson and W. Gee who wrote at the Institute also received Intermediate Certificates.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Education in Whitby, Mr. R. K. Orrs, letter tendering his resignation as Modern Languages' Master, was accepted. Mr. Orr has done good work in Whitby, and it is to be regretted that the School Board could not arrange to retain him.

The London, Ontario, School Board have made arrangements to teach the boys and girls who attend the night schools, separately.

The High School at Port Hope is undergoing extensive repairs which will make it a very comfortable building.

Formal application having been made to the Education Department to have the Chatham High School raised to the status of a Collegiate Institute, H. S. Inspector Hodgson, M.A., made an official inspection of the School on the 13th and 14th November with a view to report on the matter. Notwithstanding the re-imposition of fees and the opening of the Ridgeway High School the attendance shows a considerable increase on that of last year at the same date. The record of the School for 1884, is as follows:—10 Second Class (5 A. and 5 B.), 19 Third Class and 31 Intermediate Certificates, 3 Law Matriculants, 3 Toronto University Matriculants with 3 First Class and 3 Second Class Honours.

It is stated that there are 139 Medical Schools in the United States and Canada, containing about 12,000 students—viz., 10,000 regular, 1,200 homœopathic, 750 eclectic, and 50 physico-medical students. The total number of doctors is about 100,000, or on an average one to every 500 inhabitants.