

L. D. STERLING. - By the provisions of the Public School Act, the parent or guardian of every child not less than seven or more than thirteen years of age, is required to cause such child to attend a Public or other school for not less than one hundred days in each school year, unless the child is under efficient instruction in some other manner, or prevented by sickness from attending. Boards of Trustees are authorized to appoint officers to enforce the foregoing provision, and the Police Magistrates in cities and towns, and Justices of the Peace in villages, etc., are empowered to investigate and decide upon any complaint made by Trustees, or any person authorized by them, against any parent or guardian for failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in this respect. As to the other part of Mr. Sterling's question, it is, we suppose, matter of local concern. Any parent who permits his children to become disturbers of the peace, or a public nuisance, may be proceeded against in due form of law. Incurribles may be sent to reformatories, or otherwise punished according to the provisions of public or municipal statutes, on complaint made to the police or other local magistrates.

### Correspondence.

Editor CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL:

Sir, - In your last issue I noticed a comment on the action of Mr. Bigg, headmaster of Parkhill High School, in giving a slight punishment to a boy belonging to the Public School. You are right in saying that authority should not be delegated, but your application in this case is unjust, as our teachers do not delegate their authority. Mr. Bigg merely acted as a private citizen, who, seeing a boy assaulting a little girl, justly punished him. If he were wrong legally, he was right morally, and to show that this opinion was held by our citizens, I wish to inform you that the School Board offered to pay the fine, but the High School pupils, having confidence in Mr. Bigg's impartiality and justice, desired the honor and obtained it.

Yours respectfully,

W. F. MAY,  
Mathematical Master, Parkhill High School.

[This, of course, quite alters the case. We took the account from some local paper. Thanks for the correction. - Ed. SCHOOL JOURNAL.]

### Literary Chat-Chat.

"Mark Twain's" profits of the Twain-Cable readings last season are reported at \$30,000.

Readers of Mr. Vandersmissen's edition of Grimm's "Märchen" will be glad to see that Messrs. D. C. Heath & Co. have in preparation another work edited by the same writer. - Hauff's *Märchen. Das Kalte Herz.*

W. H. Vandersmissen, M.A., of University College, Toronto, has edited, with English notes, etc., Grimm's Märchen, the selection including eight of the tales. The book is for the use of students in German, and has met with the approval of many teachers of that language throughout the States and Canada.

When Miss Louisa May Alcott is writing a book she writes fourteen hours in twenty-four. At such times she leaves her home in Concord, goes to Boston, hires a quiet room, shuts herself up and waits for "an east wind of inspiration, which never fails." In a month or so the book is done. She never copies, and seldom corrects.

The author of that juvenile classic "Alice in Wonderland," is about to publish, through Messrs. Macmillan, a book entirely different in design from anything he has ever written. It is to be called the game of logic, and will describe a new game which he himself has invented, and which promises to "combine instruction and amusement."

Some queer literary partnerships have been formed, but none of less congeniality apparently than that of Mrs. Oliphant and Mr. Aldrich. The lady has in later years become so mystical, psychological, spiritual, and Mr. Aldrich now, as ever, so witty, sharp, practical, and modern, that the fusion of characteristics will be a literary curiosity. Their coming story to appear in next year's *Atlantic* will create especial interest. - *Current.*

*Forest and Farm* is the name of a new eight-page paper, devoted especially to the interests of the Canadian sportsman - not "sport-

ing man," as the editor is careful to explain. The new journal proposes to tell the true sportsman "when to go, where to go, and how to secure the greatest amount of sport" in a limited period; also "an amount of valuable information pertaining to the farm, not to be found in any other publication." It is published every Saturday morning by Chas. Stark, 59 Church street, Toronto.

The frontispiece of the December *St. Nicholas*, "In Christmas Season, Long Ago," is a charming representation of a scene of the olden time, illustrating a pleasant descriptive poem by Helen Gray Cono. "The Story of Prince Fairyfoot," by Frances Hodgson Burnett, commenced in this number, will be a great attraction during the coming year. Among other contributors are Frank R. Stockton, J. T. Trowbridge, Alfred Brennan, Theodore Davis, and other skilful purveyors to the tastes and wants of the hundreds of thousands of young readers, to whom the monthly appearances of *St. Nicholas* make twelve red-letter days in each year's calendar.

### Literary Reviews.

IVANHOE: A Romance. By Sir Walter Scott, Bart. (Boston: Ginn & Company.)

This neat and attractive edition of this immortal romance is the last which has come to hand of Ginn & Company's admirable series of "Classics for Children." It contains foot notes and a glossary which, no doubt, contain everything necessary for the elucidation of any obscure allusions and local or antiquated terms which occur in the text.

LES TRAVAILLEURS DE LA MER. By Victor Hugo. Adapted for use in schools. With Notes, Life, etc., by James Boicelle, B.A. (Univ. Gall.), Senior French Master in Dalhousie College, and Examiner in French to the Intermediate Education Board, Ireland, etc. (Ricingtons, Waterloo Place, London.)

The popular French classic is neatly bound and well printed. The Notes indicate learning and care, and seem sufficiently full for school purposes.

DETERMINANTS. By Paul H. Hanus, Professor of Mathematics, University of Colorado. (Boston: Ginn & Company.)

In this, the only American book on the subject, the theory is given with sufficient fulness for all students who desire to use determinants as instruments of research, and to enable them to read the works of modern mathematicians, most of whom employ the determinant notation. Prof. Hanus' work differs from that of Muir, especially in the first chapter, which shows how and why determinants came to exist and their importance, in having a chapter on applications, and in presenting the special forms in connection with the cases that give rise to them. It differs essentially from Scott's, in which the theory is presented with the help of Grassman's alternate units, and the discussions are not elementary. Principles and propositions are abundantly illustrated, and a plenty of well graded examples are introduced.

A FIRST GREEK WRITER, with Exercises and Vocabularies. Fourth edition, revised.

LECTURES ON GREEK PROSE COMPOSITION, with Exercises. (Livingtons, Waterloo Place, London.)

The above works are both by A. Sidgwick, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, Late Assistant Master at Rugby School, and Fellow of Trinity College. From such cursory examination as we have been able to give them, we should think them admirably adapted to initiate the young student into the general constructions and idioms of the classic Greek. They will also be valuable aids to the teacher in carrying his pupils over the earlier stages in the acquisition of the language.

MELOE, with notes by M. G. Glazebrook, M.A., Assistant Master at Harrow School. (Ricingtons, Waterloo Place, London.)

This is a neat and beautifully printed edition, forming one of the series of the Plays of Euripides being published by this firm. An innovation is made by the editor in the division of the play into Acts and Scenes, after the style of the modern drama. The object is to increase the intelligent interest of the pupil in the plot by erecting a series of "sign-posts," to mark the stages in what looks like one long, dreary scene. The introduction is full of helpful information, historical, grammatical, and critical, and the notes sufficiently copious for class purposes.

QUEER QUESTIONS AND READY REPLIES. By S. Grant Oliphant. (Boston: New England Publishing Company, 1896.)

This is a collection of four hundred questions in History, Geography, Biography, Mythology, Philosophy, Natural History, Science, Philology, etc., with their answers. It is claimed that the information covered by the questions and answers is not generally known, even by intelligent and educated readers, and that much of it has never before been published in a form accessible to the great mass of readers. No doubt many of the items will be found interesting, and some of them useful additions to the readers' stock of information.

### A Hard Fate

It is, indeed, to always remain in poverty and obscurity. He enterprising, reader, and avoid this. No matter in what part you are located, you should write to Hallett & Co., Portland, Maine, and receive free, full particulars about work that you can do and live at home, at a profit of at least \$5 to \$25 and upwards daily. Some have earned over \$50 in a day. All is new. Capital not required. You are started free. Either sex. All ages. Better not delay.