

ARBOR DAY NUMBER.

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CONTENTS:

EDITORIAL NOTES.....	315
Recent School Legislation.....	316
The Influence of School Gardens.....	317
Our Native Trees.—IX.....	318
Why the Horse-Chestnut is so called.....	319
A few Early Flowers.....	319
Beautiful Canada.....	320
Our Coasts. II.—Their Lesson (continued).....	320
Millet.....	322
Picture-Study Queries.....	325
How one Teacher used the Picture "Saved".....	325
Art Notes.—No. V.....	327
April Birthdays.....	326
The Course of Study—A Criticism.....	327
Criticism of P. E. Island Schools.....	328
Nature-Study Calendar.....	329
The Adventures of Ulysses.....	330
Problems in Arithmetic.....	331
The Forests of Canada.....	332
Arbor Day and other Selections.....	332
Review's Question Box.....	337
Current Events.....	338
School and College.....	339
Book Reviews.....	339
Recent Magazines.....	341

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.
Read, Mark, Learn, p. 312; J. & A. McMillan, p. 311; French Holiday Course, p. 313; A Canadian Flag for Every School, p. 340; E. G. Nelson & Co., p. 342.

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EASTER.

Awake, thou wintry Earth—

Fling off thy sadness!

Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth

Your ancient gladness!

Christ is risen

—Thomas Blackburn—An Easter Hymn.

The picture this month is a representation of native trees from two pictures by Sir William Van Horne of Montreal. It is something in the life of a busy man of affairs to have a taste—and cultivate it—for nature and art. The skilful delineation of trees and the larger fungi, in which Sir William

has excelled, has not interfered evidently with business but has given a rare pleasure to his eventful and busy life.

The Roman Catholic church loses one of its ablest men in Archbishop O'Brien, who died in Halifax, March 10th. He always manifested a strong interest in educational affairs which he actively promoted by his ready sympathy and co-operation. In addition to his engrossing duties as a churchman, the great questions of the day, literature and political economy found in him a devoted student. He was an active member of the Royal Society of Canada and its president for the year 1896-97.

Our readers will find in this number appropriate material for Friday afternoon exercises in April, and for Easter and Arbor Day. No formal programme is offered for the observance of the latter. The day, should be devoted to a general cleaning and adornment of the school premises; the planting of trees and flower beds; lessons and recitations on trees and other plants, ending with a school entertainment in the afternoon to which parents and friends should be invited, and for which careful preparation should be made during the preceding weeks.

A subscriber asks us to publish a map of the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. To do this adequately with portions of the surrounding provinces and territories would take more space than can be spared in this number. Why not consult our advertising columns and get a new map of Canada? If the trustees cannot afford to help, a small concert on Arbor Day will realize more than enough.

A friend sent us in February a twig of willow collected the first week of that month with the white catkins half unfolded. But here it is the first week in April and no more progress has been made in bud unfolding. It is useless to look for spring in February or March in this country.