

## PUNISHING CHILDREN.

Few of us wish to admit that the punishment is for any reason but the child's good; but none can say such sudden onslaught is made for that cause, really and honestly, but because the elder is vexed and wants to vent that vexation. Such bravery to do it on a helpless little body which cannot turn against its tormentor.

Scarcely a day passes in which we are not as teased by our equal in the point of age as by our juniors, and pretty much by the same things. But we can't fly at Miss Mary, when she asks an unfortunate question, or breaks a tea-cup, or spills the gravy. We smile on and on to her, our hearts raging. But if little Mary is the offender, ah, then we are no coward! No, we valiantly fall upon this morsel of humanity and cuff her round the cheek; or perhaps we shake her,—the principle remains the same. Are these offences then, of which Mary has, in truth, been guilty, to be condoned? A thousand times no, but do you honestly fancy that an appropriate correction for so tiny a fault, if appropriate ever?

And this is settling aside, you see, the very unlovely phase of one to whom a child should look in reverence, so degrading one's self. No parent can preserve a shred of respect by such a habit; the very essence of it is vulgarity, and I should like to know when the babies are too small to notice and to comment; certainly not when they have reached the cuffling age.

Another thing. It isn't done for cause; I mean for good cause. When a child is deceitful, or greedy, or selfish, there are ten chances to one the persons who do their punishing by slaps don't notice it. But let that child be awkward to the extent of soiling a tablecloth, or breaking a fragile piece of property, then comes down the hand of wrath.

Now we all know the difference between a misadventure and a sin, and we all pretend to practice according to our knowledge. Yet too many of us are not so much shocked as aroused to impatience; and that sooner by misadventure than by sin, and it is only in impatience that we punish, we would not have the heart to do it ever, otherwise. I have heard that last plea from the lips of mothers. Think of the crying injustice, the horror of it! Think you, mothers, who thus confess you correct but not with judgment, of the figure you must portray to those little minds, of the good and righteous Lord, in whose stead you stand to them.

Seldom a child that never needs correction and, for my part, I think there have proved few modes of punishment less cruel or more efficacious than the old-fashioned, if somewhat softened, whipping. But who of us can say they administered it discreetly, soberly, and for the child's best good? Who plead excuse that they were angered, hot-headed, and shall not hear that awful warning addressed to those who offend "one of these little ones?"—*Nuth Hall, in Good Housekeeping*

CARL SCHURZ very truly says we are in the habit of pointing to popular education as a panacea for the ills of human society. This is well enough, provided we have the right kind of education to point at. In this respect we should not be blind to the fact that the aversion to manual labour among our young people has grown up under the very system of popular education we now have. The impression is spreading among them that education is to teach them, mainly, how to get along in life, and, if possible, how to get rich without hard work. How many boys without means are there who, having learned to write a good hand, think it beneath them to make a living in any other way than with their pens, or, having learned to add up sums and to calculate interest, would think themselves degraded if they did any

rougher work than mark prices on goods or keep books, and, doing this, wear nice clothes and keep their hands white! And thus it is that the young men, slitting farn and workshop, crowd the cities and haunt stores and counting-houses for employment in constantly increasing numbers; while it is a notorious fact that the American people, the people born and raised upon American soil, turn out so small a proportion of artisans and manual labourers generally that we have to look in a large measure to foreign immigration to supply that want of society.

## CURRENT NOTES.

The teachers of the public schools have adopted the plan of meeting twice a month for the purpose of discussing questions bearing more immediately upon their individual work. A good idea, from which good results must flow.—*Sentinel*.

Mr. Ira Cornwall, who has charge of New Brunswick's school exhibit at the Colonial Exhibition in London is doing much to call the attention of English people to the resources and advantages of this Province.

The two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of Harvard University will be celebrated on the sixth, seventh and eighth of November next.

The American Public Health Association will meet at Toronto, Tuesday, Oct. 5th and continue in session four days. Among the topics for consideration are, the best methods and the apparatus necessary for teaching hygiene in the public schools as well as the means for securing uniformity in such instruction, and the sanitary conditions of school-houses and school life.

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE TEACHERS' INSTITUTE is a monthly journal published in New York and Chicago. The number for September is before us, and it is an excellent example of a live educational journal.

THE CENTURY.—The September number of this popular magazine is varied and excellent. Its opening article is "A Summer with Liszt in Weimar," which is illustrated by a portrait of the great composer. "Amateur Ballooning" and the "Ballooning experience of a Timid Photographer" are admirably illustrated, and the mixture of serious and comic situations are narrated with a zest that secures the interest of the reader. "A glance at the arts of Persia" is interesting. John Burroughs, the naturalist, in his "Notes from the Prairie," depicts in his inimitable style the habits and peculiarities of animals. Another article interesting to naturalists is an illustrated article on the Zoological Station at Naples. The poetry, Topics of the Time, Bric-a-Brac, of the present number are excellent and readable. Published by the Century Company, New York.

## PERSONAL.

Mr. Frank Nicolson, son of Rev. A. W. Nicolson, a former pastor of the Methodist Church of this place, recently took the highest honors of his class in classics in the Harvard University, making an average of 94 marks out of possible hundred.—*Sackville Post*

Miss Annie H. Watson has been appointed assistant teacher to Mr. McFarlane in the St. Stephen High School.

Robt. Jardine, of Richibucto, and Henry I. Taylor, of Carleton, St. John, were recently graduated in medicine from Edinburgh University.

Mr. C. M. Hutchison, late of St. Stephen, and now a teacher of the Chatham High School, recently passed a successful examination before the Maine Commissioners of Pharmacy, and has received a certificate of registry as a druggist for that State.

Inspector Mercereau, since the close of the summer vacation, has inspected the schools in the parishes of Ludlow, Blissfield, Blackville, Derby,

North Esk and South Esk, in Northumberland County.

Dr. W. O. Crockett, of Fredericton, has taken the degree of L. R. C. P. of London, Eng.

Miss Fauny Thomas, a graduate of Wellesley College, Mass., has entered upon her duties as teacher of English literature and history in the Baptist Seminary.

George Smith, Esq., Inspector of Schools for Westmorland and Albert Counties, has removed from Elgin, Albert County, to Moncton.

A Madawaska correspondent of the *Moniteur Acadien*, writing of the visit of Inspector Boudreau to the parish of St. Anne's, says: "In the two days which this gentleman has passed in our midst we have had the pleasure of seeing three schools re-suscitated. The difficulties which at first appeared almost insurmountable have disappeared as if by magic. Truly his affability and sagacious counsels have merited esteem and general confidence. Let us hope that he will be thus appreciated wherever the duties of his office shall call him."

## QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

Knowing well that a large number of teachers through the country can not reach all the books that are necessary as references, the JOURNAL will contain a column devoted to the answering of questions. It is desirable that the questions be stated particularly and written legibly to avoid any mistakes occurring in the answers. The questions should be confined to school work and not to general subjects, as this paper is to be purely a school journal. In opening this column it is necessary to have the hearty co-operation of teachers to make it a success. Any question on theory will be answered in the editorial columns. All questions will be answered as promptly as they can be, but we do not bind ourselves to answer in the next issue after receipt of question. The same privilege is extended to subscribers other than teachers. All communications should be addressed "QUESTION DEPARTMENT," JOURNAL OF EDUCATION, St. John, N. B.

1. What are the four latest inventions of any importance? And who are the inventors?
2. What is the real name of the writer who used the nom de plume of A. L. O. E.?  
(Answers next Number.)

## TEACHERS' BUREAU.

Under this head trustees and teachers will find it advantageous to make known their wants, in order to communicate with each other. Trustees in want of teachers may send us their names in confidence, merely stating the district or section in which a teacher is needed. Teachers, also, in need of situations may send us their names, either to be published or in confidence, merely stating that they are open for an engagement, stating class, etc. Twenty-five cents will secure an insertion for two months. Teachers and trustees will notify us as soon as their object is secured.

WANTED.—A situation as teacher. The applicant is a graduate of the University of N. B., and intends to apply for Grammar School license in December next. Address "R. F.," in care of the editor of the JOURNAL.

WANTED.—A situation as Teacher. The applicant is a First Class Female Teacher of experience, and capable of teaching English and French. Address—1st Class Female Teacher, care of the Editor of the JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

THE SCHOOLS in the following districts are vacant: The two districts in Callornia Settlement; Ranger Settlement; Aroostook Portage; New Denmark—all in Victoria County; also District No. 2, Oak Point, Greenwich, E. C.