

And homeless roved the twittering throng
Once nesting there with happy song.

But when the royal lady
To Windsor came again,
And viewed with fond affection all
This fair and dear domain,
The tower's silent, smooth expanse
Won from her eyes a troubled glance.

No birds about the tower?
Their nesting-places filled?
No more those crannies in the wall
Where birds had loved to build?
Such were the questions quick to start
And stir that tender, queenly heart.

Straightway, in loving pity
For all the little birds
Thus routed, homeless, and forlorn,
Came her commanding words:
"The stones must be removed, and then
Nor birds nor nests disturbed again."

So, on the great round tower
Of Windsor, old and gray,
The palace where the noble Queen
Of England loved to stay,
Those nooks and crannies still are seen—
Bird homes "by favor of the Queen."

Ah! 'tis by more than birthright
This good Queen won renown;
Her deeds of love and mercy shone
Far brighter than her crown.
The whole world mourns that good life's end,
And even the birds have lost a friend.

—*Emilie Poulson, in April St. Nicholas.*

Waste in Rural Schools.

State Supt. Hammond has issued a statement in regard to the rural schools of Michigan in which he traces a number of the sources of waste of the public moneys. He says:

1. Money paid to young and immature teachers is, in a large degree, wasted.
2. Money paid to strangers for high-priced apparatus is more than half wasted.
3. Much of the money spent for fuel in trying to heat old and poorly inclosed schoolrooms is wasted.
4. Frequent changes of teachers and the confusion resulting therefrom wastes both time and money.
5. Frequent changes of text-books without the advice of the county school commissioner cause considerable unnecessary expense.

Superintendent Hammond believes that money could be saved in these directions and applied to increases of salary for teachers. The result would be that a superior class of teachers would at once be available for the rural schools.—*The School Journal.*

CURRENT EVENTS.

The Massachusetts Society of Sons of the Revolution has received permission from the city council of Quebec to erect a tablet to the memory of General Montgomery who fell in the midnight attack on that city, December 31st, 1775.

A successful test of a printing telegraph machine was recently made in the United States. A keyboard, somewhat like that of a typewriter, transmits the message, which is automatically printed on a roll of paper by the receiver.

The King of Wurtemberg is at the head of a group of wealthy Germans who are interested in the development of the airship.

To attract attention to the ancient Irish language, the member for West Kerry recently attempted to address the British House of Commons in Erse. He was stopped by the Speaker, on the grounds that, as the language was unknown to him, it would be impossible for him to enforce the rules of order in a debate conducted in Erse. The incident recalls the fact that Gaelic, the language of the Scottish Highlanders, was spoken in the Canadian parliament on one occasion, when an irate member wished to denounce a fellow member who understood that language.

The arrangements by which the Sultan of Turkey was to pay his debts to the United States under cover of the purchase of a warship have fallen through, Germany having demanded that he pay what he owes to the Krupps for war material before making any more expenditures of that nature.

France is said to be extending her North African possessions by encroachments upon Moorish territory.

The bubonic plague is again making serious ravages in India, and has also made its appearance in Cape Town, South Africa.

There have been grave political disturbances in Russia during the past month, and extraordinary precautions are being taken to protect the life of the Czar. The revolution, so long threatened, may come at any time.

The capture of Aguinaldo, the Filipino leader, though it was accomplished by means that remind us of the white-flag tricks of the Boers, brings nearer the end of the war in the Philippines. General Funston, who effected the capture with the help of traitors in the Filipino camp, had himself carried before Aguinaldo as a prisoner. The pretended insurgent troops, who were Funston's guards, at a given signal, seized the Filipino chief, and he is now in prison at Manila.