



# THE NORMAL LIGHT.

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## THE NORMAL LIGHT

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The most hearty thanks of the student-teachers are tendered the W. C. T. U. for the entertainment kindly given them last month; and to the M. P. P.s for Carleton, Charlotte, Gloucester, Kings, Northumberland, St. John, Westmorland and York, and to the Lieutenant-Governor, for tickets to performances in the City Hall.

The *Gleaner* was correct in its surmise that a certain article in last month's NORMAL LIGHT was not written at the dictation of the Principal of the school. We would further inform it that nothing which has yet appeared in our columns, has been placed there under such conditions. The editors of the NORMAL LIGHT, and they alone, are responsible for what appears in this paper.

### Music.

The ancient Greeks despised any person who was not well trained in the science and art of music. No matter how wise he might otherwise be, no matter how well developed physically, no matter, even, how good he was, if his ear could not distinguish between quarter tones they looked on him with

contempt. They considered music the chief instrument to be used in uplifting and enlightening man, both intellectually and morally. While their idea of its importance was, doubtless, much exaggerated, yet we have made a greater mistake by going too far in the opposite direction. Music is certainly one of the very best gymnastics of the mind. Its refining influence, like that of good poetry, is immense. Yet in our primary schools it receives very little attention, and in the higher grades is sadly neglected. And when a student comes to Normal School, he finds so little time devoted to music, that he is not apt to get much idea of the art, unless he was pretty well prepared before he came. And yet, all teachers are supposed to give instruction in music. How one is to acquire his power from a bare hour and a half's instruction per week, is too stiff a problem for our mind to grasp.

### The Indians.

We do not entirely agree with Mr. Straight's views on the Indian question, as expressed in another column. We admit that, on the whole, the natives of America have been cruelly wronged. It is well known that the Spaniards mercilessly massacred or enslaved nearly all the Indians—even the civilized Mexicans and Peruvians—with whom they came in contact; and that the early English colonists (those of Pennsylvania excepted) considered the cannon ball the best instructor for the red men. It is true that the United States have not used the Indians very mercifully; for the late war in Washington Territory, and many other outbreaks were directly due to the unprovoked insults and injuries heaped upon the natives by the whites. But it is nevertheless true that the Americans have done much for the Indians. The aborigines on many reservations are said to be comparatively wealthy and the nations of the Indian Territory are prosperous and contented and making rapid strides in civilization. But whatever may be said of the treatment of

the natives from the Great Lakes to Cape Horn, we do not think that the facts will warrant anyone in saying that the aborigines of Canada have, on the whole, been ill-treated. Prior to 1763 they were willing allies of the French, and their midnight raids on New England and New York led to the extermination of the Abenakis and other tribes. But when the Iroquois were expelled from their old home, in 1782, the British gave them an asylum in Canada where they remain to this day. Among all the great number of tribes in Canada, there has not been a war of any magnitude waged against their white neighbours since the latter came. Even in 1885, very few Indians joined Riel's rebellion, showing that the great majority of the natives of the North West were satisfied with Canadian rule. Here in New Brunswick the Indians have many special privileges—free education, exemption from taxes and railway fees, and free seed-grain, etc., and in the other provinces they are just as well off.

It is doubtful if the Indian population of what is now Canada and the United States ever much exceeded 500,000. And we fail to see why this small number, sadly reduced by internecine strife, should be allowed to occupy five or six million square miles of territory. But more might be done for the Indian than is being done, and no expense on his behalf should be begrudged.

We have received, as an exchange, the *School Record*, of Wooster, Ohio, a neat little paper, the perusal of which throws considerable light on the condition of education in that State.

The United States Senate have sent us a copy of "The Tariff and Administrative Customs Acts of 1890," which, with amendments, will probably become law next July.

This month's *Acadia Athenaeum* contains a fine article on one of our Canadian poets, Arthur J. Lockhart, with extracts from his works. His poem on "Acadie" is especially fine.