

The experiment is purely optional. No parent need send his children to the dancing school of the board unless he chooses.

—A petition signed by 361 lady teachers of Toronto was presented to the Public School Board at their meeting on Thursday night. It asked for an increase of salaries all round, stating that the cost of living in the city made it a continual struggle for the teachers. It is probable that the question of free school books will be submitted to the people at the coming Toronto municipal elections.

—The papers in the old country are somewhat exercised over the case of the head-master of Hersham Board School, who, since his appointment in December last, has been fined three times by the Kingston Bench of Magistrates for alleged "assaults" upon pupils. A great deal of ill-feeling it seems has been aroused since the new Board decided to supersede practically denominational teaching by unsectarian teaching, and open war was declared when, after his appointment, it was discovered that Mr. Avon was a Dissenter. The head master, himself, writes:—"Almost up to the time I came, the Church party had it all their own way, but being unable to support the schools, they had handed them over to the School Board. They still expect, however, to have control of the religious teaching; and as this is not allowed, there is a continual warfare going on between the two parties. I soon found that most of the boys (nearly 200) showed a very hostile feeling towards me because I was a Dissenter, and that their parents were inciting them to disobey and annoy me in every possible way." There are always two sides to a story, and our teachers know only too well how difficult it is to get some people to credit the right side. Of the seven witnesses, three boys, including the complainant himself, swore to different versions of the assault. The remaining four witnesses, comprising a member of the School Board, a monitor of the school, and two of the scholars, swore that no assault whatever was committed, that Skeat, the complainant, was behaving in an unruly manner and was sent home for bad conduct, and that Mr. Avon, the master, never had a stick in his hand on the occasion. Evidence was also given that at the time Skeat was not marked in any way, and did not complain of being punished. To convict in face of such evidence surely shows the leanings of the County Bench, even in England."

—It is, according to the *Australian*, quite an easy thing for a bright-witted boy from the working classes to secure entrance to one of the colleges, and thus qualify himself for a university