

## EDUCATIONAL.

## TALKS TO PUPILS.

In our system of rigid classification and close adherence to a prescribed course of study, a teacher seldom finds time for a talk with his pupils on matters outside of the regular lessons. And yet such talks would be a source of great profit to the pupils, not only improving their conduct during school hours, but developing in them principles which would guide them in after life. The teacher might even introduce into his talk a well selected reading calculated to impress a useful lesson on the minds of young people.

Ordinary school discipline requires an unquestioning obedience to certain fixed regulations. A few minutes spent occasionally in explaining the broader principles upon which these regulations are based would lead to more cheerful, because more intelligent obedience. It is not that we advocate explaining the why's and the wherefore's of a teacher's commands, before expecting obedience. If a military officer had to explain to his men why they must "shoulder arms," or "right wheel," the army would become a prating, wrangling parliament. Obedience must be unquestioning, cheerful and yielded because the commander recognizes the authority of the commander. Action, which is the result of coaxing, reasoning, threats or promises, is not the outcome of true obedience. But if implicit obedience is exacted at the time of issuing a command, it will do no harm, it will do a great deal of good, to give at another time the reasons why, and the result aimed at.

Habits of study will be a fertile subject of conversation between teacher and pupils. The necessity of close, undivided attention, the value of the power of concentrating one's thoughts, the ruinous effects of allowing one's attention to be diverted from the work in hand, are subjects which may be enlarged upon, and freely illustrated. Amusing anecdotes may be told of great men whose habits of concentration have induced absent mindedness. The use and abuse of the memory is a subject which is more important than many of the studies on the programme. Interesting and instructive passages bearing on the memory might be read from some such work as Matthews' "Memory and its Marvels."

Teachers can do a great good by endeavoring to direct the general reading of their pupils with a view to cultivating their taste for good literature. There are large publishing firms devoting all their energies to corrupting the youth of this country by the circulation of base literature. Books, not only misleading, but debasing, are freely lent and borrowed among the pupils of our schools. To counter-act their evil influence nothing can be more effectual than the advice and influence of the teacher.

But where is time to be found for such talks? Most teachers will find that occasionally they have five minutes to spare when the lesson has been taught. Instead of spinning the lesson out to cover the allotted time, or allowing the pupils to fall into the mischief, which a certain accommodating spirit always finds for idle hands, let this time be given to inculcating ideas which are even more valuable than those of the text-books. The importance of these talks would warrant the occasional omission of a lesson to make room for them.

## COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL.

## FINANCIAL.

We cannot too earnestly or too often call attention to a most serious neglect of one of our chief sources of wealth, and the depressing financial results that must inevitably follow such an evident neglect of an almost national commercial occupation, and a well-proven financial individual prosperity.

Our fishing occupation has largely built up the city, and aided in developing other branches of trade. As a proof, the largest number of our wharves and extensive store-houses have been built through the fish trade. Many of our handsome princely residences have found the capital through the West India trade to direct the skillful hand of the architect. Our banking and other monied institutions have principally derived their credit and capital from the harvest of the fisherman. The very numerous advantages, both direct and indirect, resulting from a well directed fishing fleet, can scarcely be traced in all their bearings upon the developing of trade, or the strength imparted to the healthy financial tone that this city has formerly enjoyed. If the fishing trade that has hitherto been directed by this city is to be attracted to the outlying ports, then we ask, what has Halifax got to depend upon? Our Merchants, in most cases, are but little better than retailers, and even these may assuredly depend upon the inexorable laws of finance to follow where trade relations are developed and commerce actively prosecuted.

The Genius of commerce can never be expected to hover over any great centre where trade is feebly and sickly prosecuted.

A country to be financially strong and vigorous must have large and unfailing sources of income. Not this simple importing and selling to her own people is sufficient to long maintain or establish an unshaken financial position. A few bankers gathering up the floating cash of a city, and keeping it housed for a caller, who can give undoubted paper, is no indication of financial national strength, or even financial ability, neither do those institutions to any very safe extent, replenish the financial exhaustion incident to trade or the fluctuations of commerce.

We must and can only look to the actively and profitably employed hands and minds of our people for financial prosperity. A proof is at hand—Yarmouth did not receive her commercial impulse, or financial force from any banking institutions, but solely from the earnest devotion of her people to the development of such resources, though limited, as were in their reach. The results were soon telling on her prosperity. Hundreds of com-

fortable dwellings were centered or scattered over the entire country, Merchants' princely dwellings are everywhere to be found, and the most marked evidence of advancement gladdened not only the people of the country, but strangers were not slow to note the results following from a skilled financial system of employing the money and income of the country in developing trade.

The President of the Bank of Montreal gives, in the following words, the precise advice that we have frequently given in the financial articles of the Critic. The President says:—"In view of all these circumstances, his advice to business men would be to prepare for any contingency. He hoped they had got down to hard pan, but they must go slowly, expect no great revival of trade, and be prepared for the worst as to dividends next year. Under no circumstances will a house be paid in the fall, and whether one will be paid at the end of the year or not will depend upon the profits made."

Since our last issue there has been one arrival from the coast with old catch of shore codfish, which were placed at about \$3.70 per qt. This is the last that we can learn that are to come in.

Mackerel are not yet plenty on the coast, though some good net fishing has taken place. The fish are very large—in fact from what we can learn, larger than they have been for several springs past.

Alowives do not seem to be very plenty, though some have been taken. None have yet been in market that we know of.

Shore Bank codfish. A few small catches will be in the market next week. The weather last week was unusually fine, which helped very much toward getting them ready for market so soon.

Bank codfishermen continue to arrive from the Banks, some with fine fares. All report fish plenty. One vessel which we heard of had caught on the Grand Banks 900 codfish in 22 days. She is fitted to bring back 3,500, and will remain on the Banks until she has completed her fare, unless some accident happens.

## MARKET QUOTATIONS.

## FRUIT.

Apples.  
Gravenstein..... none  
Winter—ordin y..... 3.00 to 2.50  
" good..... 4.00 to 3.50  
" choicest..... 4.00 to 3.50  
JOSEPH B. BROWN, 144 Barrington Street, Halifax.

The following Price-Lists have been corrected up to the time of going to press, and are thoroughly reliable and accurate.  
MAY 23, 1885.

## GROCERIES.

SUGAR.	
Porto Rico.....	5 to 5 1/2
Cut Leaf.....	8 to 8 1/2
Granulated.....	7 1/2 to 7 3/4
Standard A.....	6 1/2 to 7
Extra C.....	6 to 6 1/2
Yellow C.....	5 1/2 to 5 3/4
Yellows.....	5 1/4 to 5 1/2
TEA.	
Japans.....	21 to 44
Green.....	33 to 56
Assams.....	23 to 34
Souchong.....	19 to 26
Congou.....	17 to 20
MOLASSES.	
Cienfuegos.....	27 to 30
Trinidad.....	30 to 33
Porto Rico new crop.....	31 to 33
Barbadoes.....	31 to 33
Demerara.....	32 to 35
"Al R.....	38
SOAPS.	
Ivory bar.....	6 1/2
Erasive.....	6 1/2
Dominion.....	6
Surprise.....	5 1/2
Tiger.....	5 1/2
Extra Pale.....	5 to 5 1/2
Mayflower.....	4 to 4 1/2
No 1 Family.....	4
Acadia.....	3 1/2
Jumbo.....	3 1/2
Congress.....	3
Brown.....	2
Toilet 15 to 60c. per doz.	
BISCUITS.	
Pilot Bread.....	2 60 to 2 90
Boston and Thin Family.....	6 1/2 to 7 1/2
Soda.....	6 1/2 to 8
Fancy.....	8 to 15
CONFECTIONERY.	
Assorted in pails.....	13 to 14
Mixed.....	11 to 20
Loranges.....	14 to 18
1 cent goods, 144 in a box.....	96 to 110
Toys per hundred.....	65 to 75
Jams—different varieties.....	10 to 19
Brooms.....	1.40 to 2.75
Starch, Blue and White.....	7 to 9
Prepared Corn.....	9
BUTTER.	
Canadian.....	10 to 14
N. S.....	14 to 18
Eggs.....	11 to 12

## SUNDRIES.

Maple Sugar.....	10 to 12
Boneless Fish.....	4 to 4 1/2
Tobacco—Black.....	32 to 53
" Bright.....	33 to 50
Blacking, per gross.....	3.00 to 4.00
Blacklead.....	2.00 to 10.00
Pearl Blue.....	2.50 to 3.00

## POULTRY.

Fowls, per pair.....	90 to 75
Turkeys, per pound.....	16 to 20
Geese, each.....	none
Ducks, per pair.....	75 to 100

The above quotations are prepared by MACKINTOSH & Co., Wholesale Commission Merchants, Upper Water Street.

## BREADSTUFFS.

## PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

Our quotations below are our today's wholesale selling prices for cash within ten days after shipment.

FLOUR.	
Graham.....	5.50 to 6.00
Patent high grades.....	6.00 to 6.50
" mediums.....	5.25 to 5.75
Superior Extra.....	5.25 to 5.50
Lower grades.....	3.50 to 4.75
Oatmeal.....	5.25 to 5.50
Corn Meal—Halifax ground.....	3.40 to 3.60
" Imported.....	3.20 to 3.40
Bran per ton—Wheat.....	22.00 to 23.00
" —Corn.....	18.00 to 20.00
Shorts.....	22.00 to 24.00
Middlings.....	25.00 to 28.00
Cracked Corn.....	33.00 to 35.00
" Oats.....	30.00
" Barley.....	32.00
Pea Meal per brl.....	3.75
Feed Flour.....	3.25 to 3.50
Oats per bushel of 34 lbs.....	50 to 52
Barley " of 48 ".....	70 to 80
Peas " of 60 ".....	1.75
Corn " of 56 ".....	80 to 90
Hay per ton.....	12.00 to 14.00
Straw.....	8.00 to 9.00

A. GUNN & Co., 253 Barrington Street, Halifax, N. S.

## WOOL, WOOL SKINS &amp; HIDES.

No. 1 Wool Skins each.....	60
Season lot.....	25 to 50
Salted and dry.....	20 to 40
Short Pelts.....	10 to 20
Wool—clean washed, per pound.....	20 to 21
" unwashed.....	16 to 17
Green Hides—Ox, inspected, No 1.....	7
" Cow.....	7 1/2
Salted Hides—Ox in Lots, No 1.....	7 1/2
" Cow.....	7 1/2
Calf Skin.....	8 to 10
" Deacons, each.....	15 to 20

The above quotations are furnished by R. MEGENY, dealer in Wool and Hides, 177 Barrington street.