

"The Wisdom of Edmund Burke" is to be the title of a forthcoming volume, containing selections from Burke's writings on political questions. The editor is E. A. Parkhurst.

Miss Rosa Cleveland will, it is said, retire from the editorship of *Literary Life*. Ill health is assigned as the cause, but disagreement with the publisher is also understood to have occurred.

Holman Hunt, the great English artist, has a beautiful home at Fulham, in which he passes only a part of his time. The counter attraction consists of a house and studio which he has built just outside of Jerusalem.

Those who have read Miss Alcott's "Little Men" will be anxious to know something of the after history of those charming little fellows. In "Jo's Boys and How They Turned Out," the authoress gives the information.

George Alfred Townsend dictates, it is said, almost every line of his work to a stenographer. So does Joseph Howard, jr. George Augustus Sala writes with a fine pen and makes manuscript so small and close that it is read with difficulty. Sala works in the morning and sometimes well along toward the middle of the afternoon.

St. Nicholas for November is the first number of a new volume. It is quite up to the usual mark, which is a good deal to say. There is Miss Alcott's charming little story, "The Blind Lark;" some of Hugo's Tales to his grandchildren, the opening chapter of a serial by Frances Courtenay Baylor; "The Brown's in the Gymnasium," by Palmer Cox; another "Historic Girl," by E. S. Brooks; "Doll's Lullaby," by Helen Gray Carr, and other good things too numerous to mention, with the usual complement of fine illustrations.

The *Youth's Companion* celebrates this year its sixtieth anniversary. Its contributors are the most noted writers of this country and of Europe. Among them are W. D. Howells, J. T. Trowbridge, Prof. Huxley, the Duke of Argyll, the Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise, Archdeacon Farrar, C. A. Stephens, Admiral David Porter, Lieut. Schwatka, and many others. We do not wonder that the *Companion*, with such contributors, has nearly 400,000 subscribers. It costs but \$1.75 a year, and a subscription sent now is credited to January, 1888.

Teachers' Associations.

WEST LANITON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—The regular half-yearly meeting of this Association was held in Sarnia, on Thursday and Friday, 21st and 22nd ult. There was a large attendance of teachers and citizens of the town, and considerable interest was displayed in the subjects discussed, especially in that of the Kindergarten. Music by a class of teachers in training, under the leadership of Mr. W. McAlpine, also added much to the success of the convention. After routine business, Mr. J. Robinson explained how he would teach Greatest Common Measure and Least Common Multiple by factoring. He would begin by showing the class how to find the prime factors of numbers, and then to select from these factors the ones which give the G. C. M. and L. C. M. A discussion followed, in which Messrs. Grant, Howell, and Brebner took part. Dr. Logic, being called upon, read an essay on "Hygiene in the School-room." The necessity for care in the selection of a school site, also the proper ventilation, heating, etc., of buildings was dwelt upon, after which the trouble which gives rise to diseases of the eye were explained, and the proper way to avoid these was pointed out.

In the afternoon, Mr. J. J. Matthews gave his views on "Arithmetic to Third Class." The various parts of that subject which he would take up with this class were indicated, and methods of teaching then explained. In all parts of the work he would give questions of as practical a character as possible. Mr. D. D. Moshier next explained his manner of giving and correcting lessons in Dictation. The time devoted to the lesson and also the amount of it was referred to, after which a number of questions were asked and explanations given. After a recess of ten minutes, Mr. Brebner gave his views on the College of Preceptors, pointing out what he considered the good and the bad points in the scheme. Considerable discussion followed, Messrs. Grant and Bucke taking a favorable view of the scheme, and Messrs. Evans, Howell, and Moshier opposing it. Finally it was decided to postpone the discussion till after Mr. Boyle was heard regarding the Ontario Educational Society.

There was a large attendance in the evening to listen to Dr. Thompson's lecture on "How the Worlds were Built, or, God's Wonders in Creation." The lecture, which was specially prepared by Dr. Thompson for the occasion, was one of the best with which the Association has yet been favored. A short address was also given by Mr. Tibb, and several selections of excellent music by the choir.

On Friday, Mr. Brebner explained the different scales of Notation. He then indicated various points in the decimal scale where mistakes sometimes occur in teaching this branch of arithmetic. Mrs. Newcomb was then called upon to explain the Kindergarten system of education. She began by explaining the methods adopted in these schools to awaken and develop the faculties of the children, illustrating her remarks with reference to "gifts" which are used to amuse and instruct the child in color, form, etc. All of these exercises are accompanied with songs by the children. Miss K. Cameron, of Petrolia, showed her method of conducting a Reading Lesson, having a second class present. The lesson selected was taken from the Second Reader, entitled "Cotton." After explaining the lesson by showing the class the cotton in the raw, and also in the manufactured state, she proceeded with the reading, in which both teacher and class acquitted themselves well. Mr. David Boyle, of Toronto, gave an address on the Ontario Educational Society, showing the aims and objects of the society.

In the afternoon, Mr. Grant criticised the scheme unfavorably. Mr. Phillips followed, taking a favorable view of the principle of such societies. Mr. Boyle made some explanations on points objected to by teachers present. Mr. Brebner addressed the meeting on some of the difficulties in connection with the working of the society, but taking a favorable view of it in other respects. The discussion was adjourned. Mrs. Newcomb delivered an interesting lecture on the theory of the Kindergarten system. She also explained the methods adopted in conducting the classes. Mrs. Newcomb stated that in the Kindergarten at Hamilton three hours each day was the length of time children were required to attend. Mr. J. J. Bell took up "English Literature," his object being to show how he would teach it to a class. He exemplified his method by asking questions regarding various points in the extract which he had selected, a number of teachers having consented to act as pupils for the occasion. After a short discussion on the Ontario Educational Society, it was resolved to drop the subject for the present, and the Association adjourned at 4 p.m. The next meeting of the Association is to be held in Petrolia.

THE WEST BRUCE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—The autumn meeting was held in the Model School here on Thursday and Friday, 28th and 29th ult. The meeting opened with the usual exercises, and the reading and confirming of the minutes of the spring meeting.

The president, N. D. McKinnon, of Underwood, presided at all the sessions. A reading, "Nobody's Child," by Thomas W. Powell, was well received.

English grammar in Public Schools was discussed by Dr. McLellan. We have two parties taking opposite views, the one regarding grammar as useless, the other analysis as the only thing necessary. The teacher should carefully guard against these extremes. Such writers as Grant White and Colonel Parker do much harm. The study of grammar alone is not sufficient; language must also be studied. Words must be studied in company with their fellows in sentences. Analysis also has a place, as the sentence and thoughts in it can be fully understood only by the mind mentally dividing the sentence into its several elements.

The president reported for the delegation to the P. T. Association. The College of Preceptors, he said, was the matter that attracted most attention, though many other interesting matters were discussed. Mayor Howland's address on the necessity for industrial education, also President S. McAllister's address on the improvement introduced into educational matters through the influence of the P. T. Association, were, he said, both interesting and instructive.

A song, "Nelson," was sung in good style by Professor Jones, and was greeted with loud applause.

Mr. Freer, B.A., read a paper on English Literature. Ancient and modern plans of teaching were contrasted. Defects in ancient methods and improvements in modern were well indicated. Extracts and selections should be first understood as a whole. Parts should be committed to memory and recited. The spirit of the author should be imbibed and the leading thoughts traced and their relation pointed out. The force of words, their meanings and derivations, should be learned. Portions of the selections should be paraphrased orally and in writing. Nice distinctions should be noticed and similar constructions selected or given from memory. Thoughts well expressed should receive attention; the language and arrangement should be closely examined. Brevity, terseness, diffuseness, and similar qualities should be discovered and fully discussed. The committing of selections to memory would strengthen the memory, improve the language, supply thoughts and images, and refine the soul. The careful study of the selections would give freedom and choice in the use of language, a taste for literature and a means of culture and refinement supplied only by the study of literature.

Mr. Powell endorsed fully the ideas developed so clearly in Mr. Freer's paper. We should be proud of the English language and master it. The paper read breathed the right spirit.

Dr. McLellan emphasized in strong language the methods advocated in Mr. Freer's paper, and especially the necessity of cultivating the memory in youth. The English, he said, is the strongest language spoken, may be made as musical as the French or Italian, and possesses the best literature in the world.