

from these schools ; but it is acknowledged that the standard, instead of becoming higher, is perceptibly lower. France has thrown aside religious instruction. Educationists there report that without the aid of religion, morality cannot be implanted, and that as religion is wanting the coming race is deteriorating. That the schools should take the place of the Church no one will contend ; yet, remembering what the conditions are

in Canada to-day, and what the consequences of religious prohibition are elsewhere, the exclusion of the very foundation of morality from the primary institutions surely cannot be contemplated without alarm.—*Mail and Empire.*

"When you *do* pay people for looking alive, it's as well to know they *are* looking alive."—*Our Mutual Friend.*

DRAINING NIAGARA.

THE correspondence between Mr. J. W. Langmuir, Chairman of the Niagara Falls Park Commission of Ontario, and Mr. Andrew Green, President of the Commission for the New York State Reservation at Niagara, deals with the question of draining the Niagara River for commercial purposes, and the effect of such work on the lake levels. The question has recently become of special interest, great inconvenience and danger being occasioned by the exceptionally low levels of the great lakes during the present season. It is gratifying to learn that the commission in charge of the New York State Reservation is alive to the importance of maintaining the great cataract at Niagara, and of the necessity of co-operative action in preventing its virtual destruction by the diversion of water for commercial uses. Co-operative action between New York State and this Province will be necessary to that end. But Mr. Langmuir's letter directs attention to the fact that not only the great cataract, which is in itself of sufficient importance to warrant an active effort on the part of both nations, but the navigation of the great international waterways is in

danger from other and more extensive canal, power and drainage projects. The level of the three great lakes—Michigan, Huron, and Erie—is maintained by a most remarkable natural formation. With the exception of the dip caused by the current, they are on the same level, about 580 feet above the sea, the fall in the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers bringing Lake Erie about eight feet below the other two. The great natural basin containing these three lakes may be described as having three depressions in its brim. The lowest depression is now at Buffalo, and forms the outlet into the Niagara River. At North Bay on Lake Nipissing another of these depressions occurs. The rock rim is about 100 feet above the level of the lakes. Should any natural convulsion open a channel or cause a sufficient depression at that point the current of the lakes would set across the valley of the French and Mattawa Rivers to the Ottawa, reaching the St. Lawrence by that route. Lake Erie would cease to discharge her waters through the Niagara gorge, but would find a lower outlet by way of Lake Huron, Georgian Bay and the Ottawa river. An examination of the Lake Nipissing