

with a meeting once a year, have formed a local association, to meet once a fortnight in Berwick, reference to which has been already made in the REVIEW. The officers for the present quarter are: President, J. Willis Margeson; Vice-president, P. J. Shaw; Secretary-treasurer, Lottie Chute.

The Teachers' Institute of Annapolis and Digby Counties, will be held at Digby on the 3rd and 4th of April.

The REVIEW has received from the Dartmouth Public Kindergarten a pretty memorial tablet in purple and black, the children's affectionate token—"In memory of our beloved Queen, Victoria—1837-1901."

Classes in French and German are to be formed shortly in the Truro Normal School. It is understood that Mr. Soloan will conduct the German class and Mr. Benoit the French one. There will be little attempt at teaching grammatical principles, the main attention being directed toward the correct use of the languages in conversation.—*N. S. Normal.*

Inspector Mersereau is visiting the schools in Gloucester County this month from Shippegan to Bathurst, after which he will go up the coast of the Bay of Chaleur to Campbellton.

RECENT BOOKS.

We are glad to welcome a book of this character¹ from a Canadian publishing house. First, because in beauty of page and illustration, and in typographical excellence, it is the equal of any published elsewhere. (And long ago, even late in the last century, Canadian books were not always models of excellence, typographically). In the second place, because of its matter. It is a miniature history of the British Empire, and of special value to us, as it groups among the great achievements of the Empire some of the most inspiring pages of our Canadian history. "The History of the Union Jack," says Mr. Cumberland, "grew out of a paper principally intended to inform my boys of how the Union Jack of our Empire grew into its present form, and how the colours and groupings of its parts are connected with our government and history, so that through this knowledge the flag itself might speak to them in a way it had not done before." Mr. Cumberland has done a great service to the teachers of Canada, and our hope is that this book may find its way into their hands. It will quicken in every reader a truer patriotism and a better teaching of it.

The declaration on the frontispiece of this volume of selections² may give us a clue to their character: "To Geo. Palmer Hyde, whose recurrent clamor for 'a piece to speak' taught me what to put in, and whose scornful rejection of the 'babyish' or 'dry' taught me what to leave out, this book is affection-

ately dedicated." Probably if the tastes of boys and girls were consulted in the making up of readers, we might not be called upon to bewail the lack of interest in good literature on their part, or that vicious tendency to read what is weak, insipid and trashy, instead of what is strong and pure, as well as entertaining. It would certainly be a good plan—and some writers of children's books have adopted it—to read over the production to a small but select juvenile coterie, and on their verdict give it to the world, or withhold it. We know an editor-reviewer who gets his twelve-year old daughter to record her impressions of certain books before committing his own estimate of them to paper.

To return to Master George Palmer Hyde: We are much more interested in the contents of this book since we know that he had a hand in it. The president of a college *might*, perchance, admit something "dry" or commonplace into a book of selections, although he would naturally be depended upon to exclude the "babyish" element. But commend us to the instincts of Master George, even though the president's *ipse dixit* was the final court of appeal. Opening the book at random, under the head of Nature, we find selections from Frank Bolles, Henry Van Dyke, John Burroughs, Ernest Seton-Thompson, and others—short extracts, but each appealing to a youth's lively imagination and depicting scenes illustrative of the healthfulness, attractiveness and manliness of out-door life. Then follow passages dealing with history, patriotism, peace, and finally some selections, none of them trite or ephemeral, under the head of Humor, Sentiment and Reflection. In all of these there is something that youth can appreciate, and that will shape life and character.

Here is a little work of low price¹ which, if it does not tend to improve spelling, will not be the fault of the book. It starts out with the fundamental idea that the secret of success in learning to spell is concentrated and wisely directed effort on words that are likely to be misspelled, and on the letters where the mistake is likely to be made. It contains 6,500 carefully graded words in common use and difficult to spell, not necessarily to be assigned for home study, but which may be made interesting class lessons on the fine distinctions and shades of meanings in words.

The second book of America's Story² follows closely upon the beginner's book, and is written in the same attractive and interesting manner. It tells the story of the great discoverers and explorers from the time of Leif Ericson to Henry Hudson. It portrays the pomp and pride of the Spanish, the simple life and customs of the aborigines, and the sturdy temper of the early English and Dutch navigators.

The essential principles of English grammar are very clearly and accurately set forth in the work before us.³ There is a simple and natural development of the sentence, and abundance of illustration enforces every statement. The classification of words, conjugation of the verb, treatment of the predicate, are clearly set forth. The book will help every industrious student to a clear understanding of the English language.

¹ PENNIMAN'S NEW PRACTICAL SPELLER. Cloth. 160 pages. Price 20 cents. D. C. Heath & Co., publishers, Boston, Mass.

² AMERICA'S STORY FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN, Vol. II. By Mara L. Pratt. (In five volumes). Cloth. 160 pages. Price 40 cents. D. C. Heath & Co., publishers, Boston, Mass.

³ THE ESSENTIALS OF THE ENGLISH SENTENCE. By Elias J. MacEwan, A. M. Cloth. 340 pages. Price 75 cents. D. C. Heath & Co., publishers, Boston, Mass.

¹ HISTORY OF THE UNION JACK. How it Grew and What It Is. By Barlow Cumberland, M. A. Illustrated. Second Edition, revised and enlarged, with index. Cloth. Pages 324. Price, \$1.50. Wm. Briggs, publisher, Toronto.

² SCHOOL SPEAKER AND READER. By Wm. DeWitt Hyde, President of Bowdoin College. Cloth; pages 474. Price 90 cents. Ginn & Co., publishers, Boston, Mass.