

American Country Dwellings; illustrated, ii., by Mrs. Schuyler Van Rausselear. 4. Faith Healing and Kindred Phenomena, by J. M. Buckley, DD. 5. Harvard Botanic Gardens and its Botanists, by Ernest Ingersoll. 6. The Minister's Church, chapter v. 7. Unpublished Letters of Benjamin Franklin, by John Bigelow. 8. Birds' Eggs, by John Burroughs. 9. The Hotel Experience of Mr. Pink Flaker, by Richard M. Johnson. The war articles are: Stonewall Jackson in Maryland, Harpers Ferry and Sharpsburg, the invasion of Maryland and Antietam scenes. The other departments contain articles of much interest on questions of the day. The Century Company, 33 East 17th Street, (Union Square) New York.

For the past five years The Century Co. has been engaged in preparing a dictionary of the English language, of which Professor William D. Whitney, of Yale College, is editor-in-chief,—the purpose being to make a more comprehensive work than has yet appeared in popular form, to include, in addition to a very full collection of individual words in all departments of the language, all technical phrases, not self-explaining, in law, the mechanical arts, the sciences, etc. Indeed, it is designed to make this dictionary so complete in its definitions of all branches of science and art that even the specialist will need nothing further.

A prominent feature of the new work will be its encyclopedic character. Its definitions will be fuller and more complete than is customary in works of this kind; it will go further into the various uses and meanings of words, and in many cases will give full explanations and descriptions of matters historical, scientific, legal, mechanical, etc. Quite an army of persons has been at work for several years reading standard American and English books in search of quotations, of which an immense number will be used.

The publishers are taking great pains with the illustrations, of which there will be about 5000. They are employing the same class of artists and engravers that contribute to their magazines, and they mean to make the result something hitherto unknown in the world of dictionaries. Each picture as it is drawn, and again after it is engraved, is submitted to the specialist to whose department it belongs, that its scientific accuracy may be guaranteed.

## Correspondence.

### TEACHERS' UNION.

Editor CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL:

SIR,—Your editorial note relating to the projected Teachers' Union, in your issue of June 1, is *appropos*. The movement has received the support of the leading journals of this Province, and nearly all the best teachers with whom I have come in contact, extend to it their full sympathy.

As you remark "Whatever tends to elevate the status of the profession, \* \* \* cannot fail to improve the character of the work done in the schools, and *vice-versa*."

Although a number of associations have passed resolutions in favor of union, and have appointed delegates to attend a meeting for the purpose of putting the scheme in shape, there are other associations whose meetings were held prior to the birth of the provincial project. In the case of the latter, I would beg to suggest that delegates appointed to attend the Provincial Association should take upon themselves the responsibility of meeting with the regularly appointed union committee. From counties in which no delegates have been appointed for either purpose, it is perhaps needless to say that any teacher will be welcome to take part in the deliberations of the meeting.

What is wanted at this preliminary meeting is the fullest possible representation of those favorable to the scheme, as the whole of the time will be devoted to arranging the plan—not to discussing its advisability, which will be taken for granted as having been already decided.

Delegates and all others interested are accordingly invited to meet at Stewart's Hall, cor. of Yonge and Gould Sts., Toronto, at two o'clock on Monday, August 9th, the day preceding the opening of the Provincial Association.

Those who intend to be present at the Association will be provided with certificates enabling them to travel at reduced rates on the railways. Applications for certificates should be made to R. Doan, Esq., Secretary Provincial Association.

I trust that through the medium of your JOURNAL, a large number

of teachers interested will arrange to attend this meeting, which will be addressed by J. R. Miller Esq., myself, and others.

Teachers who are favorably disposed towards union, but who cannot be present, will confer a favor by addressing,

Yours respectfully,

DAVID BOYLE, 353 Yonge St., Toronto.

## Teachers' Associations.

PRINCE COUNTY, P.E.I.—The Prince County Teachers' Institute met in the Davies School, Summerside, on Friday, at 2.15 p.m. President A. D. Fraser was in the chair. After the transaction of some preliminary business, Mr. John Arbuckle, Inspector of Schools, read a paper on "Spelling." The paper set out with the consideration of correct spelling as perhaps the most necessary branch of education, and then proceeded to deal ably with the best methods of teaching this branch. The matter was treated in a manner only possible by an experienced and earnest educationist. Mr. Arbuckle was loudly applauded, and an interesting debate ensued. Mr. Mollison was remarkably well pleased with the paper. It was practical, and such papers were too apt to lack the practical element. Mr. Neil McLeod referred to the difficulty of English spelling, and hoped for some reform. He hardly agreed, however, with Mr. Arbuckle as to spelling being taken as a test of education; many highly educated men were faulty at spelling, and had to frequently consult the dictionary. Mr. Larkin complimented the paper, and hoped to see it published. Mr. Stewart thought the paper very practical. He did not like too much theory. Every suggestion made by Mr. Arbuckle was one that could be put into practice by the teachers. He dwelt upon the part played by the eye in learning spelling. Mr. J. H. Bell also complimented Mr. Arbuckle, and thought the idea in teaching spelling should be to make it involuntary. Dr. McIntyre thought spelling came by acquirement and practice. It was too much overlooked. He expressed pleasure at seeing so many teachers present. After some explanatory remarks by Mr. Arbuckle, the President called upon Mr. McLeod to open the next discussion—"The Use and Abuse of Text-books"—which he did in a few appropriate remarks. He thought we relied rather too much upon text-books. A text-book was what its name implied, viz., a book of texts, to be enlarged upon by the teacher. Teaching should be scientific and progressive,—from the known to the unknown. There must be a sequence in all successful teaching. Mr. West referred to text-books which he thought ought to be thrown out of the schools. He instanced Miss Thomson's History of England and Collins' Geography—books which he had "no use for." So defective were they that they were really detrimental to teaching. Text-books were the groundwork, and if we had not a good groundwork the resultant work must necessarily be inferior. Mr. McDougall thought it was the duty of the teacher only to explain what the pupils failed to understand. If we enlarge too much we may merely be incultating our own prejudices. He referred to the differences in text-books, and pointed out that the time and number of tasks precluded much enlargement. Mr. Larkin acquiesced in Mr. West's opinions. Mr. Mollison thought Mr. McDougall's remarks were very practical. Text-books were perhaps too closely adhered to. The pupil should thoroughly understand what was taught, and the teacher's vocabulary should be such as children can readily understand. At this stage of the proceedings Mr. John A. Matheson read a vigorously written and thoughtful paper on the subject under discussion, which was greeted with deserved applause. The paper was racy and full of cleverly made points, although prepared very hurriedly. The Institute then adjourned to meet at 8 p.m. in St. Charles Temperance Society's Hall. The evening session, which was also well attended, was taken up by Dr. McKay's lecture on "The Education of the Eye." This lucid and scientific discourse was illustrated and explained by cleverly prepared diagrams, and the whole subject was rendered clearly and plainly. Technicalities were avoided, so that any one of ordinary intelligence could readily comprehend the speaker's explanation of the wondrous mechanism of the human eye. The close of the paper treated of the diseases of children's eyes caused by improper lighting of schools, etc., and gave some practical suggestions as to the proper management of lights. At the Saturday morning session Mr. Matheson moved that the regulations of the Board of Education respecting holidays should, in the opinion of this meeting, be made imperative instead of optional.—Carried. The Committee on Nominations brought in the following report, which was accepted:—President, A. D. Fraser; Vice-President, Miss Bell, Bloomfield; Secretary, John P. Wright; Treasurer, Miss F. A. Campbell; Literary Committee, John A. Matheson (chairman), Mr. Arbuckle, Mr. McPhail; Auditing Committee, Mr. Wright, Mr. West, Miss Larkin. The discussion on the subject of Mr. Matheson's paper was then resumed, and participated in by Messrs. Arbuckle, Stewart, Arsenault, Wright, McLeod, and others, Mr. Matheson closing the discussion.—*Condensed from Summerside Journal.*