

PUBLIC OPINION.

GOOD WAGES FOR BAD WORK.—Good wages are excellent things, and good work is even better; but good wages for bad work, which is the popular demand at the present moment, can be nothing but demoralizing to every industry under the sun.—*London Spectator*.

POLITICS IN EDUCATION.—According to the *School Journal* of New York, the great bane of elementary education in the United States is the dependence of the Public Schools on politics. The mayor of a city of about 40,000 recently "swore by all the great guns that every teacher who did not train in his party should bite the dust." In a short time one head master was summarily dismissed. The superintendent (a sort of inspector peculiar to the United States) is to go, and half-a-dozen subordinate teachers have already left. An eminent teacher, who is said to be an author of national reputation, and was formerly a State superintendent of a public institution, writes to the *School Journal*:—"I have resigned from the school (*sic*) because my position had become intolerable. The hounds that could not use me for their purposes set upon me to drive me out." The *Educational News* says:—"Politics and the 'machine' are the bane of the school system in nearly every large city, and it is no secret that many a school officer holds his position because of the fact that his political 'affiliations' are all right." The publisher is as completely at the mercy of politicians as the teacher, and has to pay for the privilege of supplying schools with books. These facts are not without significance and warning for England. Education has little to gain and teachers have little to gain from placing our Elementary Schools under the control

of persons who have other interests to serve than those of the children who have to be taught.—*School Guardian*.

FAMILY PRAYERS.—There is one mark of a household in which God is known and loved which is too often wanting in our day—I mean the practice of family prayer. Depend upon it, the worth of a practice of that kind can only be measured by its effects during a long period of time; and family prayers, though occupying only a few minutes, do make a great difference in any household at the end of the year. How, indeed, can it be otherwise, when each morning, and perhaps each evening, too, all the members of the family—the old and the young, the parents and the children, the master and the servants—meet on a footing of perfect equality before the Eternal, in whose presence each is as nothing, yet to whom each is so infinitely dear that He has redeemed by His blood each and all of them? How must not the bad spirits that are the enemies of pure and bright family life flee away—the spirits of envy and pride and untruthfulness and sloth, and the whole tribe of evil thoughts, and make way for his presence in the hearts of old and young alike, who, as He brings us one by one nearer to the true end of our existence, so does He alone make us to be "of one mind in a house" here, within the narrow presence of each home circle, and hereafter in that countless family of all nations and tongues, which shall dwell with Him, the universal Parent of all eternity?—*Canon Liddon*.

HISTORY IN SWISS SCHOOLS.—The authorities of the Canton of Schwyz have ordered that the story of William Tell is no longer to be taught as his-