

—Dr. Harris has given notice to the School Board of St. Louis that he will not be a candidate for re-election in May next. This will be a loss to St. Louis, and will be of serious import to the profession throughout America, if he retires from the field of education. During the twelve years of his inspectorial work the pupils of St. Louis Public Schools have increased in number from 15,000 to 50,000.

THE PENMAN'S ART JOURNAL,

Whose prospectus appears in our advertising columns, is one of our most interesting and valuable exchanges, and one which we can earnestly commend to all who have to do with penmanship, either as teachers, pupils, or as professional pen artists. It is conducted by Prof. D. T. Ames, who has long been recognized as the leading pen artist of America. His compendium of "Practical and Ornamental Penmanship" is the most comprehensive and complete handbook in the Penman's art we have ever examined. Prof. Ames' great experience and skill, as author and teacher of penmanship, is conspicuously manifest through the columns of his Journal.

We are also in receipt of a copy of the Lord's Prayer, which is given as a premium to each subscriber. It is indeed a rare gem of pen art, and a valuable picture.

Contributions and Correspondence.

EDUCATION AT THE ANTIPODES.

BY J. GEORGE HODGINS, LL.D., F.R.G.S., DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, TORONTO.

NO. III.—CONCLUDED.

New South Wales, the oldest colony in Australia, contains an area of 328,500 square miles, and has a population of about 520,000. The system of elementary education in this colony is under the direction of a Council of Education consisting of five members—three of whom are Knights, and four are members of either branch of the Legislature. The Council has been in existence twelve years. There are 1,117 schools under its control—561 are "public," 268 "provisional," 112 "half time," and 178 "denominational." The pupils attending these schools are as follows: 71,794 at the "public," 8,707 at the "provisional," 2,218 at the "half time," and 84,538 at the "denominational" schools; total, 117,252. No explanation is given of the terms "provisional" and "half time," but from the context it may be assumed that "provisional" schools are those established in sparse settlements, and "half time" schools are those designed for young children. The "denominational" schools are those under the control of the Church of England, Church of Rome, Presbyterians and Methodists. The expenditure on behalf of the schools under the control of the Council was \$1,384,708; fees, \$327,747; total, \$1,712,455. The expenses of the Education Office were \$47,068; of inspection, \$60,781; training teachers, \$49,978. The salaries of teachers are

fixed at the following scale: Those holding first-class certificates, grade A, \$1,020; grade B, \$960; second-class, grade A, \$840; grade B, \$780; third-class, grade A, \$680; grade B, \$600; grade C, \$540. To this scale is appended the following singular statement: The salaries of unmarried male teachers, married teachers not assisted by their wives, and female teachers in charge of schools, will be \$60 per annum less than the foregoing rates. The Council however state, in any public school where no residence is provided, an allowance for rent will be made to the teacher in charge. This is an excellent provision.

The two weak points of the system are stated to be "non-attendance of pupils" and the "want of efficient local supervision." To remedy the former, the Council issued a circular to teachers, "suggesting that they should, by personal interviews with parents, or by other means in their power, inquire into the causes of non-attendance of children, and use every possible exertion to bring absentees to school." The report states that "the teachers, as a body, carried out the suggestions of the circular with commendable zeal. . . . Moreover, the circular was found to produce a useful effect in another way. The teachers, by personal inquiry, made themselves acquainted with the views and feelings of the people upon the subject of education. . . . Some valuable information has thus been elicited," which it is proposed to turn to practical account. Apart from the special object here stated, the visits of teachers to the parents cannot fail to have a beneficial effect on the discipline and educational progress of the schools. We would therefore strongly commend the practice. The second point of weakness mentioned is the lack of school supervision by the local boards and trustees. The visits of inspectors are not sufficient to counteract the ill-effects of this local supineness.

Tasmania.—This small colony embraces 26,215 square miles, and contains a population of about 110,000. The schools in Tasmania have been managed by a Board of Education since 1868. There were 165 schools in operation in 1878, with a nominal attendance of 12,453. The average attendance, however, was only 6,082, or not one-half. The expenditures on behalf of education amounted to \$132,400, divided as follows: Salaries of teachers and other expenses, \$105,000; buildings, \$12,800; exhibitions of \$25, \$50, and \$100 each, \$4,080; night schools, \$1,290; secretary, inspectors, &c., \$9,230. About \$1,000 are paid to truant officers.

One feature of the Tasmanian system of education is the establishment of exhibitions and scholarships for pupils in the public and superior schools. These exhibitions and scholarships are conferred upon pupils passing successfully from the public to the superior schools, and from the latter to the universities. Their values vary from \$25, \$50 and \$100, to \$1,000 per annum. The latter are conferred upon "Tasmanian scholars," and are designed to defray their expenses at the English universities. Two are conferred each year, and are tenable for four years. In addition to these bursaries, there are medals and prizes conferred upon successful candidates for the degree of "Associate of Arts."