

ten years the Federal treasury shall supply to the several States a certain sum annually to be expended in securing the benefits of common school education to all children of school age. The first year the sum of \$15,000,000 is to be appropriated, the second year \$14,000,000, the third year \$13,000,000, and for every remaining year of the period of ten years a sum less by \$1,000,000 than that of the preceding year, until with the tenth year Federal aid will cease. The proposal is an important one; but it is safe to say it will not carry.—*Mail.*

CO-EDUCATION is having a hard fight for existence, but is being very generally adopted, notwithstanding. The scene of action of the latest struggle is Adelbert College, Cleveland, Ohio. It will be remembered that this college was originated some sixty years ago as the Western Reserve College, and was opened for young men exclusively; about ten years ago young ladies were admitted. Quite recently the institution was removed to Cleveland, and re-named Adelbert—in memory of the donor's only son—by reason of a gift of \$500,000. The young ladies who graduated from the college as a rule stood higher in scholarship than the young men, were more regular in attendance, and proved themselves an honour to the institution. When the agitation against co-education was commenced, the women of Cleveland commenced a vigorous resistance. They interested the press, the pulpit, the medical profession, and the public generally, in their behalf. They got up a petition with over 4,000 names, and got written opinions in favor of their contention from James B. Angell, ex-Minister to China, now president of Michigan University, from Galusha Anderson, president of Chicago University, from Chancellor Manatt, of Nebraska University, from Hon. Andrew D. White, ex-Minister to Berlin, from Prof. Moses Coit Tyler, and from President Warren, of Boston University. All of the above gave the very strongest testimony in favour of co-education. The trustees of Adelbert College, after an exciting discussion of over seven hours, decided by a vote of twelve to six—or two to one—in favor of retaining the girls. The girls celebrated their good fortune by a banquet.—*Mail.*

THERE is a very nice custom in vogue in some American schools. It is the setting apart of certain days called "Author's days." Upon these occasions, the birthdays of the authors are taken up, if possible, the day is devoted to a certain author and his works. The parents of the children are invited to be present, and generally respond. An essay is prepared, usually by the teacher or some other qualified person, on the life and times of the author chosen, and it is read aloud to the audience. This is followed by discussions, and by the reading of choice selections from the author himself. Thus the time passes away pleasantly and profitably. Those children whose natural taste for poetry is strong—and there are many such, though few think so—reap inestimable benefit from the periodical and sympathetic study of the poets and poems of their own language. The taste thus early formed and fostered will be of unspeakable comfort to themselves, and may kindle similar desires in others. The general cultivation to be derived from the intelligent study of poetry cannot be over-estimated. The only true way to study it, or to study English literature generally, is in the way described. Banish the school idea for the

time being; make the children feel they are wanted to help in the discussion; make nothing compulsory; show them the beauties; never mind the parsing or the analysis—which not only destroy the poetry, but often obscure the meaning—and enter into the subject with an enthusiasm and interest which will quickly communicate itself to the children. English literature should be the staple of our modern education. Its importance and usefulness as an element in all education is admitted, but teachers and educators fail to give practical effect to their beliefs, at least in assigning to English a worthy place in the *curricula* of schools and colleges.—*Mail.*

## Personals.

### EDUCATIONAL.

MR. Margach, headmaster of Brockville Model School has been re-engaged for the present year, at a salary of \$1000.

MR. A. McMECHAN B.A., formerly of Brockville High School, has been appointed Modern Languages Master of Galt Collegiate Institute, at a salary of \$900.

MR. A. W. BURT, B.A., late Modern Languages Master of Perth Collegiate Institute, has been appointed headmaster of Brockville High School, at a salary of \$1200.

MR. N. ROBERTSON, B.A., formerly Classical Master of Perth Collegiate Institute, has been appointed headmaster of the High School at Smith's Falls, at a salary of \$1000.

THE successor to Mr. Hunter in the Waterdown High School is Mr. A. Crichton, B.A., formerly of Orangeville and Seaforth High Schools. Under his management the school ought to lose none of its reputation for scholarship, for Mr. Crichton was considered at graduation one of the best classics the University had sent forth.

We learn that Miss Jennie McDonald, of Perth Collegiate Institute, who, at the late examination for junior matriculation into the University of Toronto, obtained first-class honors in Mathematics, English, French and German, and second class in History and Geography, being *third* of her class in Mathematics, and first in History and Geography, was not seventeen years old at the time she won these brilliant honors.

### GENERAL.

PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR, eldest son of the Prince of Wales, attains his majority to-day.

EDWARD KING tells one of the most delightful anecdotes of Carlyle. That portentous pseudo-philosopher, Mallock, called on the old Scotchman and let himself loose, talking Carlyle almost to death. Carlyle listened imperturbably, invited him to tea, and had him to smoke in the library afterwards. When at last the sage thought proper to take his leave, Carlyle accompanied him to the door and said, "Well, good bye; I've received ye kindly because I knew your mother, but I never want to set eyes on ye again."

CANON LIDDON preaching recently to an immense congregation in St. Paul's Cathedral on the fear of men, said the

curled lip, uplifted eyebrow, or shrugged shoulder in a drawing-room or club was more trying to many a young man's faith than would be the leading a regiment across an open plain subject to the enemy's cannon. He told a story of the late Sir Robert Peel with quiet dignity ordering his carriage when at a dinner-party Christianity was denied, saying that he was sorry to retire, but that he was still a Christian; while, without approving of the truncated creed or singular methods of the Salvation Army, the Canon praised its followers for their not being ashamed of what they professed.

DR. JOHNSON'S death was announced in the principal country papers of December 16th to 23rd, 1784, by a paragraph in the summary of London news which used then to be supplied to them weekly, very much in the same way as London *Correspondence* is now sent down every evening:—"December 14th.—Yesterday afternoon, about ten minutes before seven of the clock, there departed this life, at his house in Bolt Court, Fleet street, in his seventy-sixth year, to the inexpressible grief of his friends, and to the infinite loss of His Majesty's subjects, that eminent ornament of literature, and firm friend of virtue and religion, Dr. Samuel Johnson. His venerated remains will be interred in Westminster Abbey. Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir John Hawkins, and the learned Dr. Scott of the Commons are appointed his executors. Dr. Johnson settled his worldly affairs five days before his death. He was entirely resigned to the will of God, and rarely spoke during his last days, except upon religious subjects. He passed away without a struggle, dying so quietly that the persons in his chamber were not aware of the exact moment of dissolution."

THE wife of William Black, the novelist, is thus sympathetically described:—Mrs. Black is a woman who must be pronounced the happiest possible choice for a distinguished man of letters. Her manner is at once genial and distinguished, and she is not only so well read, but so thoughtful and capable of expressing her ideas, that people who converse with her are a little surprised to learn that she does not write herself. But it is one of the convictions of this charming lady that a woman wedded to a worker in literature should not attempt to compete with him in ordinary cases. Nothing is so pitiable as to see a clever writer with a wife who writes indifferently, unless, indeed, it is to see a clever woman with a husband whose writings are mediocre compared with her own. Mrs. Black, who is fair and of generous figure, with a soft and sympathetic voice and all the poise of a well-bred woman, thoroughly believes that it is her mission as a wife to attend to her household and make home a peasant place—efforts which the celebrated and hard-working novelist unquestionably appreciates. Their three children are headed by a daughter of nine years, who is sufficiently precocious to have views on politics; but she adds ingenuously and ingeniously; "I have been forbidden to talk about them; only my politics are the same as papa's, and he belongs to the Reform Club." The second child is a fair-haired boy named Norman; the third a little girl, whose political views were not even suggested to me, and all three are pretty, graceful and well-bred children. So that, altogether, one must pronounce the author of "Madcap Violet" a singularly fortunate man.