

labors and difficulties enough to tax the energies of the best Parliament the people of England can elect. Great Britain has hitherto moved slowly and surely in the path of reform, but the speed is becoming accelerated from year to year, and if the pace is maintained, not many decades will be necessary to make her one of the most thoroughly democratic nations in the world.

The School.

The Report of the Council on Education in Scotland for 1884-85 contains amongst a number of sound educational maxims the following, which we commend to the consideration of practical teachers:—"Arithmetic is the stumbling block of the 1st Standard. It is perhaps the least valuable, as it is confessedly the most irksome requirement of the Code. It is forcing a faculty of later development to the comparative neglect of linguistic and other imitative powers which are in full play."

The *N. E. Journal of Education* is about to take a new departure, by amalgamating with *The Educational Weekly* of Indiana. Thomas W. Bicknell is Editor-in-chief of the former, and J. M. Olcott, of the latter. Both are distinguished and able educators, and their respective papers we have always counted among the best of our Exchanges. The new paper, which is to be the product of the consolidation, will no doubt be a strong and vigorous one.

The Industrial School Association of Toronto is going on in its good work. The Board of Governors are about to build a main school building capable of accommodating two hundred boys, and a cottage with accommodations for forty more, at Mimico. These buildings are to cost \$26,000, of which more than half is already subscribed. A lady gives \$6,000 for the erection of the cottage. The progress of this benevolent enterprise will be watched with interest.

Archdeacon Farrar said in his Johns Hopkins address that he translated his Latin quotations for the benefit of the ladies. He evidently has not studied American institutions very closely or he would have learned that in an intelligent audience in the older States the percentage of ladies able to translate a Latin quotation for themselves, is little, if any, smaller than that of the other sex capable of doing so. In the proportion of educated women the States, thanks mainly to the numerous Ladies' Colleges, probably rank considerably higher than either Great Britain or Canada.

We have been greatly disappointed with the new tablets which have been published as companions to the Ontario school primers and which were heralded with a flourish of trumpets a few weeks since. They are badly designed and badly executed. The faults we have before pointed out in the primers are exaggerated in the tablets. There are far too many words on each. Every teacher knows that in order to serve their purpose well the words in such tablets should not only be fitly chosen and skilfully arranged, but should be so far separated

from each other, both laterally and longitudinally, that each will stand out as a distinct object to the untrained eye of the young child. In the new tablets there are at least one-third too many words in each line, and one-third too many lines on each page. The illustrations, too, are dim and unattractive.

Two evils we have noticed in Canadian families. There is a considerable though probably decreasing number of parents who, following English training or traditions, are accustomed to give the boys of the family precedence over the girls on all occasions. The boy is treated as the future lord of the household, whose tastes are to be gratified and his whims consulted on all occasions. The girls are taught to wait upon their brothers, to give way to them, and to regard themselves as very secondary personages in comparison. In other and still more numerous families the order is precisely reversed. The boys are the inferiors and are taught to wait upon their young lady sisters, to defer to their wishes and to yield to them the best of everything. Both practices are obviously unjust, unwise and wrong. They violate the equality of the family circle. And both are injurious, especially to the favored sex. The arrogance and domineering spirit of many a disagreeable man, and the intense selfishness of many an exacting woman, may be traced to these respective faults in home training.

Cornell University has established courses of Sermons for Students. Two series are arranged for, one during the Fall term, the other during the Spring term. The most eminent preachers of different denominations are invited to deliver these discourses. The list for the series now in course embraces such names as Lyman Abbott, Everett Hale, Washington Gladden, H. R. Hawsis, etc. Attendance is optional with students but, as a matter of fact, the sermons are very largely attended, and often, we are told, the chapel is overcrowded, and members have to leave for want of room. We do not wonder at this, if many of the sermons are as full of life and power as that of the Rev. Mr. Tyler, given in the *Christian Union* for Nov. 5th. The subject was "Christianity and Manliness" (I. Cor. xvi. 13), and the fresh thoughts and crisp, ringing sentences must have left echoes in many hearts. We are glad to learn from a correspondent of the *Globe* that a somewhat similar plan is followed at Queen's University, Kingston. A sermon for students is delivered in Convocation Hall every Sunday afternoon during the collegiate year, and the ablest divines from all the Christian churches in Canada are invited to preach.

We are surprised and sorry to see that a statute has been passed by the Senate of Toronto University, providing for the creation of four additional scholarships at junior matriculation. The principle of awarding prizes and scholarships from public funds is bad in any case. Why should the citizens generally and other poor students in particular be taxed for the benefit of a select few who, because of greater advantages, or possibly by means of better memories, are able to take a higher marking at examinations? We are aware that distinguished men sup