

The *Brooklyn Magazine* in its April issue, prints the following touching letter, addressed to its editor by Miss Louisa M. Alcott, concerning the present condition of her father, Professor A. Bronson Alcott, the venerable philosopher, who resides with her in Boston :

"My father, I am happy to report, is very well for one in his condition and at his age. He has never recovered the use of his right arm, and only partially the use of his right leg. He can walk a little with help, and goes to drive occasionally; but the exertion will soon be too great, I fear.

His loss of speech is the saddest part of his infirmity, and it is pathetic to see one who was so unusually gifted in conversation unable to express even his wants in words. His mind is still bright, and he enjoys the visits of friends, understanding all they say, though smiles and gestures and a few phrases are all he has to offer in return. He sleeps well, dozing much by day, and eats with his usual appetite the simple food he has lived on for fifty years—no meat, tea, or coffee,—and he still attributes his great vigour to his temperate life. He will never write or talk again, and his books are all he can offer now. He no longer cares to read, but enjoys pictures, and sits thinking for hours as he placidly waits for the great change. He often says he is tired and wants to go, but, like a true philosopher, bears the inevitable as bravely and sweetly as he has borne all the trials and joys of his long and beautiful life. He desires me to convey his thanks to the many friends who so kindly remember him, in which I very gratefully join."

LOUISA M. ALCOTT.

## Correspondence.

AURORA, April 3rd, 1886.

Editor CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL :

DEAR SIR,—I noticed in the comments of the *Globe* on the Report of the Minister of Education in regard to "Arbor Day" and again in yours of April 1st, this remark : "All the others plant less than 2,000. The metropolitan County of York having only a petty 1,200 to show.

Let us should be credited with less interest in this commendable movement than we actually have, let me state that there must have been very imperfect returns or none from the southern inspectorate as the northern alone reported nearly 1,200. Our actual planting in 1885 was 1,050 trees. Of these 950 were alive in the autumn. But considerable attention had been given previous to the appointment of Arbor Day, and so we are able to point to 1,650 living shade trees beautifying the grounds, and offering shelter to the pupils of our 79 school districts, an average of over 20 trees for each section, which I fancy few inspectorates will be able to surpass. There were also 100 flower beds planted and tended by the teachers and scholars.

Yours, &c.,

D. F.

Editor CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL :

DEAR SIR,—I have just received your enclosure of \$75 in payment of the first prize awarded in your late arithmetical competition. Please accept my thanks for the amount. The receipt of so tangible a proof of your enterprise and liberality leads me more than ever to wish success to your excellent journal.

Yours truly,

TORONTO, March 1st, 1886.

JOHN ELLIOTT,  
Late of Caledonia.

Editor CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL :

DEAR SIR,—A few days ago I was pleased to receive a P. O. order for \$18.75, my share of the \$75 laid out for junior prizes for arithmetical competition in connection with the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL for 1885. I may here state that, when I got out the questions for competition, I little dreamt of their winning a prize.

Yours faithfully,

ROBT. G. NESBITT.

Editor CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL :

DEAR SIR,—I received with thanks my apportionment of the prizes for arithmetical competition for Fourth Class, \$18.75. I return my sincere thanks for your liberality. Hoping your journal may remain an upholder of free and liberal education.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD PURVERS.

Editor CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL :

DEAR SIR,—I thank you for the prize, \$18.75, which I received to-day. I look forward for each copy of your journal as to a treat. It is bright and newsy. Just the kind of paper which will serve to put teachers who read it in possession of the best thoughts on their work. No one who regularly reads it can fall into the ruts which infect the teacher's path. Promising to do what I can to increase the circulation of your paper, I am

Truly yours,

THOS. KIRKCONNELL.

TIVERTON, March 11th, 1886.

Editor CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL :

DEAR SIR,—P. O. order for \$18.75 duly received, prize for arithmetical competition in SCHOOL JOURNAL.

JOHN N. LANNIN.

ASH, March 29th, 1886.

## JUVENILE ENTRANCE CANDIDATES.

Editor CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL :

DEAR SIR,—"Alpha" is mistaken when he says "there must have been a deal of memory-stuffing in the case of a pupil of 10 or 12 years who passed the Entrance Examination. We had a pupil, 10 last birthday, at the Lindsay Examination in December, who passed with 70 marks to spare. Of 78 grammar papers that I read his was the best; and the grammar paper was not one in which memory-stuffing was likely to help much. Most of his answers were such as one would have expected from a mature mind, but the chief difference was that he read the questions correctly, while most of the candidates gave answers they were not asked for.

The boy is a country lad, the son of a first-class teacher, who is painstaking and thorough. The boy has never been crammed, but simply allowed to go to school and learn. He is very fond of reading, and his parents have a difficulty in keeping him from spending too much time in his favorite employment.

I think it is a mistake to suppose that cramming helps pupils to pass our examinations. There was a time when it did; but the tendency now is to go to the other extreme, and, in order to discourage cramming, the questions are often worded in such an ambiguous manner that candidates cannot tell, out of half a dozen different things, which the examiner is driving at.

Yours, &c.,

J. H. KNIGHT.

LINDSAY, April 9th, 1886.

## Publishers' Department.

We request subscribers to examine the address label, because we have extended the dates by doubling the time from Jan. 1st, to date, which subscriptions would have terminated. We are not infallible, and there are, possibly, some errors which we would desire to have corrected at once, and not at the end of the term when it will be difficult to trace them. If names or post offices are not spelled accurately, please notify us.

We cannot guarantee back numbers.

Subscriptions begin with the number for the 1st of the month. When received late in the month, they will begin with 1st of following month. Premiums, if in stock, will be mailed promptly.

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Address, BUSINESS MANAGER, CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL, Toronto, Ont.