

gular number. We confess, it is not so agreeable to the ear to say 'This kind of entertainments,' 'That sort of experiments;' but it would be easy to give the sentence a different form, and say 'Entertainments of this kind;' 'Experiments of that sort;' by which the requisitions of grammar would be satisfied, and those of euphony, too.

Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well. If our native language is worth studying, it is worth speaking well. *Youth is the time for forming correct habits of speech.*—*Sargent's School Monthly.*

3. ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF FREE SCHOOLS FOR ALL.

C. R. Burdick has an article in the December number of the *New York Teacher*, on Free Schools for All, and All in the Free Schools. He takes the ground that it is the duty of every State to provide schools for all her children, and then to take care that all attend them. This should be done, because general education is essential to the safety of life and property. All nations should provide for the perpetuation of their institutions, particularly our own, which seems to be the result of a world's struggles for liberty. The warnings of history should be regarded: Greece and Rome fell because they did not educate their masses. Though we appropriate large sums to educational purposes, and have numerous academies and colleges, the writer thinks that a vast portion of our population is growing up in ignorance, schooled only in the school of vice. This mass is increasing yearly, especially in our cities. New York is taken as an example; it needs no prophet to predict the future history of this city, unless a more stringent system of education, intellectual, moral and physical, is there adopted. Abundance of school accommodation should be provided for all, and attendance should be secured by law. Civil disabilities should be laid upon ignorance. Not only should children be punished for truancy, but parents should be subjected to fine or imprisonment for permitting it, or for neglecting to send their children to school. Nor should parents be allowed to withdraw their children till they have gone through a certain routine of studies, at least in the primary branches. Danger from the wholesale distribution of the elective franchise should be averted by allowing no man, either foreign-born or home-born, the rights of citizenship, unless able to read and write well, and tolerably versed in arithmetic.



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. Parties in correspondence with the Educational Department will please quote the number and date of any previous letters to which they may have occasion to refer as it is extremely difficult for the Department to keep trace of isolated cases, where so many letters are received (nearly 800 per month) on various subjects.

(Continued from the last Number.)

NO. 7. SELECTION OF SCHOOL SITE AND ERECTION OF THE SCHOOL HOUSE.

"The majority of the trustees and the majority of the electors present at a special meeting called for the purpose, have a right to decide, without further appeal, upon the site of the school-house for their section.

"By the 4th clause of the 12th section of the School Act of 1850, the Trustees are the judges as to what kind of a school-house they will erect, and how much they will expend in erecting and furnishing it; but, by the 7th clause of the same section of the Act, they are required to consult their constituents as to the mode of providing the sum or sums necessary to pay for the school-house, as well as for other school purposes; and by the 6th section of the Supplementary School Act, a special meeting must be called to determine the school site. But, in regard to all other purposes, the Trustees exercise their own discretion as to whether and when they will call a special school meeting, as authorised by the 12th clause of the 12th section of the School Act of 1850.

"The Court of Queen's Bench has decided that none but freeholders and householders,—whose names appear on the Assessors' Rolls as such,—have a right to vote at a school meeting."

NO. 8. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND POWERS OF TRUSTEES.

"By the 9th section of the Supplementary School Act, the Trustees are made *individually* responsible for any part of the School Fund forfeited or lost to their School Section through their neglect. If, therefore, your Trustees do not keep open the school any part of the year, they are personally responsible for money lost to the Section on that account; and the amount can be recovered against them, on the complaint of any resident in the Section to a magistrate. This section of the law was passed to compel Trustees to keep their school open, whether inclined to do so or not.

"If a trustee refuses to act, his colleagues can complain of him, and have him fined; but two trustees can do all lawful acts of the Corporation, after giving their colleague an opportunity to join in their acts.

"On the union of two school sections into one, the trustees of the united section succeed to all the powers and obligations of the trustees of both sections united.

"Trustees can supply their schools with the requisite maps, apparatus, and books, out of any school moneys in their hands, except the school fund.

"The Trustees alone, and not any public meeting, have the right to decide what Teacher shall be employed, how much shall be paid him, what apparatus shall be purchased, what repairs, &c., shall be made, how long the school shall be kept open; in short, everything that they may think expedient for the interest of the school. See clauses 4 and 5 of the 12th Section. No special school meeting called by the Trustees (and nobody else, except the Local Superintendent, has the right of calling a special school meeting) has a right to decide or discuss any other matter or matters than such as are specified in the notices of the Trustees calling such meeting, as provided in the 12th clause of the 12th Section.

"A Secretary-Treasurer can be appointed, and changed by the majority of the Trustees at any time."

NO. 9. TRUSTEES CONTROL OVER THE SCHOOL HOUSE.

"The control of the school-house is legally with the Trustees alone, by virtue of their office, and with no other party or meeting whatever. It is, therefore, in the power of the Trustees to confine the school-house exclusively to school purposes; but it has been, and is in country places, customary for the Trustees to allow the school-house to be used for purposes of religious worship, Sunday school, or singing school, especially in neighbourhoods where there are no places of religious worship. Religious parties allowed to use the house, ought to pay for any injuries done; and should pay the teacher, or some one, to clean the house, from time to time, as might be considered equitable by the Trustees.

"If the Trustees abuse their power, in allowing their house to be used for improper purposes, they may be restrained by an Injunction of the Court of Chancery, should a party concerned complain of them, and sustain his complaint by satisfactory evidence. But the Trustees do not incur any personal responsibility in the customary exercise of their discretionary power over their school-house."