

to, let it only be for vices, or for acts morally degrading. Here is the letter :

Editor Niagara Falls Review.

SIR,—Permit me to inform "An Old Lady" that her statement in your last issue reminds me of another old lady, a little deaf by the way, who related to her friends that Dr. so and so had prescribed four table-spoonfuls of castor oil to a child (how cruel!), omitting the fact that the Dr. had said in separate doses. Now I have not been a teacher for twenty-one years without discovering before this that an overdose of punishment, as in medicine, is bad, and therefore my prescription is given in four instalments with intervals between, of from twenty minutes to seventeen hours. Her statement regarding the position is tintured with the same quality, as one half the time is expended in the classes, like the other pupils, and the other half at a chair or desk, in any position the delinquent prefers. Permit me also to inform "An Old Lady" that this penalty is exceptional, in fact, it is the last resource, and is only inflicted on pupils liable to suspension, who, after due notice being given, and their names written on the black-board, persist in disobedience or in breaking the rules within two days after such notice. A boy may be found now and again undergoing this penalty, but years may elapse without one single case of a girl. I will illustrate this by a fact. About eight years ago, I laid down a rule, that if any pupil had over three mistakes in spelling, the name would remain on the black-board for two days, and if, on any of these days the pupil had over four mistakes, I would use the strap. In eight years I have not broken this rule once; and what result do I find? That three years have elapsed at one time without requiring to strap a girl, and months without a single boy. Some boys and girls have their names down frequently, but careful preparation is the order of the day until the names are rubbed out. Now I find this other penalty working in the same way, lessening the number punished, and producing the result aimed at, quietness and diligence. However, as usual, some love talking and doing their own sweet will best, and finding my prescription disagrees with such desires, fly to their ma or grandma for sympathy, and in some cases find it. Children properly trained at home seldom trouble the teacher, or persist in breaking the rules, as they have no backing. As regards the term "relic of barbarism," teachers have become accustomed to such opinions, and file them away. For instance, even in this Niagara Falls of ours, one parent tells me, moral suasion is a humbug, thresh 'im well. An-

other sends me a note to the effect not to touch his boy or it won't be good for me. Another considers a detention of fifteen minutes an outrage. Well, what can a poor teacher do under these conflicting opinions, but, as the poet says: "Hold on the even tenor of his way," and practise the admonition, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might"?

There is one relic of barbarism, however, the rod, which if some parents were to use a little more frequently at the present day, accompanied by the wise man's advice intended for too sympathetic people, "Chasten thy son while there is hope and spare him not for his crying," a marked change would soon be noticed at our public meetings and on our streets, and less necessity for coercion on the part of the teacher. I hope "An Old Lady" will visit the school, and get better acquainted with the teacher, and she may find that he sympathizes with the children, like herself, and considers punishment a hard duty.

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THE NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

It is understood that the Advisory Board of the Minister of Education has been reconstituted and placed in commission, though as yet no public announcement of the fact has been made by the Department. The changes in the *personnel* of the Committee, we believe we are right in saying, consist in the removal of the two obnoxious Inspectors, Dr. McLellan and Mr. James Hughes, whose self-seeking intrigues and the unseemly commercial relations they maintained with a Toronto publishing house, roused a storm of public indignation against them, to which the Minister has now properly, if tardily, paid respect. With the removal of these Inspectors, Mr. G. W. Ross, we believe, withdraws, their places being filled by the appointment of Prof. Watson, of Queen's University, Kingston, Prof. Haanel, of Victoria University, Cobourg, and Mr. Alfred Baker, the new Registrar of University College, Toronto. Four of the old members of the Committee, it is understood, are reappointed, viz., the Chairman (Prof. Young), Inspectors Buchan, Marling, and Glashan. With the cleansing of the Committee, and the infusion of fresh blood, no