

answers to questions in all the subjects that will admit of them, and thus habituate their scholars to express themselves with the pen as freely as with the voice. If this is supplemented at intervals by a formal exercise in composition, great improvement in the power of expression will be the infallible result. One of the difficulties of teaching composition is the selection of appropriate subjects. It is too often forgotten, that while children can be very little benefited by any attempt to develop their ideas through this medium, they may receive the greatest good by being taught to express themselves accurately and forcibly. The teacher must regard composition purely as an art, and teach it as such. He should always, therefore, supply his pupils with topics they can write freely about, such as a synopsis of a lesson in History, or other like subject; an account of something told or read by the teacher; or an exercise to supply appropriate words in elliptical passages, given either in prose or poetry. These passages should be always from the best authors. A capital exercise is to require an account of a visit to some place of interest, or of some recent event. In a class lately, the scholars were required to write a letter to a friend, describing the most important public events that had occurred during the previous week. They were nearly unanimous in selecting Hanlan's victory over Laycock as one, and the fall of the station at Buffalo as another. Of course, the school-boy's irrepressible sense of humour asserted itself, and we find one ending his letter thus: "I have no more news to tell, but that our dog Towser has died, Tabby the cat has gone blind, and there is only one feather in Jacky, the bantam's, tail, and he has to lean against the fence to crow."

The following extracts, containing errors in composition, spelling and punctuation, have been made from the papers handed in, and if our readers will write them on the black-board for the criticism of their classes, they will find them, under careful guidance, a source of interest and a means of improvement. The series may be divided into two or three lessons. We have italicized

some mistakes, and suggested corrections for others.

Correct or improve the following:—

You have heard a great deal more about the boat race than I have living so near. (You, living so near, &c.) The Australians not content with what they lost when Hanlan ran Trickett *had arranged* another boat race. At the start Hanlan got off with a slight lead which he soon made into a length. (Omit "at the start," and change "made into" to "increased to.") The Erie station has fallen in killing four men and 8 others were severely injured, (and severely injuring eight, not 8, others.) The station of the Erie R. R. has fallen in, and four or five persons *were killed but they were* still looking for bodies. (The station of the Erie R. R. has fallen in, killing a number of persons. The bodies of four or five have been already found.) Hanlan jumped off with the lead, as he usually does and kept it, and when *they* reached Hammersmith bridge *Hanlan* was leading by several lengths. The race was for £500 a side, and the *Sports-mans Challenge-Cup*, the race was to have been rowed some time ago. I suppose you would like to hear the news that is occurring. (News of events that are occurring.) There *was* a good many people to see the race. Another chief event was *about* the Hanlan race. About eight days ago the people of Buffalo *was* shocked by hearing that the station had fallen in. Those that *was* outside on the platform was mashed to jelly. The articles for this race were agreed upon, and signed six weeks before *the* race came off. There was not as much interest taken in this race as in Hanlan's previous one as it (what?) is becoming an old story. Laycock pressed Hanlan a little at first but for all that *Hanlan* won *it* easily *he* came in four lengths ahead. 4 men were killed all the labourers in the town being hired to dig out the bodies.

What is there wrong in the following, selected from other sources?

The volcano of Fujijama, in Japan, rises solitary and alone, out of a great plain to a height of 12,400 feet, nearly two and a half