

absences from school. At the age of eleven the child can leave school if he has obtained the certificate of being up to the mark in the work of a primary school; but, moreover, before that age, the law of 1882 allows managers to give three months' leave a year, besides the holidays, to a child living at home, and to permit a child employed away from home to come to school for half the day only. In Germany the school obligation is much more serious.—From *Mr. Matthew Arnold's Report*.

MISS WILDEKN, of Vienna, has taken charge of S.S. No. 8, South Dorchester.

MR. SIMPSON has assumed the head mastership of the Markham High School.

MR. TWOHEY, classical master at the Chatham High School, goes to Brockville to take a similar situation at \$1,000 per annum.

HON. G. W. ROSS, Minister of Education, with Mayor Rae, visited Demill College, Oshawa, on Sept. 28th, when the Hon. Mr. Ross gave an excellent address to the students and faculty of the college.

MESSRS. MILLER, SANDERS & MIDGLEY, the special committee appointed by the St. Thomas School Board to arrange for the visit of the Minister of Education, decided to hold a public meeting in the opera house.

PLANS for the gymnasium for the St. Mary's Collegiate Institute have been prepared, and tenders are advertised for the erection of a frame structure, 25x50 feet. The building is to be erected on a part of the grounds to the east of the main building and will cost in the neighbourhood of \$300.

THE pupils of Mrs. Farrar, in the girls' central school, Winnipeg, presented their teacher with a very handsome butter cooler; and the teachers of the central presented her with very richly bound copies of Hood's poems and American poets. These souvenirs are given to Mrs. Farrar on the occasion of her retiring from the school. She leaves next week to join her husband in Florida, where he has been engaged in business for a few months past.

OSHAWA High School held "Graduating Exercises" on September 28th, and despite the rain, the hall was crowded. Diplomas and certificates were presented to the successful candidates at the late examinations. The Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, was present and delivered an address fully setting forth the object of the recent changes in the School Law. Oshawa Collegiate Institute contemplates holding a similar entertainment some time next month.

AT an adjourned meeting of Convocation of the University of Manitoba, it was moved by Rev. Father Drummond, seconded by Mr. J. A. M. Aikins, that it may be considered advisable that enlarged powers be given to the council as to the mode of election and as to an increased number of representatives of convocation in said council, such powers to be used whenever the council shall consider that a change is imperative; and that the registrar transmit such resolution to the council.

M. JULES SIMON has contributed to the *Revue Illustrée de Bretagne et d'Anjou* an account of his

schooldays at Vannes in 1830, where he supported himself entirely out of the prizes he won and the tuition he was permitted to give to younger boys. He prides himself with having been head of the school, with the title of "Imperator," for three years in succession; but on entering the Ecole Normale, the first discovery he made was "*que je ne savais rien au monde, excepté un peu de Latin.*"

THE report of the property committee of the Peterborough Board of Education at the board's last meeting concluded as follows: "Your committee have complied with the requirements of the Educational Department as near as possible and at a low cost, considering the numerous changes asked for; we are pleased to learn that the Government grant, due in September, has been paid without any comment, from which we may infer that the Institute is now satisfactory."

BEFORE the Minister of Education began his inspection of the Tilsonburg schools, Mr. Wilson, the clever principal of the public school, was greatly surprised by the entry to his room of his lately graduated class, headed by G. W. Hare, reeve of the town. But he was still more surprised when the leader of the deputation called him to the front and, after a well-worded address had been read by Mr. Hare, he was presented with a handsome gold watch and chain and pendent.—*St. Thomas Times*.

MR. BARTON EARLE, English Master in the Peterborough Collegiate Institute, having had the misfortune to break his leg, the board has found it necessary to obtain a substitute for two months. At its last meeting Dr. Tassie said that as an experienced man was needed it would be best to write to Victoria University, which he thought would supply one. Mr. Errett asked which position was most easily filled—the modern languages and English department, and on Dr. Tassie's referring that modern language master would be the most readily had, recommended that Mr. Long take Mr. Earle's place for the time being. Mr. Dumble said that the English department was undoubtedly the most important in the school. Mr. Earle was a man of fifteen years' experience in this department, and was of acknowledged ability. He urged that no so-called economy be practised in getting a man to fill the position for the time being, as two months of bad teaching would upset the school for the whole term. It was a well-known fact, and one that could not be denied, that scores of men could be had to teach French, German or Russian, while there were but few who could teach our mother tongue efficiently. Dr. Tassie said that English and mathematics were certainly the most important departments in the institute. On motion, the committee on appointments was given power to arrange for the filling of Mr. Earle's position till he recovers.

WE take the following from the Leeds and Grenville *Independent*: "Rev. Mr. Blair, school inspector for this county, arrived at his home here on Sept. 15th, having come by one of the Cunard steamers to Boston, from which he found his way to Prescott via Portland and the picturesque route of the White Mountains. He speaks of his trip as a mere picnic excursion, which he enjoyed amazingly, having found the Atlantic so smooth, both in going and returning, that he had really no op-

portunity of enjoying the luxury of sea-sickness. He spent about a week in Scotland, visiting Glasgow, Perth and Edinburgh, and the remainder of his limited time chiefly in London perambulating the courts of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, hearing the great preachers and renewing his acquaintance after many years with Westminster Cathedral, the British Museum, Greenwich observatory and objects of interest in or near the great world-metropolis. He visited also Windsor Castle and Eton College, and spent some days in Birmingham and Liverpool. Of the extent and magnificence of the London Exhibition he says it is impossible to give any idea to those who have not seen it with their own eyes; but that Canada stood out conspicuously in all the departments, and especially in the Ontario Educational Court, which was under the superintendence of Dr. May as Commissioner of Education, and which far excelled all others. He adds that Dr. May was most kind and obliging to Canadian visitors, and gave him much useful information, which he hopes to be able to turn to good account in his future visits to the schools."

THE Paris correspondent of the *Globe* draws attention, in the following words, to the nature of the school and college prizes which are expected to satisfy the aspirations of French students: "The alien who sees the French lad of about six strut about with a leaden cross, suspended from a red or blue ribbon, on his breast, suspects that the child's vanity led him to buy, for a penny or so, an imitation of the Legion of Honour at a toy-shop. Not so. The thing has been duly awarded by the authorities of the elementary schools. If the lad were to dare sport the laudible without such authority, he would expose himself to severe punishment indeed. Hence his appetite for the distinction has been whetted; and, should it elude his grasp a few years later on at the annual prize distribution of his college, his own grief will be very heartfelt, though mute, while his parents' disappointment will vent itself in remarks the reverse of complimentary. Space fails to describe such a ceremony at length. It is theatrical in the extreme. The successful pupil is conducted to the platform, where sit the university professors and the delegates of the Minister of Public Education, if not that dignitary himself. The laurel wreath is set upon his young brow, to a military fanfare; the dispenser of fame takes him into his arms, and salutes him on both cheeks; the Swiss, resplendent in gold lace, cocked hat, and sword, escorts him back to his seat, amid the thundering applause of the audience, and the next day his name figures in all the Paris, and in a good many of the provincial papers. This very day the examinations for the B.A. diploma of the Sorbonne begin. There are no fewer than 3,100 candidates inscribed for the honour. From experience, I am safe in predicting that not 300 of them will be plucked. In another fortnight 1,500 youngsters will display on their cards the title of 'Bachelier-ès-Lettres.' The affix will be sufficient to bar their entrance to any commercial or industrial career, for in the merchant's and manufacturer's eyes it is tantamount to a certificate of absolute imbecility, so far as practical knowledge goes. Nevertheless, the affix will be maintained to the end of their days, for it is a distinction, and that is everything."