

powerful enough to be heard over the entire village. Upon the top of the house is a tower containing a bell on which the hours of meals are announced. Below this is a train of wheel-work to raise the hammer. To avoid the necessity of winding up the weight every day, an automatic arrangement is employed, which utilizes a force ordinarily lost. Between the kitchen, situated upon the ground floor, and the clock work in the garret, there is a contrivance so arranged that the servants in going to and fro about their work, wind up the weight without being conscious of it. An electric current set in motion by the study regulator raises the detent, and permits the number of strokes indicated by the dial. This manner of distributing the time from the study. Houdin finds very useful. When, for any reason, he wishes the meals hurried or retarded, he presses a secret key, and the time upon all the dials is altered to suit his convenience. The cook finds often that the time passes very rapidly; while a quarter of an hour or more, not otherwise attainable, is gained by M. Houdin.

Every morning this clock sends, at different hours, electric impulses to awaken three persons, the first of whom is the gardener. But, in addition, the apparatus forces them to rise, by continuing to sound until the circuit is broken by moving a small key placed at the further end of the room. To do this, the sleeper must rise, and then the object sought is accomplished.

The poor gardener is almost tormented by this electricity. The greenhouse is so arranged that he cannot raise its temperature above 10° C. (50° F.), or let it fall below 30° C. (37° F.) without a record in the study. The next morning Houdin says to him, "Jean, you had too much heat last night; you will scorch my geraniums;" or, "Jean, you are in danger of freezing my orange trees; the thermometer descended to three degrees below zero (27° F.) last night." Jean scratches his head and says nothing, but he evidently regards Houdin as a sorcerer.

A similar thermo-electric apparatus placed in the woodhouse, gives warning of the first beginning of an incendiary fire.

As a protection against robbers, all the doors and windows of the house have an electric attachment. This so connects them with the chime that the bells continue to sound as long as the door or window remains open. During the day time, the electric communication is interrupted; but at midnight—the hour of crime—it is reestablished by the study clock. When the owner is absent, however, the connection is permanent. Then the opening of a door or window causes the great bell to sound like a tocsin. Every body is aroused, and the robber is easily captured.

A pistol-gallery is upon the grounds, and Houdin often amuses himself in shooting. But in place of the ordinary method of announcing a successful shot, a crown of laurels is caused to appear suddenly above the head of the marksman.

A deep road passes through the park, which it is sometimes necessary to cross. On reaching it, no bridge is to be seen; but upon the edge of the ravine, a little car appears, upon which the person desiring to cross places himself. No sooner is he seated than he is rapidly transported to the opposite bank. As he steps out, the car returns again to the other side. This being a double-acting arrangement, the same aerial method is made use of in returning.

"I finish here my description," says Houdin. "Ought I not to reserve some few and unexpected details for the visitor, who comes to raise the mysterious knocker, below which, it will be remembered, is engraved the name of Robert Houdin?"—*College Courant (Yale)*.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

Ministry of Public Instruction.

APPOINTMENTS.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, was pleased, by minute in Council, dated 15th ult. to appoint the following School Commissioners, viz:

County of Portneuf—St. Raymond: Messrs. Michel Paquet and François Déry.

County of Montcalm—St. Calixte de Kilkenny: Mr. Damaso Thoin. Quebec.—St. Roch, North: Messrs. Nic las Maheux, Jenn Lortie, J. Camaléon Richard, Pierre Bouchard, and O. d. Paradis.

County of Ottawa.—Wright Township: Messrs Octave Labelle, J. Laframboise, Godefroy Gareau, James Mercier, and Amable Lacroix.

County of Beauce.—St. Marie: Mr. George Bôlanger.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

County of Portneuf.—St. Raymond: Mr. Thomas Sissons.

County of Lévis.—Notre-Dame de la Victoire: Messrs. Joseph Simons and George Davie.

County of Napierville.—St. Cyprien: Mr. James A. Manning.

DIPLOMAS GRANTED BY THE BOARDS OF EXAMINERS.

KAMOURASKA BOARD.

Elementary School Diplomas.—1st Class (F.): Misses Alphonsine Brillan, Marie Lumena Caron, Marie Guy, and Arthémise Potvin.

Kamouraska, 4th Feb., 1868.

L. DUMAIS,
Secretary.

PONTIAC BOARD.

Elementary School Diploma.—1st Class (E.) Mr. James Simpson.

ERECTION OF MUNICIPALITY.

His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, was pleased, by a minute in Council dated 14th ult. to erect the Township of Wright (with Township limits), County of Ottawa, into a scholastic municipality.

NOTICES.

Every scholastic municipality which shall not have transmitted to the Bureau, before the 1st September, its annual report of the elections of School Commissioners or Trustees, will be deprived of its share of the grant.

In view of the new postal law making *unprepaid* letters liable to nearly double postage on delivery, all letters or documents, addressed to the Hon. the Minister of Public Instruction, must be *prepaid*.

NOTICE TO SECRETARY-TREASURERS.

Secretary-Treasurers are held to transmit, to the Department, all information relative to any changes that may have taken place in the composition of the boards of Commissioners or Trustees.

NOTICE TO TEACHERS.

Teachers of Academies and Model Schools must mention in their reports, under their signature, the date when they obtained their diploma, in addition to the name of the Board of Examiners or Normal School granting it.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

An experienced English teacher (Protestant) having Diploma of qualification and highly satisfactory testimonials desires an engagement. Application may be made at the Education Office, Quebec.

F. E. O'Doherty with common school diploma and good references desires an engagement. Teaches both English and French. Address P. Office, Quebec.

Mr. V. E. Bate, having diploma of qualification, and experience as a Teacher, desires to meet with an engagement. Address, Mr. V. E. Bate, Hemmingford.

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

QUEBEC, PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, MAY, 1868.

The so-called "American System."

Notwithstanding the now somewhat frequent recurrence of the term "American System" as used by European writers in soliciting public attention to the progress of Education in the United States, the expression can scarcely be regarded as correct if it be meant to imply that there is any essential difference between the principal means had recourse to in Europe and in America. These have been often indicated in this Journal