

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE request the attention of the readers of *THE MONTHLY* to the advertisement of the Concise Imperial Dictionary in the present issue. We have arranged to procure it for the subscribers of *THE MONTHLY* on specially favourable terms. Those who have already paid their subscriptions for 1888 may remit the price mentioned, less the amount of their subscription. The terms are as follows (money and order to be remitted to us):—*MONTHLY* for 1888 and Concise Imperial Dictionary, cloth, \$3.85, plus 14 cents for postage; half morocco, \$4.75, plus 14 cents for postage.

THE second report of the School Commission which has been taking evidence in Ireland on questions connected with the working of the schools in Ireland is published. There are two findings in the report which may be of general value.

1. The Commission has come to the conclusion that it is hopeless to expect to be able to arrange schools or school programmes so as to get Protestants and Roman Catholics to work together. They must have separate schools.

2. The Commissioners has found a disposition among all Protestants to support the same schools. This has appeared to us to be, in the present state of society, the minimum of division which we can reasonably expect in public schools. The so-called secularization of the schools will not overcome the difficulty, it rather aggravates the evil.

THE Christmas examinations bring the question of admission to High Schools again under consideration. It is the opinion of many that some of the papers put before candidates seek-

ing entrance to High Schools at the last examination were too difficult, if the object aimed at was to find out whether the applicants were ready to begin the course of studies prescribed for High Schools. And others, equally familiar with school work, state that if these examinations are to indicate when pupils should leave the Public Schools, then they are not sufficiently searching. Here, therefore, we have the workers in our schools looking at the same question from different points of view. The one asks the applicant the question, Are you ready to begin? the other puts the question to the scholar leaving, Are you fit to leave our school? Are these questions one and the same? Are our Public Schools only to prepare for entrance to our High Schools? Are we to have a test to be applied to those leaving our schools?

Great Britain has found it necessary to establish a standard of elementary knowledge, without the attainment of which no child is allowed to begin artisan labour, and even in so new a country as the United States of America, several of the older States have adopted the same method of treatment with the children who have to go at an early age into artisan employments. We in Canada are attempting a solution of the same question by compelling each child under a certain age to attend school each year for a specified number of days, with what success the annual reports of the Minister of Education very plainly show. It goes without saying that an overwhelming majority of the ratepayers of Ontario will with one voice support the Public Schools, if the question of Public *versus* High School should ever be raised. The