

bled a vast congregation of ten thousand souls to commemorate the founding of the system fifty years ago by that noble man, Rev. John Curwen, who devoted his life to the perfecting of the system in the cause of humanity. On Saturday next twenty thousand singers from all parts of the British empire will raise their voices in song as a living testimony to the benefits which this system has conferred on them by cultivating and developing the gift of song, with which God has endowed the majority of mankind. To-morrow will see five thousand of the public school children of the city of London assembled in the Crystal Palace to demonstrate the results of the system in training the voices of the young through the agency of the ordinary public school teachers. We in Toronto will contribute our share by giving a concert with fifteen hundred young volunteers from our city schools. To-day I will not attempt to show results, but methods only.—*Cringan. International Educational Association, Toronto, 1891.*

#### Victoria Park, Truro, N. S.

With Mount Pleasant Park, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, a natural woodland of undisturbed beauty extending along the magnificent harbour of that city, Victoria Park, in the town of Truro, ranks as the most distinctive and beautiful of natural parks in Nova Scotia. Founded eight years ago on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee, by donations of land from seven citizens, one hundred acres of wooded ravine were thus acquired. The entrance is a wide open park space, which soon narrows to a shaded walk beside a brook. A succession of six waterfalls extends through the mile of park, the largest cascade, known as the Joe Howe Falls, being, perhaps, thirty-five feet high. Four miles of paths and walks lead through the densely wooded hill-sides and afford views of the precipitous opposite side of the ravine, one hundred feet high. In narrow side gorges, extending at right angles, springs have been opened up, and here the heavy cold air under the perpetual shade of dense spruces and firs, is twelve to fifteen degrees lower even than in more open parts of this charming rustic woodland. A carriage road, three miles long, encircles the outer edge of the park on the plateau high above the ravine. This driveway overlooks Truro and many miles of rich agricultural country, and to the northward the headwaters of Cobequid Bay, the limit of the Bay of Fundy tides. The park is unspoiled woodland, and we hope that the utmost caution will be used in developing it so that its true spirit will be preserved, especially against the intrusion of any ornamentation or construction, beyond that which is necessary to make its natural beauties available.—*Garden and Forest.*

#### An Appetite for Nature Study.

John Burroughs, in his recently published collection of essays called "Riverby," gives some valuable suggestions as to instruction in the natural sciences. He says :

"To teach young people or old people how to observe nature is a good deal like trying to teach them how to eat their dinner. The first thing necessary in the latter case is a good appetite; this given the rest follows very easily. And in observing nature, unless you have the appetite, the love, the spontaneous desire, you will get little satisfaction. It is the heart that sees more than the mind. To love nature is the first step in observing her. If a boy had to learn fishing as a task, what slow progress he would make; but, as his heart is in it, how soon he becomes an adept."

The *Courant*, of Hartford, Conn., referring to this passage in an able editorial note says :

"Mr. Burroughs never wrote a more suggestive and deep sentence than when he said the heart sees more than the mind; the instructor who can quicken the pulses of his pupils and make them wider eyed in class, is worth a hundredfold more than one whose specialty is getting scholars so filled up with facts that they can pass a certain examination. It isn't what we have forgotten, but what we know, not what has gone through us, but what is in us, that makes us of some account. The knowledge acquired for an examination does not stay beyond the week; the knowledge acquired by an impulse of genuine interest lasts as long as we do. The great justification of the elective system is the fact that it is based upon study with appetite presupposed; its danger lies in the other fact that all appetite is not normal and that in youth it is immature."

"Milk for babes, meat for men, and not too much sweet stuff for anybody; with those restrictions, the wisest philosophy of education can do no better than follow this simple law."

#### The German Emperor on Education.

Educational circles in Germany are said to be greatly excited over Emperor William's recent speech on education, in which he severely criticized the present system, both as to the matter taught and the manner of teaching. His Majesty held that as regards the basis of instruction in gymnasial schools it ought to be German, and the principal aim ought to be to turn out Germans instead of youthful Greeks and Romans. Said he, "We must courageously break with the mediæval and monkish habit of mummbling away at much Latin and a little Greek, and take to the German language as the basis of all our scholastic studies. It is this cruel, one-sided, and eternal cramming, which has already made the nation suffer from an over-production of learned and so-called educated people, the number of whom is now more than the nation can bear, and who constitute a distinct danger to society." His Majesty also dwelt on certain evils which prevailed to an intolerable extent in high schools, and quoted figures to prove