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## The Educational Journal.

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J. E. WELLS, M.A. Editor.  
H. HOUGH, M.A. Manager Educational Dept

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### Editorial Notes.

THE attention of all our readers is respectfully invited to the editorial announcement of our Music Department, which will be found elsewhere in this number. The introductory article will appear in next issue.

THE Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, has had the honorary degree of LL.D. conferred upon him by the University of St. Andrew's, Scotland. The teachers of Ontario will congratulate him and hope that he may long live to enjoy the distinction.

IN answer to various inquiries and requests, we beg to say that a list of the Entrance Literature Lessons for December, 1888, and July, 1889, appeared in our last issue. The requirements for the Entrance Examinations will be found given in full in the advertising columns of this number.

THE City Council of Paris (France) has wisely given up the military drill for boys from eight to ten years of age, in the schools. The money appropriated for this purpose has been otherwise, and we have no doubt, more usefully applied. A scientific course of gymnastic exercises, which should include marching, carriage, etc., should be deemed indispensable, and commenced at a very early age in the public schools, but the sooner the inculcation of the war spirit by the mimicry of military evolutions and uniforms is abolished, in the case of school children, the better for the future of civilization.

PRESIDENT WHITE, in his article in the August *Atlantic*, says that "good examination results do not always prove that the training of the children examined has been of the best kind." This, we should say, "depends." It requires definition and limitation. What is meant by "good examination results." Can there be "good examination results" without good examination questions, that is, such questions as test not the tenacity of the child's memory, but the breadth of his comprehension and the clearness of his thinking. May we not safely affirm that good examination results, secured by the right kind of examination questions,—and there can be no really good results apart from such questions—do always show that the training of the children has been of the right kind?

REFERRING to the vexed question of athletics, in its relation to Harvard University life, some

one has proposed that the authorities of the University should take up the subject of sports and make this branch of manly development a recognized part of college duties. The Boston *Courier* urges that this plan, which was mooted in jest, should be adopted in earnest, and points out that Harvard has an excellent opportunity to lead in the matter. The practice of the ancient Greeks, the most intellectual of peoples, might certainly be quoted as a precedent for the innovation. If, with this new departure there could be coupled, as the *Courier* suggests, "the utmost severity in regard to betting, and any tendency to a dishonest spirit," there would be unquestionably a good deal to be said in its favor. Might not the plan be worth trying in secondary schools?

TEACHERS, in these days of discovery and colonizing enterprise, will find some pains necessary in order to keep themselves abreast of the progress of political and commercial geography. An English Captain Wiggins has lately accomplished the feat of passing through the Straits of Kara, which separate the western point of Nova Zembla from the Russian mainland, and have hitherto been supposed to be impassable by reason of perpetual ice. The passage was in this case no empty triumph, as Captain Wiggins sailed eastward to the mouth of the river Yenisei, and then up that mighty river for a distance of two thousand miles, landing his miscellaneous cargo at the town of Yeniseik, in the very heart of Asia, and only a short distance from the Chinese frontier. The people gazed on the ship with wonder, as if it had come from the clouds.

PROFESSOR CARPMAEL, of the Dominion Meteorological Service, in his lecture before the Provincial Teachers' Association on the "New Time Notation," suggested that teachers should make their pupils familiar with the new system, as it is clearly only a question of time when it will come into general use. It is already employed on the Intercolonial Railroad, and on the Canadian Pacific west of Port Arthur. Everybody knows that the interchange of "a.m." and "p.m." is one of the chief causes of mistake and perplexity in reading railway time tables. The twenty-four o'clock system entirely obviates this difficulty. The new system is extremely simple. The day commences immediately after midnight, and goes on to 24 o'clock, the next midnight. The chief inconvenience would be the necessity of having all our clocks and