

The Care of Books.

Many school libraries are not receiving the care which ought to be given them. The books lie around upon tables or benches instead of being put in their places on the shelves; when on the shelves they recline at various angles instead of being kept erect as they ought to be, and are racked so that the binding becomes broken or weakened; when the binding breaks they are allowed to go unrepaired until leaves are loosened and lost and the book is ruined. These things ought not to be; their educational effect upon the pupils is bad. A school ought to inculcate good habits by precept and example. It should teach how to use and care for books, and be very scrupulous as to the example set by its own practice. Pupils carry pencils, pen-holders, erasers, all sorts of things, in their books, and thus quickly destroy the bindings, unless taught to avoid such practices. Many do not know how to handle or hold a book, and by awkward habits subject it to needless damage. Instruction upon such matters is greatly needed by many, and it is a legitimate part of the work of the school to give such instruction. — *Wisconsin Journal of Education*.

CURRENT EVENTS.

A proclamation has been issued bringing into effect an act of last session of parliament appropriating Canada's share for building the Pacific cable.

The territory of Alberta is about to seek admission as a province.

The census returns have been somewhat disappointing, as the increase in population, especially in the Atlantic Provinces, is less than was expected.

The United States will buy the Danish West India Islands for use as a naval station. The price agreed upon is about four million dollars.

The whole Dominion is preparing for the royal visit, which will be a memorable event in the history of Canada. War vessels are already gathering at Quebec for the naval display which is to welcome the arrival of the "Ophir," with the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York on board, on the 16th inst. The royal party will reach Montreal on the 18th, Ottawa on the 20th, Winnipeg on the 26th, Victoria on the 2nd of October, Toronto on the 10th, St. John on the 17th, and Halifax on the 19th. They were most enthusiastically received at Cape Town, and their Canadian welcome will be no less cordial.

The news from China is not hopeful, as the anti-foreign feeling still continues; and, though the government has acceded to the demands of the powers for the time being, there is no assurance of a lasting peace.

Prince Chun, brother of Emperor Kwang Su, has formally conveyed to the Emperor of Germany an

official expression of grief for the murder of the German minister at Peking last year, during the so-called Boxer uprising. His reception by Emperor William was very solemn and impressive. Prince Chun will return to China by way of America; and preparations are being made for his reception by the Chinese residents of New York.

The war in South Africa has reached its final stage, if it can be properly said that the present disturbed condition of the country is really warfare. Lord Kitchener has proclaimed that all leaders of armed bands, unless they surrender before the 15th of this month, will be permanently banished from South Africa; and that the cost of maintaining the families of burghers after that date will be made a charge upon their property.

The Czar and Czarina of Russia have left Cronstadt for Copenhagen, from which place they will go to Germany and France. It is not known that their visit has any political significance.

Affairs in Colombia are in a still more threatening condition. The revolt is spreading; and though there is as yet no declaration of war between the two republics, there is so much armed disturbance on the frontiers of Colombia and Venezuela that the United States has offered to intervene. British, United States, and German warships have been sent to the isthmus; and it is not improbable that United States troops will be landed there to preserve order along the route of the trans-isthmian railway.

The death of the Empress Frederika, which occurred on the 5th of August, made another break in the royal family of Great Britain. She was the mother of Emperor William of Germany, and the eldest sister of King Edward VII. For three months, while her dying husband nominally ruled in Germany, she shared with him the imperial throne.

The news of the attempted assassination of President McKinley by an anarchist — Leon Czolgosz — at the Buffalo Exposition on Friday afternoon, September 6th, has caused a thrill of horror throughout America. Two shots were fired at the President, one causing a serious wound in the abdomen.

The bulletin of the recent census just issued makes the population of the Dominion 5,338,883, a gain of 505,644 in ten years. Montreal has 226,826 people, Toronto, 207,971, Quebec, 68,834, Ottawa, 59,902, Hamilton, 52,550, Winnipeg, 42,336, Halifax, 40,787, and St. John, 40,711.

The population by provinces is as follows: Ontario, 2,167,978; Quebec, 1,620,974; Nova Scotia, 459,116; New Brunswick, 331,093; Manitoba, 246,464; P. E. Island, 103,258; British Columbia, 190,000; N. W. Territories, 145,000; Unorganized Territory, 75,000.

The Sultan of Turkey seems to be courting disturbances which may have serious result. France has been pressing certain claims for injuries to French citizens, which Turkey has agreed to settle. A dispute has arisen over the matter, however, which has led to the