

## CURRENT EVENTS.

The *Daily Globe* of January 3rd contained several advertisements for teachers which throw some light on public education. One of these advertisements offers an assistant mastership in a high school to a suitable person willing to teach mathematics and sciences for \$600 a year. The position is one for which university graduates qualify after perhaps seven years of study. Another calls for a female teacher, who, besides her duties as a teacher, will be required to light fires and sweep the school for a salary of \$216 a year. Another calls for a male, married, Protestant, experienced second-class professional, of suitable age, weight and height to teach for \$500 a year. Another offers \$400 a year to a second class professional, and one offers a position as teacher in a rural school in the long settled county of Grenville, at a salary of \$210 a year. These advertisements, probably, indicate fairly the remuneration of teachers in the rural and village schools. The highest salary, that offered to university men, does not exceed the wages of a skilled mechanic, while the lowest does not equal the wages of a farm laborer. Though living be cheap in the country, it is obvious that these salaries are not large enough to invite or keep capable teachers. Most ambitious persons, doubtless, make haste to find more profitable callings, and the teaching profession is an endless progression of the raw boys and girls still in their teens, with the girls in

the majority. Of scholarship, there is perhaps enough. The departmental examinations are supposed to guarantee that. But what of there of character? What will be the character of a people trained in school by teachers with no higher qualification than a knowledge of square root and grammatical analysis? We doubt very much the wisdom of filling the schools with women teachers. At all events, there are few who can teach well until their characters have formed in the crucible of experience and reflection. Nor can any community overestimate the general usefulness of an experienced teacher who is in the language of advertising trustees a male. He becomes a centre of social activity, organizes meetings, settles disputes and fixes moral standards with more authority than the clergy, whose social activity is narrowed by the fact that they can command only the deference and respect of their own adherents. It is said that the Presbyterian Church has provided that all ministers shall receive not less than \$750 a year and a house. In the settled parts of Ontario it is not uncommon to see a community not larger than a school section supporting three or four clergymen. If the people can do this, they can hardly plead inability to raise the wages of the schoolmaster, who, if his functions are not as exalted as those of the clergy, deserves, at least, generous treatment.—*The Sun*.

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

In *Scribner's Magazine* for January Mr. J. M. Barrie's sequel to Sentimental Tommy is begun. As every one knows now, the title is not Celebrated Tommy, but Tommy and Grisel, which is a wiser choice. It opens very well. Mr. Barrie,

unlike many of his contemporaries, does not turn out more books than the reading public can keep track of. On the other hand Mr. Barrie is not pressed for money, the royalties of his plays bringing him in, it is said, a vast amount. Governor