

Notes and Comments.

COL. PARKER has been ere this introduced to our readers. A description of a visit to his schools will be found in another column.

MR. O'HAGAN continues in this issue his papers on practical elocution. The broad standpoint from which he views the subject will doubtless be much appreciated.

A TYPOGRAPHICAL error occurred in our issue of January 20. The name of the recently appointed science master at the Belleville High School is Charles H. Waldron.

A SIGN of the times is seen in the proposal, which was made at the last meeting of the Toronto Separate School Board, to procure a type-writing machine for the pupils of De La Salle.

THERE is reason to believe that the public has not yet come to the end of the discussion on the "Bible in schools"—no small sign being the fact that the Toronto Public School Board has resolved that the authorized selections of Bible readings be ignored, and that the Bible be read in the schools as formerly. It is, perhaps, impossible to expect this question to be approached with anything like a freedom from bias. Hence we may conclude we have not heard the last of it.

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science have placed £50 sterling at the disposal of the committee appointed for the purpose of investigating and publishing reports on the physical characters, languages, industrial and social condition of the Northwestern tribes of the Dominion of Canada. The rebellion in the North-West last summer delayed operations. The members of the committee are Dr. E. B. Tylor, Dr. G. M. Dawson, General Sir J. H. Lefroy, Dr. Daniel Wilson, Mr. Horatio Hale, Mr. R. G. Haliburton, and Mr. George W. Bloxam (Secretary).

TEACHERS conversant with the recent stirring events which have taken place in English politics might most instructively make many of them subjects of interesting conversations with their senior pupils. The changes of ministry; the formation of cabinets; the opening of Parliament; the speech from the throne; the summoning of the Commons to attend in the Upper House on the election of a Speaker; England's general relationship to Ireland; the two religions to be found in that island;—such topics as these, discussed in connexion with any analogous events touched on in the history that the class may be studying, will tend much to make interesting the study of such history.

PROFESSOR J. W. WRIGHT, whose treatise on the adjustment of observations with applications to geodetic work is reviewed in another column, is a Canadian. He graduated at the University of Toronto, was after-

wards mathematical master at the Collegiate Institute, Galt, and subsequently assistant engineer in the United States Survey. At present he holds the professorial chair in mathematics in Union University, New York. His work has been already most favorably received in the United States. J. W. Wright is one more name added to the now rapidly increasing number of Canadians who are distinguishing themselves across the border. It is a pleasure to think their talents are appreciated.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE has, in the new Oriental tutor, Dr. McCurdy, a valuable addition to the college staff. He bears a high character both as an experienced teacher and scholar. He studied at Göttingen and Leipzig, and was greatly valued as Professor of Oriental Languages at Princeton, New Jersey. Professor Green, the Chairman of the Old Testament Revision Committee, and one of the foremost authorities on this continent in the department of Oriental learning, writes in the very highest terms of Dr. McCurdy's "very unusual attainments in philology; and especially his wide acquaintance with the Semitic languages." He is also a good Sanskrit scholar; and has published a valuable work on that language.

THE public lectures at Trinity College are much appreciated. On the 6th the Rev. G. Haslam lectured on "Animal Intelligence"; on the 13th the Rev. W. Clark is to lecture on Cowper; on the Saturday following the Rev. Principal Grant takes up Burns; and on the last Saturday of the month Professor Hutton is to speak on "Heathen Virtues and Theories of Life"—a subject most congenial to his tastes. One of the most pleasing of the features of this course of lectures is the fact that the lecturers are not chosen from any one particular sect or creed. To see the names of Principal Grant and Professor Hutton on a Trinity College lecture programme is an excellent sign. This course of public lectures delivered in Toronto might be taken as a good example to be followed in the provinces. Is there anything in the way of high school and public school masters occupying their spare hours in a similar manner?

THE piece of poetry which heads the "Literature and Science" columns is taken from Lord Tennyson's new book—"Tiresias and other Poems." This last work of the Poet Laureate's has as yet fallen into the hands of so few readers upon this side of the Atlantic, that no apologies are needed for quoting from it one of its brightest gems. When a man at seventy-six years of age writes a book; when that book is a book of poems; and when its writer has already earned immortal fame, it is safe to think that the book will contain nothing but that which its author, possessed of the calm judgment of the septuagenarian, believes to be of real worth to his readers. He will not allow his book to contain, it is

rational to suppose, a single line that smacks in the smallest degree of the frivolous or the ephemeral. Detractors of Tennyson will probably object to this. But that at all events the quotation we have made is of real worth even these will admit. It deserves several readings and much thought; and in the days of Huxley, Tyndall, Gregg, Spencer and Frederick Harrison, it may give light to many who have been groping in the darkness of positivism or agnosticism.

By the death of Frederick William Barron, M.A., some time head master of Upper Canada College, Canada loses one to whom many of her youth owe much. Men of the stamp of the late Mr. Barron are a powerful influence for good to the community at large, and of this class of men Mr. Barron was a brilliant type. Fond of boys, taking a keen interest in all their sports—often joining in them as heartily as themselves, he united to this rare characteristic that of the soundest scholarship. The boys that grew up to manhood under his care were one and all thoroughly "grounded," and this thorough "grounding" evinced itself very plainly in all their after studies and occupations. Mr. Barron was an enthusiast in education. His active mind was ceaselessly occupying itself in the subjects he was teaching and in the methods he was adopting. Such traits of character could not but command the respect and obedience of his pupils, and this they did to the fullest extent. And, as always is the case with such men, he was ever looked upon by his "old boys" with feelings of respect and admiration. Canada does not possess too many men like the late Mr. Barron. His death is a severe loss to the country. The following are the chief particulars of his life: He was born in England; educated at a public school, after leaving which he was entered at Cambridge. In 1834 he came to Canada, and was soon afterwards appointed to a mastership at Upper Canada College, of which college he ultimately became principal, a position he held for thirteen years. In 1859 he moved to Cobourg, where he assumed control of the Grammar School. This he resigned a few years later and opened a private school in the same town. After this he removed to Gore's Landing, upon Rice Lake, where he continued to teach till some three years ago. At this time Mr. Barron was already advanced in years and his health was failing. He died on February 2, in the 76th year of his age. He married twice. His first wife was Eleanor Thompson, daughter of the late William Thompson, who sailed for Canada on the same vessel as Mr. Barron. By her he had several children, three of whom only are living. His second marriage was to Mrs. Gore, of Gore's Landing, who survives him. He was a prominent Mason, and was buried with Masonic honors.