

A Curious Geographical Blunder.

The Movement Geographique has recently published a long article about a curious geographical blunder relating to South America. The Tocantins River has been regarded as merely a tributary of the Amazon instead of being, as it is, an independent river basin. The writers on geography are only just beginning to treat the Tocantins as an independent hydrographic basin. It rises far to the south and has a great tributary, the Araguaya, which is even larger than the Tocantins. The joint streams form one of the great rivers of the continent with a width for a long distance of two or three miles, but the river is so impeded by rapids that it is not available for navigation until it widens into the great estuary on which Para stands. The Tocantins does not mingle in any degree with the Amazon and they reach the sea about 40 miles from each other. The chief reason why the erroneous identification of the Tocantins system with the Amazon basin has so long been perpetuated seems to be that the Tocantins basin is closely related with that of the Amazon tributary to the west, inasmuch as both flow from the same slope and in the same direction. A very small quantity of water from the Amazon does, however, enter the Tocantins through seven narrow arms of the Amazon delta. This does not, however, make the two rivers belong to the same system.—*Scientific American*.

'ROUND TABLE TALKS.

A correspondent asks the REVIEW to give an account of the war in China—its causes, events, and results. This would take up more space than we can devote to it in a single number. The "Current Events" column in the REVIEW from month to month has contained records of the war.

F. F.—What British history will be used for beginners in New Brunswick schools in place of the synopsis of history in the late series of readers?

A book containing outlines of British and Canadian history is being prepared and will be ready on the re-opening of schools in August.

H. J. P.—Please recommend a suitable book on drawing.

If a book for the teacher's use is required, then perhaps no better book could be recommended than "New Methods in Education." (Art, Real Manual Training, Nature Study), by J. Liberty Tadd; pages 456, 7½ × 10½ in.; \$3.00. Philadelphia. For the pupils' use, the best is a blank book, and the best models are simple natural objects. Any series of school drawing books may be used to show the pupils how artists

express ideas—technique. Within certain limits, the less there is of drawing from the copy and the more from the object, the better the result, even when the teacher does not know much of the subject.

A very good series of model lessons in drawing may be found in The First Elements of Science arranged as Observation Lessons and correlated with Drawing, published in six parts by Macmillan & Co., London. Price 1s. 6d. each. For sale by T. C. Allen & Co., Halifax.

H. A. W.—What was Queen Victoria's family name?

Rulers usually discard family names, and are known by their Christian names coupled with title or the name of the place ruled over. The family name of the Queen, it is generally believed, is Guelph, and that of her royal husband, which of course she never assumed, was Wettin.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

Miss Mary Caswell, teacher at Lord's Cove, Deer Island, has secured a set of chemical apparatus and minerals for the school. Through Miss Caswell's efforts the school where she previously taught procured a similar set, which is still in good order.

The Convent schools at Chatham and Campbellton have recently purchased apparatus and material for teaching elementary science; also the school at Stanley Village, now taught by Mr. Clarence Sansom.

Miss Marion R. Atkinson has taken charge of the school at Weldon, Albert Co. On taking her departure from Curryville school, where she had been teaching for the past year and a half, her scholars presented her with a handsome silver jewelry case.

In the death of Miss Miller, principal of Alexandra school, Halifax, Nova Scotia has lost one of its best-known and most respected teachers. In a resolution of condolence, the school board very truly says of her: "Miss Miller was a most faithful and efficient teacher in the service of this board for the period of thirty-three years, thirty of which she was principal of Brunswick street, now Alexandra school, during a part of which time it supplied more teachers to the public schools than any high school in the province. She was always characterized by that gentleness, that singleness of purpose, refinement of manner and nobility of character, which made her helpful to all with whom she came in contact."

Inspector Roscoe has done valuable service to the cause of education in Nova Scotia by emphasizing the importance of teachers' institutes. He has succeeded in awakening a professional interest in establishing an *esprit de corps* among the teachers of his district, which must greatly enhance their value to their respective schools. The teachers of West Cornwallis, not content