

ing was not invented in the time of David and Solomon; that it had been in use thousands of years before Joshua inscribed the commandments in clay upon the altar at Shechem; that Moses was reared in a literary court, surrounded by an educated priesthood who were in possession of remarkable literary products of an older time; that, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, B.C., Asia and Africa carried on extensive literary correspondence by means of the cuneiform writing of Babylonia. We know also that Egypt has left us writings from the fourth dynasty—a date more than 4,000 B.C. The illiterate argument has gone to pieces in the face of such facts. Literature has flourished in the earth for more than six thousand years. Writing was not unknown among civilized peoples after 3,000 B.C. Israel was not able to produce such literature as the Old Testament contains until very late in history! David wrote no psalms, because that age could not have produced such masterpieces as are attributed to him (Cheyne)! Only a blindfolded critic could make such an assertion. . . . The indications are that we must very soon reverse the scale, and see how far back we

can locate the composition of the Old Testament books, rather than how far down in the Maccabean period."

NOR many years ago, Dr. Fitch, the distinguished educationist, visited our country. As a writer and inspector of normal schools, the name of Dr. Fitch is known all over the world, and it was a fitting tribute to his life-work when on the Queen's birthday there was conferred upon him the honor of knighthood. What schoolmaster will not rejoice on learning that one of themselves (for Sir Joshua was, and is, a practical teacher), has been thus honored! The Minister of Education of Ontario, the Hon. G. W. Ross, is also a practical teacher, and after passing through the stages of school inspector, and member of Parliament, has now his name associated in a distinguished way in the Hardy-Ross government. One of the school inspectors of Quebec has also climbed up the pathway towards higher honors through Parliament; we refer to Inspector Stenson, of the Sherbrooke district, who was lately elected by a large majority to represent the combined counties of Wolfe and Richmond at Ottawa.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS.

ROBERT BURNS—On the 21st of July, 1796, the mortal remains of Robert Burns, Scotland's incomparable poet, were laid to rest in old St. Michael's kirkyard, Dumfries, and the record of his fitful and changeful earthly career of thirty-seven years was closed forever. Though there will, doubtless, always be two sorts of critics, and too much praise and too much blame awarded to Burns, there is little doubt that his daring prophecy, uttered shortly before his

death, has been marvellously fulfilled. "Don't be afraid," he said, "I'll be more respected a hundred years after I am dead than I am at present." We know the worst of Burns now, at least, and no one conceals or extenuates his glaring faults. As a recent writer truly says:

"No wise man now attempts to fix the moral responsibility of such a man as Burns. The wise man has learned to leave that question with the only Intelligence in the universe