

the House of Commons only, is the question of the hour in imperial politics. A new election on this question in May is not improbable.

Commissioners appointed by the United States Congress have recommended that the government give immediate help to Liberia in the settlement of its boundary disputes with Great Britain and France. The British and French may question the right to interfere. In that case we may be sure that there will be no interference.

The Chinese, having more firmly established their claims to the submission of Thibet, are now pressing for the recognition of Nepal and Bhotan as Chinese dependencies; both of which states, though nominally independent, are regarded as being under British protection.

The fact that there were marvellous resemblances to be found between the ancient monuments of Egypt and those of Central America has long been admitted by antiquaries. Arguments are now advanced to prove that Egyptian civilization had its origin in Yucatan, and it is alleged that there are strong resemblances in the language of the inscriptions, as well as in the monuments themselves.

Etna, the largest volcano in Europe, has again been in violent eruption. Several villages have been destroyed, but the stream of lava advanced slowly, and no great loss of life is reported.

School and College.

Mr. H. A. Sinnott, formerly a teacher in New Brunswick and later principal of the Calgary High School, has recently been elected Chairman of the Calgary School Board. Mr. Sinnott's first official act was to persuade his fellow members of the board to institute a department of domestic science in the schools of that city.

Rev. Canon Powell, of St Clement's Church, Eglington, near Toronto, has accepted the presidency of King's College, Windsor. He is an Ontario man, about forty-two years old; was educated at Trinity College and received the degree of M. A. from Toronto University. He has shown great capacity along educational lines, is a powerful preacher, and one of the most prominent clergymen in the Synod of Toronto.

A bill has been introduced into the Nova Scotia Legislature to establish a school inspectors' annuity fund. The inspectors shall pay into this fund \$50 a year and in no case is the yearly pension to exceed \$600.

Recent Books.

A very useful and neatly printed book, a good specimen of the bookmaker's art, is *Educational Handwork*, prepared by Mr. T. B. Kidner, director of manual training for New Brunswick, and published by the Educational Book Company, Toronto. The growing interest in handwork has made the demand for such a book as this very insistent of late years. This demand Mr. Kidner has met in part through the columns of the REVIEW, and the chapters on Cardboard-cutting and Modelling were first published in these pages a few years ago. The present volume is an attempt to meet this demand more fully by devising a scheme of work that includes in addition to the subjects

above mentioned, Paper-folding, Paper-cutting and Mounting, Rafia Work and many other forms of handwork which can be readily taught in the earlier grades, with this book as a guide, and will serve as a good preliminary training a systematic "doing," and in the higher forms of manual training and household science. Mr. Kidner's experience as a teacher of manual training, his constructive ability, and the enthusiasm and industry which he brings to his work have contributed to the production of a most excellent handbook and guide to teachers, the results of which will be a fresh impetus to them in dealing with "hand and eye training." The work is elaborately illustrated, and Principal J. W. Robertson contributes an encouraging "foreword" in sending the book out in what all will hope may prove a fruitful mission.

In the little volume of *Sonnets and Other Verses*, from the pen of Rev. A. L. Fraser, Great Village, N. S. (the Globe Publishing Company, St. John, N. B.), there are many beautiful thoughts that the reader will linger over and return to from time to time for fresh inspiration. Particularly is this the case in those poems where one is drawn near to nature, as in "The Old Beech Tree," "The Broken Wing," "At the River," and others. In "Possibilities" we have a loftier note, which recalls "The Stone Which the Builders Rejected."

A blunderer hewed too deep: the stone was laid
'Mong broken things,—to every purpose lost:
Twice fifty years it lay, like refuse tossed
Upon a heap, till through that place there strayed
A visitor whose mien and eye betrayed
The artist soul: 'twas Michael Angelo!
Its latent worth upon him dawned, and lo,
From that marred mass was his great "David" made.

Ah, were our eyes like his, how often we
On life's waste heaps would come on treasures rare—
Marred human lumps, by Sin's rude hand defaced;
We'd take each shapeless mass and toil with care
Till in the Hall of Heaven it would be placed:
Our hands made deft by dreams of what might be.

The Teaching of Geography in Elementary Schools (cloth, pages 255; price 3s) furnishes many valuable foundation principles for teachers, and the subject is discussed more fully and clearly than can be done in a chapter in a general text-book of method. The first five chapters give a concise account of the changes introduced into the conception of the subject by the modern geographers, and the ways in which this changed conception should influence the teaching of the subject in elementary schools. Suggestions are then made for drawing up a syllabus for each standard, and exhaustive hints are given as to the methods of teaching according to such a syllabus. (Adam and Chas. Black, 4 Soho Square, London, W.)

In "Heath's Modern Language Series" a little volume is published on *Progressive French Idioms* containing a list of those likely to be used in ordinary conversation or to be met with in the books of good writers or by those who use French correctly. The book is a valuable one for those who would express themselves adequately in French and avoid those awkward mistakes into which the unwary are likely to fall.