

This is the first necessary step for effectual school work.

The writers in the affirmative of the debate have set forth the advantages of consolidated schools fairly well, and they need not be repeated here. These have all been verified in the experience of this school. But the extent of country covered by this school consolidation has been found to be too large. The more distant sections regret that it is not possible for them to remain in the consolidation, while the central sections have increased their taxation to help maintain the school. The Macdonald Consolidated School has come to Middleton to stay. There is scarcely a doubt as to its being fully supported financially by the ratepayers within the district after another three years.

It may be well to say just here that this place cannot be considered as affording a good lesson in cheap consolidation. Large sections were united, giving an aggregate of more than four hundred pupils. Long distances made expensive van-drivers' salaries. The large schools united did not permit a decrease in the number of teachers. The large number of pupils called for large school accommodations. The expenses have necessarily been in the extreme.

But there are in this Province, and no doubt also in other provinces, many small sections that may be united very advantageously. Three or more sections having few pupils may be brought to a central school. The number of teachers may be reduced. The cost of carrying the few pupils will not be large. Under such conditions the consolidated school solves the problem of rural school life. The cost need be little more than the total of the several smaller schools, and that better and more effectual work can be done in a well-graded school of this character few educationists will attempt to deny. Such a school affords somewhat the conditions of a city school, with all the privileges of country life.

Progressive measures have always had their opponents. Men are slow to learn. Time alone proves the wisdom of improved measures. In 1867, when the British North America Act was passed, a large majority of the voters in this Province expressed disapproval; but to find a man of intelligence who would now vote for a repeal of that act would require a Diogenes with his candle. We confidently predict that the same will be true of rural school consolidation. In the more rural sections of this Province the work is steadily progressing. The object lessons that the munificence of Sir William C. Macdonald has given here are being used throughout the Province to help the work along.

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Physical or Moral Suasion, Which?

No. I.

I have before me, as I write, clippings from at least half a dozen papers, each having something to say upon modern and past methods in the training of boys. The first tells of a reunion of old pupils with the old masters, who had taught them and oftentimes had "admonished them with the rod" half a century ago. "Boys were boys in those days," said an old veteran, as he produced, as an interesting relic, a genuine rawhide, which he, with some youngsters, had captured when lads in one of the old Toronto schools, the speaker being one of a group of successful citizens who seemed to have been none the worse for that old-time method of enforcing order. Clipping No. 2, dated Ithaca, N. Y., July 18th, under the heading,

"A CARNIVAL OF SPANKING,"

tells the following:

"The police court to-day resounded

with wailing. Eight mothers plied a stick given by Recorder Sweetland on the trousers of their offspring. The youngsters had been arrested after hard work by Chief of Police Van Order and two railroad detectives for many car burglaries during the last month.

"Their parents were poor, and Recorder Sweetland offered to remit the fines on condition that the parents administer corporal punishment in court. The mothers eagerly grasped the rods and proceeded to earn what one of them called 'the easiest five dollars of her life.'"

No. 3 tells of a sad fatality which occurred less than a fortnight later, through the fatal prank of some boys who had placed a spike between the rails, causing the locomotive and baggage car of the train to roll down an embankment. In such a case should it be physical or moral suasion?

Clipping No. 4, from the New York Evening Post, deals with

THE DECADENCE OF THE SLIPPER.

"A police chief in a Chicago suburb says that 'the decadence of the slipper'

"'Dar's ma son ovah dar, twenty-seben yahrs ol'. An' when Ah shakes ma fist an' sez 'Gee heah, yo' Sam,' Sam comes. Yep, dat's what he does.

"'Now, Ah's done fried a rabbit fo' dis chil' fo' brekfus, an' fo' dinna' Ah'm a fixin' of dese neck bones. Ef yo' feed a chil' he won' go wrong, but jes' let him begin a-wonderin' war he's a-gwine to git somethin' to eat, an' he's gwine to steal.

"'When Carl come home from school he's gwine to get fed an' spainked an' putt'n to bed. Dus heah cake-walkin' an' crap shootin' ain't doin' nobody no good."

"'The ordinary reader cannot help wondering,' adds the writer of the above, 'whether a little of the 'Mammy' Fishback theory might not be mixed with the latest pedagogical systems with advantage.'"

One thing is certain, that whether it be by example or by precept, by slipper-discipline, or by purely moral suasion, co-operation between teacher and parent should be recognized as a most important factor of the upbuilding of the rising generation.

H. A. B.



By William Small.

The Last Match.

The Last Match.

"Any Port in a Storm," and truly never was port more welcome to vessel in distress than was the Colleen Nora's crimson cloak to Pat, when in his extremity he met her on the moor as he was bringing piggy home from market. "Stop, darlint, and give me a chance with my last match," cries Pat. "Yes, and welcome," replies Nora. "If it's his last match, it's my last chance," thinks cunning piggy, all of which our picture makes clear to us without any need of written interpretation.

H. A. B.

Conversation.

Conversation is but carving;
Give no more to every guest
Than he's able to digest;
Give him always of the prime,
And but a little at a time;
Give to all but just enough,
Let them neither starve nor stuff,
And that each may have his due,
Let your neighbor carve for you.

—Sir Walter Scott.

Current Comment.

Items of News.

The Japanese will open Dalny as a free port for foreign trade on September 1st.

Greeks and Bulgarians are again in collision, and the town of Aholu has been almost destroyed.

Mrs. Pearl Craigie, better known as "John Oliver Hobbes," died suddenly at her home in London, Eng., on August 13th.

An earthquake, rivalling that of San Francisco, has occurred at Valparaiso. Two thousand dead, 100,000 homeless, and \$250,000,000 loss, is the estimate at present.

At the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which assembled in London, Eng., recently, the following countries were represented: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Spain, Servia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.

King Edward and Emperor William recently had a friendly conference at Cronberg. From the fact that Sir Charles Hardinge, Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office, accompanied King Edward, it is surmised that affairs of importance other than the mere development of more friendly relations between England and Germany were discussed.

Indian Chiefs in London.

Joe Cappilano, Charley Tsilpaynialt and Basil, three chiefs of as many tribes in British Columbia, were in London, Eng., lately, with a message of greeting to King Edward, and a request for some remission of the B. C. game law, so that "close" seasons for game will be abolished. Simon Pierre, an interpreter, accompanied them. They were not arrayed in the barbaric grandeur of native costume, but in sober Anglo-Saxon garb, having their war paint and feathers in a suit-case. They were referred, by the High Commissioner, to the Soldiers' Home at Buckingham Gate, to await the return of His Majesty from the races and the regatta, in order that they might "press his hand," providing their finances held out. They were delighted at the hospitality of the English people.

The Passing of War's Glory

The fact that the chief ornaments of the Royal Gallery of Westminster Palace, in which the fourteenth conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union recently assembled, are two immense paintings by Maclise, one depicting the meeting of Wellington and Blucher after Waterloo, the other the death of Nelson, has been commented on as one of the ironies of accident. To go a step further, might it not be argued that the meeting of such a body in such a room indexes very clearly the changing ideals of the civilized world?

A country's artists usually depict its ideals. When Maclise painted the meeting of Wellington and Blucher, he perpetuated on canvas the memory of an event which occurred when all England was riotously jubilant, and "Victory!" was a shout which helped to thrill with a nation's pride even the hearts of those who must mourn. When he made the details of Nelson's death live again, he sounded once more over England the magic words, "England expects every man to do his duty," and the death-sweat of the gallant Admiral was again lost sight of in the glory of England's prowess.

To-day, notwithstanding the fact that the nations are arming on a