

The Educational Journal

CONSOLIDATING

"The Educational Weekly" and "The Canada School Journal."

Subscription. \$1.50 a year
in Advance.

TORONTO, JULY 1, 1896.

Vol. X
No. 6

Editorial Notes.

AT the meeting of the West Kent Teachers' Association, held in May last, the following resolution was passed: "Resolved: That the association take up for special study during this year McLellan & Dewey's 'Psychology of Number,' and that an hour be set apart on the programme of our next meeting for a discussion of the work." This plan strikes us as an excellent one, both in the general and in the particular. We cannot doubt that it would tend greatly both to the interest and to the usefulness of the teachers' meetings if they would make it a point to come together prepared to interchange opinions on some one book of high character, whether professional or literary. Nor can we think, at present, of any work better adapted for profitable use as the basis of such an exercise than the one which has thus been chosen.

WE do not know whether it was wholly an innovation—if so, it was, we think, a most desirable one—that took place at the South Grey Teachers' Institute, when the ex-warden was called on to take part in the meeting by giving an address on "The Relation of Trustees to Teachers," and when two or three trustees took part in the discussion of this important but delicate subject. It is particularly refreshing and full of hope for coming days to note that all those representatives of the taxpayers were unanimous in expressing the opinion that teachers are not paid as they should be, and that it is the worst possible economy, or rather the very anti-thesis of economy, for trustees to employ the teacher whose services can be had for two hundred dollars a year, instead of the one who cannot be had for less than four or five hundred. It would be one of the surest pledges of the early adoption of many important reforms if civic officers and representative taxpayers, and, above all, responsible trustees, could be induced to attend the teachers' meetings and take part freely in the discussion of such questions.

WE are firm believers in colleges and universities, but we nevertheless agree heartily with the Rev. Dr. Parkhurst, who, in a late number of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, in answer to the query, "Shall we send our boy to college?" says, "That depends a great deal on the boy himself." He declares himself to be a thorough believer in the college, but holds that "it might not be best for him [our boy] to go to college; it might not be best for the community that he should. College can fit a man for life, and, also, it can unfit him. There are styles of education that disqualify the student for doing what he is competent to do, without qualifying him to do that which he might like to do, but for which he lacks, and always will lack, the prerequisites." There is sound wisdom in this, but it may be questioned whether, when analyzed, it means anything more than that we have not yet a sufficient variety of colleges to meet the wants of all classes of boys and girls. The question certainly should not be taken as synonymous with, "Shall we give our boy the best education we are able to provide?" That demands an unqualified affirmative.

THE observance of a "Mothers' Day" in the Public Schools, a plan first suggested by a Massachusetts teacher, and now followed in the schools of several other States of the American Union, strikes us as an innovation which might be introduced with excellent effect in many or all of our Canadian schools. The plan, as adopted by our neighbors—which need not, however, be slavishly followed, and which might, probably, be improved upon—is thus described: "For six weeks prior to the occasion daily preparations are made in the shape of a five-minutes' drill in songs and recitations in praise of motherhood and the home. Provision is also made for inculcating patriotic sentiments. When the time comes for exhibition, parents are invited to spend the afternoon at the school. After exercises by the children, each teacher makes a brief address, showing the reciprocal duties of parents and teachers; then fol-

lows an informal reception, which affords a fine opportunity for the interchange of opinions between them." The exchange from which we quote adds the following good suggestion: "An ideal celebration of this character, however, should include a representation of fathers as well as mothers. This would necessitate holding the exercises in the evening, but would prevent the children from imbibing the notion that the father's only office in the home is to provide for its material needs."

THE 23rd is past, and the elections are over, with the result which is well known by every reader. We refer to it merely to note that the Manitoba school question has thus been carried forward another stage and has entered upon a new phase. The people have decided—and the French-Canadian Catholics have themselves been by far the most emphatic in affirming the decision—that the Remedial Bill shall go by the board, and a policy of conciliation be adopted. According to the policy so often declared by Mr. Laurier, a commission with Sir Oliver Mowat at its head will be appointed to investigate the whole matter, and appeal to the sense of justice and right feeling of the people of Manitoba for the settlement of the vexatious question in accordance with its findings. The great majority of the electors seem to have been of the opinion that it would be both unwise and useless to attempt to coerce the people of Manitoba in a matter which is primarily within provincial jurisdiction. This view is held with stronger reason in view of the fact that the first judgment of the British Privy Council, or rather of the Judicial Committee of that body, affirms the constitutionality of the Act of 1870. Whether the new Premier and his cabinet will succeed in thus satisfying the views of both the aggrieved minority and the friends of the Public School system remains to be seen. The task is a difficult and a delicate one, and will, we dare say, require for its satisfactory accomplishment some concessions on both sides. Let us hope that the "sunny" method may succeed.