

The Educational Review.

Devoted to Advanced Methods of Education and General Culture.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER, 1895.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

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Editor for New Brunswick.

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THE EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.

Subscribers should promptly notify the REVIEW of change of address giving old as well as new address. Communications from New Brunswick should be addressed EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, St. John; from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland to W. T. Kennedy, Academy, Halifax; from Prince Edward Island to J. D. Seaman, Charlottetown.

PRINTED BY BARNES & Co., St. John, N. B., who are authorized to receive subscriptions and make contracts for advertising.

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WE wish our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THE readers of the REVIEW will welcome Mr. March's article on Christmas Carols on another page, because it recalls so many old customs of our ancestors this festive season.

OVER fifty subscribers have been added to the REVIEW subscription list during the past month, and they are coming in every week.

THE Fredericton Board of School Trustees has lost two influential and valued members in the retirement of Hon. A. F. Randolph, its chairman since the free school system came into effect in the province—twenty-four years ago; and Mr. J. L. Inches, who was the first secretary of the board.

MANY copies of the REVIEW find their way each month into the hands of those who are not yet subscribers. When less than *ten cents* a month will secure its visits regularly, no teacher should be without it for 1896.

THE official notices on another page will interest many teachers.

Webster's International Dictionary.

We have before had occasion to refer to Webster's International Dictionary and its value to communities, could it be placed in every school in the country. It proves a mine of intellectual wealth for boys and girls to consult for themselves a good dictionary, and this in itself an education. Webster's International is a scholarly and scientific revision of the "Unabridged," and the steadfast aim of the publishers appears to have been to approach as closely as possible to the ideal of a dictionary at once comprehensive and popular. "To this end," says a competent authority, "they have treasured up the wealth of our great language—retaining the good and refusing only that which only tends to degrade the dignity of our speech. No effort has been made to parade any great lists of meaningless words, but it has been their constant effort to make a book that in the eyes of scholars should stand as a monument to guide all who seek the purest and best in our language."

The completeness and accuracy of definition in Webster has always been its marked characteristic. When we add to this the artistic arrangement of its pages—an interesting and pleasurable feature to those who frequently consult a dictionary, its plain method of indicating pronunciation, the absence of "slang" or vulgar terms in use on street corners, there is ample reason for its adoption in schools and by scholars as the acknowledged standard.

Bible Knowledge.

As the result of an examination given to a school of over one hundred pupils in Ontario, it has been demonstrated that the pupils of that particular school are more familiar with the history and mythology of ancient Greece and Rome than with the history of the Bible. Various reasons have been assigned for this state of affairs, and, as usual, in some quarters, the public schools have come in for a share of censure. If ever the time comes when Christian denominations shall so far be able to reconcile their differences as to permit the study of the Bible in the schools as a text-book, and