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✻ Editorial Notes. ✻

WILL the writer of the essay on "The Utility of School Education," kindly send us his address, in order that we may reply to his note.

OWING to some delay in transmission the "copy" for the "English Department," came to hand too late for this number. An interesting paper entitled "A Visit to Longfellow's Home," will appear in this department in our next.

WE must again remind our subscribers that all communications for the JOURNAL of whatever kind, must be substantiated with the name and address of the writer, in compliance with a safe and almost universal journalistic rule. Of course the name will not be published, save with the writers consent.

THE *Educational Review* says: "Compulsory education is receiving a large share of attention both in the press and on the platform throughout the Maritime Provinces. Chief Supt. Crocket, in a recent address before the St. John County Teachers, intimated that when the Government perceived that there was a strong sentiment in favor of compulsory attendance it would add a clause to the Education Act giving power to enforce it. He complimented the teachers of St. John County that they unanimously passed a resolution favoring compulsory attendance at schools, even though they knew it would add materially to their labors."

THE Conveners of the Manitoba Teachers' Association which was held during the last days of October, is said to have been the best yet held in the Province. We had hoped to give a summary of proceedings in this number, but deficiency of both material and space have prevented. The Association put itself on record by resolution in regard to the following matters:—The need for training of all teachers, the desirability of making successful practice a condition of a permanent certificate, the necessity for keeping the academic and professional sides of the teacher's education entirely separate, the need of reference libraries, and the value of training institutes for increasing the professional knowledge of the regularly certificated teacher.

ONE of the subjects discussed at the late meeting of the School Trustees' Association was that of the Composition of Boards of Examiners, for entrance to High Schools. Mr. W. H. Houston advocated a change in the present statute, which provides that the Board shall consist of the Public School Inspector for the county, city, town or district in which the High School is situated, the Headmaster of the school and the Chairman of the High, Public and Separate School Boards. The latter, he said, are not technically educated men, and they are in the habit of appointing substitutes, though the law gives them no power to do so. The Board should be composed of competent Examiners. After prolonged discussion a resolution affirming that no change is desirable, was carried on a vote by 26 to 14.

FROM the logical standpoint compulsory and universal education is one of the first corollaries of free schools. The United States are proud of their free school system and yet *Harper's Weekly* tells us that, in that country twenty-one states have no compulsory law, and that where there is such a law it is seldom enforced. "In New York, Superintendent Draper has forcibly urged its enforcement; but it is the master's ferule, not the law that the New York truant fears." Whether as the cause or the effect of this state of things, we are further told that at the last census in the United States, ten years ago, eleven per cent. of the entire adult population could not read or write;

that this was true of nearly one-fourth of the voters in the Southern States, and that the percentage had increased in the decade since 1870. But of course the United States is hampered not only by the Southern difficulty, but also by the constant and immense influx of illiterate foreigners.

IT is not too much to say that the views and feelings which the children imbibe in the schools to-day, will go a long way towards determining the national characteristics of the men and women of the next generation. This fact lays a heavy responsibility upon teachers. They should aim at being themselves well-informed, broad-minded, dispassionate and just, in order that they may lead their pupils to take broad and impartial views of public and especially of international questions. No reproof can be too severe for the teacher who inculcates narrow and one-sided views and prejudices, in regard to other nations. These remarks are suggested by a note on "The Behring Sea Question," in a late number of the *Michigan Moderator*, which we can best characterize by giving it *verbatim*. Had the writer taken the trouble to read recent articles on the question in some of the leading papers of his own country, he could not have failed to get better information and might have got broader and juster views. It is to be hoped that no teacher will take a statement so full of inaccuracies as his guide in the school-room.

Russia ceded Alaska to the United States in 1867, and with it the right enjoyed by her, uncontested for 100 years, of controlling the seal-fishing in Behring Sea. The islands where the seals breed are outside the three mile limit, but our Government claims the right of protecting the seals there from indiscriminate slaughter and speedy extermination. Canadian vessels have been caught raiding there. A revenue cutter seized Canadian vessels there in 1886, and the question is now up between England and the United States. The English minister has once acknowledged the justice of our claim, but now wishes to arbitrate the matter, refusing to agree to the old doctrine of regarding Behring sea as a "closed sea." England's policy concerning pearl diving off the islands of the Indian coast is exactly like that of the United States concerning the seal fishing, but as *Lowell* so well puts it in the *Bigelow Papers*:

"Sauce fer goose aint jest the juice
For ganders with J. B.,
No more than you and me."