

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

The subject of compulsory education is ever and anon forcing itself on our attention. It comes up at strange times, and on occasions when it is not expected. Hitherto that particular part of education which our County Council took to do with was material and not theoretical, they contented themselves with providing supplementary support for education in such a form as the Government had given us, rather than debating a theory destined according to its advocates to perfect the system already in operation. But perhaps no resolution proposed in Council which did not recommend an expenditure of money, drew out such a earnest and lengthy debate as that in which it was proposed to petition the Ontario Parliament to pass an Act, making it imperative on parents to send their children between the ages of five and seven years to school, or to educate them elsewhere. The motion was tried, not without dissenting voices, and the memorial will be presented next session. The Council no doubt believed they were fulfilling a duty to their country and working for the benefit of the rising generation and of those that may succeed when they received to press this great question often, and so exhaustively discussed and so frequently left in abeyance, that the attention of the Legislature, if it is one of those subjects on which different individuals may hold different opinions and be equally honest.

In dwelling on this theme there appears to us just two questions worthy consideration; first, is the principle of compulsory education correct in itself, and second, would its application in Canada be attended with satisfaction, and consequently beneficial results? With regard to the first part, it is argued, and not without a show of reason, that if taxes are levied for the support of schools, ratepayers have a right to look for an equivalent in the sums they are compelled to pay for that intellectual progress they are designed to foster and promote. Yet the reasons would be nearly parallel to those which would induce the Government to enact that all the vagabonds, who make a living not by themselves knows how, should be committed to gaol without having fringed any particular Statute on the grounds that the edifices which they kept in repair, that the salaries of the officials had to be paid, and that the discipline the prisoners had to undergo would conduce to their individual well-being, and to the future good of society. There are, and perhaps there will always, systems established in the design of improving the morals of the country, to which men must contribute in proportion to their means, and from which they cannot look for remuneration in the form of universal and regular movement towards virtue on the part of all to whom they point the way, and furnish with oil and wine for the journey. It is a melancholy fact, but a true one, that investments in schemes for the elevation of the human species hold the tardiest and the smallest dividends. It is enough, we conceive, to want the privileges of obtaining a good elementary education, free of charge, and all who are willing to accept of them, without beating up the highways and hedges and driving in guests to partake of the intellectual feast at benevolence has made ready. The merit and pleasure of having rendered a benefit cannot be destroyed by the refusal to accept it, while he who spurns what he really required and what would have been unquestionably beneficial to him seldom fails to find the punishment his negligence and want of forethought invites. On the whole it rather seems that to attempt to compel men, more especially those who glory in their heritage of freedom of opinion, who have for ages never seen a contraction of the bounds of liberty, but on the contrary widening thereof—to endeavour to compel such men, either for good or ill, would be equally ineffectual.—Here force is employed danger is expected and battle is waged. Vice pursues its victims; and if education is to continue potent in raising men above the level of the beasts, they must learn to love it voluntarily for the beauty of its effects, and in the same manner embrace it for its intrinsic worth.

We must now consider whether it is probable that success would attend the application of the principle of compulsory education to Canada. Its supporters quote with unctious access it has met with in Prussia and some of the other countries of Europe. Before making a comparison between Canada and any of the monarchies of the continent, let us glance for a moment at the system as it there prevails, and at the penalties exacted in its enforcement. First comes Prussia.

In that country parents are compelled to send their children to school from the time when they are five years of age, until such time as the clergyman of the parish shall see fit to announce that each has acquired an education proportionate to the station it is probable he may occupy in life or the part he may play in the history of the nation. In Austria the penalty, while apparently the least severe, is in reality the surest means of compelling every person to acquire a certain amount of knowledge. No man is there allowed to marry who cannot give proof of his ability to read and write and cast up accounts. There was ingenuity and perhaps humor in the legislators who framed this law in Austria, for they appear to have had an idea that the passion which laughs at locksmiths would do no less at fractions and the rule of three. There is perhaps no country of Europe in which learning is so universally diffused as in Sweden, not one out of a thousand of the inhabitants being unable to read. Here also the compulsory system is in force, and non-compliance with its requirements is punished by the State's refusing to allow those incapable of reading the Scriptures at least, to exercise any act of majority. He who has not this minimum amount of education must, until he acquires it, be for all political purposes a mere child in Sweden. In Switzerland parents are compelled to send their children to school from their five until they are at least eight years of age, and refusal or neglect to comply can be visited on the parents by fine or imprisonment, while children themselves can enjoy no right of citizenship without having first received the sacrament, which it is impossible for them to do unless they have previously received a certain amount of education. Of all the systems the Prussian is believed to approach nearest to perfection in most of its details, and it has been in a great measure the model of the system which we have in Canada. The regulations with regard to religious instruction are precisely the same, no particular creed being allowed to be taught during school hours. The compulsory part was first introduced in Silesia after that Province had been wrested from Austria by Frederick the Great, who was equally enthusiastic in the matters of education, and Grenadier Guards seven feet high. What answered in Prussia in those days, what is acceptable there and in other countries of Europe even at the present day would be by no means so in Canada. Suppose Sir G. E. Cartier had proposed to enforce military service after the manner of Prussia, and argued that because a ruthless system of conscription made effective armies in that kingdom therefore a similar plan would be of immense service in Canada, who would have considered that he had not taken leave of his reason? Frederick had raised Prussia to a pitch of greatness that she never deemed herself capable of attaining, and all by the power of his genius which gave him absolute power over his subjects. He commanded in war, and they performed military wonders, he commanded in peace and they obeyed because they would have thought it foolish to question his wisdom, not to speak of the danger of such an experiment. Where compulsory education is established, at the time it became one of the institutions of these countries one man reasoned for millions. Such is not the case with us where every person claims the right of thinking for himself and adopting that course most consonant to his inclinations, or likely to be most advantageous. There is yet another consideration. We count in the population of this Dominion 1,300,000 people so poor that their children must work, if they would eat, as soon as they are able to perform the slightest services. What is to be done with these? Are those who talk of compulsory education willing to enlarge their generosity and feed and clothe as well as educate? Lastly knowledge is fast diffusing itself without coercive means among our people, and its progress will not be retarded. There are very few young Canadians who are not possessed of as much learning as would enable them to pass muster if we adopted a standard no higher than is used in these countries to which we have referred. There is an increasing tendency towards the acquisition of knowledge and the best way to assist it is to let it alone.

PERSONAL.—At a special meeting of Toronto University Senate, held in the Senate Chamber on Tuesday last, the Degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on Mr. Wm. Mitchell, of this town. During his University course Mr. Mitchell distinguished himself in more than one department. In his third year he carried off the McMurrich medal, which was competed for by the honour men of all years, and in his last year he was unanimously elected one of the University Prize Speakers. We may also state that in addition to his University studies, Mr. Mitchell completed his theological course in the Divinity Hall, Knox's College. We congratulate Mr. Mitchell on having so successfully finished his studies, and hope that his future progress will be in keeping with what it has been in the past.

Several persons have already left Windsor, and taken their residence in Detroit, in anticipation of a Fenian raid. The injury which the constant threat of a Fenian invasion does to persons who live upon the frontier, and the deterioration in the value of property is considerable.

DIED.

Gow.—At Guelph, on the evening of the 10th inst. Annie, only daughter of Mr. Peter Gow, aged 1 year and 5 months.

The funeral will take place to-morrow (Friday) afternoon, at 3 o'clock. Friends and acquaintances will please accept of this invitation to attend.

TO FARMERS.
A RESPECTABLE young man, who has been brought up to farming, is desirous of obtaining a situation on a gentleman's farm. Would have no objection to take a share of the work. Apply at this office.
Guelph, 11th June. dwf.

DRY GOODS
\$20,000 FOR \$10,000
AT W. STEWART'S.

TWO Importer's Stocks of
**FANCY DRESSES,
DRESS GOODS,
HOSIERY,
SKIRTINGS,
SHIRTING
FLANNELS**
HERRDASHERY, &c. AT HALF-PRICE.

W.M. STEWART
HAS much pleasure in informing and calling the marked attention of his friends and the public, that he has succeeded in relieving TWO WHOLESALE HOUSES of their stock of goods suited for the present season, value, at half cost, over \$10,000, of Dress Goods, Hosiery, Shirting Flannels, Skirtings, and a large lot of Haberdashery.

AT HALF THE COST
OF THE GOODS LAID DOWN.
The following lines will bear out his statement that he is now giving the public a benefit:
2635 yds. Dress Goods reduced to \$0.10
Former Price, 20c.
2354 do do do 0.12;
Former price, 25c.
2120 do do do 0.15
Former price, 20c.
1976 do do do 0.20
Former price, 35c.
265 Fancy Dresses, each, 1.00
Former price, \$2.25.
1751 do do do 1.25
Former price, \$2.50.
300 do do do 1.50
Former price, \$2.00.
215 do do do 2.00
Former price \$4.00.
Choice Lot of do., do., \$2.50,
\$3.00 and \$3.50.

ALL lot of **Dresses**, slightly soiled, will be offered at merely a nominal price.
A LOT of **Ladies' Jackets**, in Meltons, Valves, Tissue, Silk and Water-Proof Cloths, will be offered at above quotations.
A LOT of **Shirting FLANNEL** at half price.
A LOT of **Gambroons and Kentucky Jeans** from 12 1/2c per yard.
A LOT of **Hosiery**, notched and striped, from 12 1/2c per pair.
A LOT of **Cotton Gloves** at 5c per pair.
A LOT of **Croquet Skirts and Skirtings** at prices.

SPECIAL ATTENTION
DIRECTED to a lot of **Light Ground Prints**, partially damaged by water in transit, at 12 1/2c per yd, worth 17c.

NOTE.—The above Goods were never sold in the Town of Guelph at such a sacrifice in price. Every one should consult their interests by an early call.

W.M. STEWART,
Wynndham Street, Guelph.
Guelph, June 10. daw tf

NOTICE.
A FULL ATTENDANCE of the Guelph Garrison Battery of Artillery is particularly requested at drill on **FRIDAY, JUNE 12th**, at half past 7, p.m., sharp. By order.
WM. DAY, Lieut.-Commanding.
Guelph, June 10th. d3t

MASONS WANTED.
WANTED, two masons—one to cut and the other to build. They can get work for the season, and good wages. Apply to
ROBERT RICHENS,
Race Course, Eramosa Road,
2427
Guelph, 8th June.

FOUL PLAY,
By CHARLES READE.
PRICE, 50 Cents.
Also, the Supply of the
Queen's Book
PRICE, 25 Cents.
At Day's Bookstore,
Opposite the Market.
Guelph, 10th June. dw

ANOTHER LOT
OF FRESH, STRONG AND FINE
FLAVOURED TEAS
RECEIVED TO-DAY,
A. E. CARROLL & CO'S
No. 2, GUELPH.
Guelph, June 10. daw tf

TO FARMERS.
NOW is the time to free your Sheep and Lambs from Ticks. On hand, at
Apothecaries' Hall, Guelph,
A large supply of
Miller's Tick Destroyer.
Maccougall's Tick Destroyer
A. B. PETRIE,
Guelph, 10th June. dw Druggist.



Medical Dispensary
USE
HARVEY'S
PECTORAL
BALSAM
A most speedy, safe and effectual preparation for the cure of
**Coughs, Colds,
Bronchitis, &c.**
PRICE, - - 25c. per Bottle.
Prepared and for sale only by
E. HARVEY,
Chemist and Druggist, Wynndham-St., Guelph;
May 26. daw tf

PLASTER.
THE subscriber has now on hand, and will have for sale during the whole year a large supply of
White and Grey Plaster
for sale at his Warehouse on Gordon-st., near the railroad crossing.
GEORGE BALKWILL.
Guelph, 27th May, 1867. dw

GREAT BARGAINS.
GREAT BARGAINS AT THE
Rutherford House, Guelph.

THE large and varied stock of **DRY GOODS** at the above place are now being sold at and under cost. Great Bargains are given as the whole is to be sold out forthwith. Also, in Stock a full supply of **TURNIP SEED** from the most approved Seedsmen, viz:
Skirving's Improved, Bangholm, Marshall's, Sutton's Champion, Dawburn's L.P. Top, Sharpe's Improved, White Globe, Yellow Aberdeen, Rape & other Seeds.
A Well Assorted Stock of Groceries as usual.
Guelph, June 9th, 1868. dwlin

BRITANNIA HOUSE
WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.

JUST OPENED!
A Very Choice Assortment of
Hoop Skirts
VERY CHEAP.
HEFFERNAN BROS.
Guelph, 6th June, 1868. daw

No. 1, Wyndham Street, Guelph.
JAMES CORMACK,
TAILOR AND CLOTHIER,
HAS NOW ON HAND A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF
LIGHT TWEED SUITS
Alpaca Coats
Clergymen's Black Alpaca Coats
Brown Linen Coats
Brown Linen Dusters
Farmers' Brown Linen Drill Pants
Brown Linen Vests
White & Colored Marsilles Vests
AT EXTRAORDINARY LOW PRICES.
JAMES CORMACK,
Guelph, 6th June, 1868. dw Wyndham-st., Guelph.

CHROMOS
A Fresh Lot of **CHROMOS** Just Received at
ROBT. CUTHBERT'S
HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?
They Supercede everything in the Picture Department that has ever been seen in Guelph.
Guelph, 5th June, 1868. dw

Wilkinson Again.
GEORGE WILKINSON, desirous to inform his customers and the public, that he has resumed business in the same place, and will be happy to receive from all old customers the respective patronage. The subscriber has now in stock a large and full assortment of
**GENERAL GROCERIES,
WINES AND LIQUORS,**
The Quality of Goods kept are the best that are produced on the Continent, and will be SOLD AT AS
REASONABLE PRICES
As FIRST-CLASS GOODS can be bought for.
GEORGE WILKINSON.
Guelph, June 5th, 1868. d6n-wit