

the third-year course; and, to crown all, we have twenty-five ladies among the two hundred odd candidates who wrote at the June matriculation examination. In England the same progress is observable. The governing bodies of Newnham and Girton Colleges, at Cambridge, have to face the difficulty of providing increased accommodation for the great influx of students. It is expected that the applications for entrance at Newnham at the beginning of the Michaelmas term will be double the number of vacancies. Somerville College, at Oxford, is in the same crowded state, and the authorities have to hire a house to provide temporary accommodation for the largely increased entry of students. Special schools for the preparation of students for these colleges are in demand, and Mrs. Fawcett, widow of the late Postmaster-General, who, as Miss Garrett, was herself a distinguished student, has been advised by her friends to start such a school.

A COUNTRY correspondent complains of the condition of rural schools. Children are over-worked, or not worked at all; assistants are not provided in schools where the attendance is too great for one teacher; some parents do not think their children are receiving proper training unless they are taught some high-sounding subject, others wish them confined to the simplest rudiments, while others again are responsible for the low rate of average attendance by their utter indifference to the education of their children in the matter of school attendance. The teacher, on the other hand, has not an easy position; his salary is not at all commensurate with the work he does; he is often in danger of offending some portion of the section in which he teaches, and his position is not secure. Trustees are too often selected from amongst those farmers who are not only the most self-asserting, but the most niggardly. We fear there is but too much reason for the complaint of our correspondent, and we know of no effective remedy for the state of things he represents but the establishment of Township Boards. The late Dr. Ryerson urged this change strongly on the Government of the day. Mr. Crooks took steps towards it, and Mr. Ross is in favour of it. Had we a Government that shaped its course more by considerations of right than of expediency, our rural schools would soon be in a more prosperous condition than they are at present. But the change from School Section to Township Boards presents two aspects to the Government; first, the 360,000 school children it would benefit, and second the 14,000 trustees who would lose their office and be offended by the change. We need hardly say that the latter appears by far the most serious to the powers that be.

From a letter written by Mr. W. H. Howland to one of the daily papers, we learn that the Industrial School Association have secured from the Government a grant of fifty acres at Mimico Station, in the neighbourhood of Toronto, as a site for the school. They have at their disposal fifteen thousand dollars in cash, six thousand of which has been contributed by a benevolent Toronto lady for the building of one of the cottages, which will bear her name. But Mr. Howland says a further sum of ten thousand dollars is needed to construct the necessary buildings before commencing the work of industrial training, and he appeals for aid. We feel sure he will not appeal in vain, not only to lovers of children, but to lovers of their country, to supply the Association with the amount needed. To assist Mr. Howland, would it not be a graceful and an appropriate act for the school children throughout the country to contribute their mite towards the proper training of the waifs among our youthful population? Already there is in the hands of a committee, presided over by Dr. Hodgins, Deputy Minister of Education, upwards of four thousand dollars which these children have given towards the erection of some memorial to the memory of the late Dr. Ryerson. We know of no more appropriate way of applying this money, which might be supplemented by further contributions, than by erecting a cottage to be called after his name on the Mimico site.

WHAT reason there can be for the late parade of school children through the principal streets of Toronto beyond the vulgar one of show, it would be difficult to find. It cannot be justified on the ground of being a fitting commencement to the various useful drill and calisthenic exercises and athletic games which followed, for the vast majority of the little children, who had to trudge with measured pace many a weary mile in the procession to reach the Lacrosse Grounds, took no part in these. The various competitions in physical exercise which followed are worthy of all encouragement, but in future let the Board of Public School Trustees show mercy on the little ones by marching them from the rendezvous by the nearest route to the Grounds, and let the route be a short one.

MR. BUCKMASTER, in the course of an address to the farmers of Kent and Sussex recently, made some valuable remarks on agricultural education. He showed that Wurtemberg, a German State about the size of Yorkshire, has ninety-seven schools for the practical teaching of agriculture; that in French country schools instruction relating to farm work enters largely into the ordinary teaching. He did not disapprove of agricultural shows, but he pointed out that the science of agriculture was not to be learned by shows nor even by lectures, but by diligent private work in the school-room, and the money bestowed on a prize animal might be better spent in providing an agricultural scholarship for a boy in the parish school.

A MOVEMENT is on foot in London, England, to form cadet corps of boys who have received the benefit of military drill in the Board Schools. One of the chief promoters of the movement has undertaken to provide drill instructors at his own expense. The purposes of the project, in addition to keeping up the knowledge of drill, are to provide proper physical training for the youths who leave the schools, and to surround them with wholesome moral influences. Could not something of the same kind be attempted on behalf of the youths of our own country after they leave school?

CENSOR.

## HERE AND THERE.

WRITING to a contemporary apropos of the revolting exposures of immorality which have thrown London into such a paroxysm of indignation, a correspondent claims that a journal of such high character as the *Pall Mall Gazette* must not be accused of pandering to low tastes. It is implied that the *Gazette* caters to a constituency too cultivated to care for nasty literature, and that the philanthropic motives which inspired Mr. Stead's action are patent. But the objector has apparently been thinking of the *Gazette* as it was—not as it is. When that one-time influential journal changed hands and took a political somersault it had to carve out for itself a new clientele, old readers transferring their allegiance to the *St. James's Gazette*. Ordinary methods having failed to attract the business necessary to carry on so great an enterprise, Mr. Stead, immediately upon the retirement of Mr. Morley, proceeded to "boom" his paper by the most ingenious devices, ending, every clean-minded man will regret to observe, with the late filthy "revelations" of an immorality which everyone knew existed, but which decent men by common consent tabooed as a matter of public comment, praying for the speedy advent of that gospel of sweetness and light which alone can dispel the moral darkness that is over all large cities.

HENRI ROCHEFORT, like Mr. Stead of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, is a professional sensation-monger, and the story about the betrayal of Gordon by which he expects "to send a thrill of horror through the civilized world" will not easily obtain credence. But if there is any truth in the story it corroborates the opinion expressed by us that Khartoum was really in the Mehdi's power long before its fall, and was allowed to remain ostensibly in Gordon's hands only as a trap for the British army.

THE following is from the Bolton (Eng.) *Advertiser*. "It is said that one has to go from home to learn the news. Looking over a copy of a Toronto paper we came upon the following in an article devoted to a description of prevalent distress in England:—'The news from the North of England is also very distressing. In many of the Lancashire towns the artisans are only working three days in the week, in others no work is to be had the week through. In all the towns carts are constantly going the rounds of the streets collecting broken bread and scraps for the starving working-classes.' The writer is drawing largely upon his imagination. No such distress exists, and no town carts are going the rounds for the purpose mentioned. As a general thing it may truly be said that the working-classes were never better off; and, though a considerable number of labouring men are only partially employed and trade prospects are by no means bright, the general condition of the people is too satisfactory to call for such special measures as our misinformed contemporary mentions."

THERE were twenty-four failures in Canada reported to Bradstreet's during the past week, against nineteen in the preceding week, and fifteen, twenty-six and nine in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882, respectively. In the United States there were 170 failures reported during the week as compared with 192 in the preceding week, and with 194, 140 and 124 respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About eighty-three per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000.

THE *Toronto Mail* returns to the charge that the London *Dispatch* is "a pot-house journal," and triumphantly quotes the New York *Sun* in confirmation thereof. Our contemporary is quite welcome to all the satisfaction it can extract from ranging itself alongside a notoriously anti-British newspaper in order to score a point against THE WEEK. But we must protest against misrepresentation. THE WEEK did not "quote approvingly" the *Dispatch's* paragraph discounting the *voyageurs*, but merely inserted the extract in question as a proof that Imperial Federation has not been accepted as a serious political issue either in England or in Australia.

A CONTEMPORARY announces that fifty clergymen are about to make a bicycle tour through Canada. They are to start from the Niagara Falls and wend their way for six hundred miles through the Dominion, or as far as their holidays will permit. They intend to doff their black coats and white chokers and travel as ordinary beings. The clerical trunk may be clothed according to taste, but for the lower extremities, knee-breeches, stockings, and low shoes are to be *de rigueur*. As it is impossible to carry a change of raiment on their bicycles for Sunday wear some persons have objected to the costume chosen for the ecclesiastical nether limbs as wanting in propriety, and the leader of the expedition, a clergyman of Pennsylvania, has felt compelled to offer as an apology that if "Wesley and Whitfield and all our predecessors were accustomed to preach in knee-breeches, surely no sacrilege will be committed by wearing the costume on the Sabbath." To which he might have added that if the Bishops, the great guns of the Church Militant, wear breeches, what is to prevent canons following them at a respectful distance?

THERE are, however, many persons to whom the least innovation savours of irreverence, and such individuals had a terrible trial when the moustache made its appearance in the pulpit. Thirty years ago every Englishman was shaved, but the Crimean War gave the first turn to the scale, and when the volunteer force was enrolled the imitation of the military by the civilian soldiers proved the death-blow of the razor. It was some time, however, before the public eye became accustomed to the hirsute appearance of the younger generation; the Bank of England issued to its clerks the famous