

The Educational Journal

CONSOLIDATING

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

Subscription, \$1.50 a year
in Advance.

TORONTO, MARCH 16, 1896.

Vol. X
No. 21.

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Editorial Notes.

THE *Congregationalist* remarks that the Jews at last have their revenge on Babylon. Nearly 2,500 years ago Babylon took the whole nation into captivity, but two Jews of Bagdad have now bought all that is left of Babylon. The Jew may be conquered in war and enslaved, but give him a chance to trade, and time enough, and he will own his owners.

"MARRIED man. Nine in family. Salary, \$190 per annum. Four years in same school. No complaints. Everyone satisfied. Good testimonials at parting. Trustee has a relative. Experienced teacher displaced. Now cutting firewood at fifty cents a cord. School in question run on money supplied by Government and township council. Ratepayers pay no direct tax." The above bit of current school history points its own moral. Query: On sound principles of Ministerial responsibility, ought not the Government which contributes to the support of the schools from the public funds to have some direct check upon a downgrade policy or practice of this kind?

THE Science Department is, in its turn, crowded out of this number. If we continue branching out in every direction in order to meet the wants of all our sub-

scribers, we shall find ourselves forced into enlarging the paper, or making it a weekly, before we know where we are. Well, "the liberal soul deviseth liberal things." Our new company has a large ambition. But, unfortunately, the paper-makers, the compositors, the pressmen, cannot afford to work without remuneration. Even editors, however much against their inclinations, are obliged to stipulate for the wherewithal to enable them to remember the butcher and the tailor occasionally. But let the subscriptions pour in from the east and the west, and who knows what may happen? We shall see what we shall see, some day.

IN another column will be found the announcement of the annual April meeting of the Ontario Educational Association. We regret that, though the announcement was, we believe, sent to us in good time, owing to some accident or oversight it did not come into our hands in time for an earlier number. The programme is, as usual, of great variety. The teacher must be hard to please who cannot find some topic in which he or she is specially interested under discussion in some one or other of the departments, at any hour of the day or evening. If the teachers of Ontario are wise, they will rally in the largest possible number to the ranks of this association, and make it, as they can if they will, one of the strongest forces in shaping the educational character and policy of the future. The association is already powerful, but its influence may be greatly increased if the teachers will but come enthusiastically to its support from all parts of the country.

THE proposal that the governments of Great Britain and of the United States should, by formal treaty, establish arbitration as the method of concluding all differences which may fail of settlement by the ordinary diplomatic methods between the two powers is being freely, and, we are glad to see, to a large extent favorably, discussed by the thoughtful and

Christian people of the two nations. The idea is as reasonable and sensible as it is noble and Christian. What an example to all professedly Christian countries, what a boon to humanity, what a foreshadowing of the era of universal peace among civilized nations, would the ratification of such a treaty be! Who knows that the year 1896 may not see it a fact accomplished? But whether it is possible of accomplishment in this generation or not, there is no reason to doubt that, if teachers of the young in the two countries would but do their duty by discussing it in their schools, and enlisting the nobler feelings of the children in its favor, the thing could be triumphantly carried out by the next generation. What grand possibilities for the uplifting of the next generation to a higher moral plane are in the hands of the teachers of to-day!

IN one of the Public Schools of Chicago an experiment has been tried, with, it is said, gratifying success, which is certainly worth considering elsewhere. The children of the school have been entrusted with the care of the school garden. In summer the garden was a thing of beauty under their cultivation, and now, in winter, over a thousand bulbs of narcissus, hyacinths, crocuses, and tulips lie beneath the snow, where they were placed by the hands of the little gardeners. Almost before the disappearance of the snow the garden will be an expanse of flowers. The effect of this pleasant exercise in cultivating a love of flowers can easily be imagined. Better still, hand in hand with the development of that taste, which will make the lives of the future men and women richer and more refined, a spirit of charity or practical benevolence is fostered, not only by the free distribution of flowers in the hospitals and among the poor elsewhere within reach, but also by bestowment of loads of clothing and provisions, which can usually be collected with ease by the children at their homes and elsewhere, and which the little ones will delight in distributing among the needy.