

a flourish and bravado which must have struck terror among some of the antagonists. T. W. Conway represented Harper & Brothers. He had been a military general and a preacher, and if I remember rightly, was at one time Superintendent of Education in a reconstructed State. These diversified experiences had given him a rough and ready manner; and he was always glad to take a hand in anything that came up during the intervals in the battle of the books, whether it was a culinary set-to or an investigation of the Chinese question. He believes in exterminating the children of the flowery kingdom.

A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, were represented by A. P. Flint, the veteran agent, who, like the Rocky Mountain "Pathfinder," parts his golden hair in the middle and ever keeps an eye to windward. He fought long and fought hard, giving himself no respite except to attend Church, or to investigate the Chinese question.

C. L. King carried the standards of Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co., New York. He was nervous, frisky and active, and resorted to various stratagems for furthering his cause, among others, Gen. Scott's old campaign-dodge of kissing the babies. That may do very well in a political contest, but something more than winning the women is required to win a book fight. W. M. Scribner, familiarly known as "Old Scrib," was on hand for Potter, Ainsworth & Co., New York. What Scribner doesn't know about penmanship isn't worth knowing, but we grieve to say that his copybooks went by the board. Isaac Upham mingled in the fray for Wilson, Hinkle & Co., of Cincinnati and New York. He dealt good blows, never lost his temper, and invariably came up smiling. He made a good many friends and few enemies while here.

D. A. Learned, local, represented Ginn & Co., of Boston. His forte was his big discounts and familiarity with the school law. He invariably signed himself the Granger Agent, *pro tem.* D. Libby, who represented A. L. Bancroft & Co., of San Francisco, was one of your rapid men; you saw him, and tried to put your finger on him, but like the Irishman's flea, he was gone. He was backed by a large lobby and assisted by everybody of influence hereabouts. Very different from him was a Rev. Mr. Whittemore, who did battle for the University Publishing Company of New York. He was a quiet, gentlemanly man in his bearing, and clearly showed by his general manner that he thought he was dealing with honest men. May he never have reason to think otherwise, as he gains experience in the business.

We have thus briefly described the main actors in the exciting contest which has been fought here by the publishers. Early last summer the book men began to agitate their various claims. This agitation, mild at first, increased as the days wore on. The last four weeks of the contest grew very warm, and day after day the respective belligerents were seemingly "nip and tuck," none knowing how the others stood. All the papers of California, particularly those of Sacramento and San Francisco, participated in the contest, doing good service for their respective favourites. Repeated efforts were made to enlist Gov. Booth, Ex-officio President of the Board of Education, but he declined to be interviewed or to commit himself in advance. The State Board met recently, when the final discussion and presentation of claims began. The result has been announced.

The University Publishing Company made bids for the whole list, but received no votes.

The Ginn Brothers, of Boston, desired to have their Geographies introduced into the schools, but received no votes.

Harper & Brothers wanted Swinton's Grammar and United States Readers put on the list. Though they failed in this, they succeeded in having a copy of the Grammar placed in each school-house, and in each school-teacher's hands, in the State, which, considering the author's Eastern Antecedents, and the reputation he left in this State, was doing remarkably well. The Appletons supplanted Monteith's Geographies, published by A. S. Barnes & Co., with Cornell's Geographies. The fight on this part of the line was unusually severe, but the Appletons finally triumphed.

Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co., supplanted Payson, Dunton & Scribner's Copy Books, published by Potter, Ainsworth & Co., with the Spencerian system. A. L. Bancroft & Co. supplanted McGuffey's Readers, published by Wilson, Hinkle & Co., with the Pacific Coast Readers. State Superintendent of Education Bolander was opposed to any change in readers, but what he said or recommended appeared to have little weight. He will not be the next Superintendent.

The books selected are to remain in use for five years, all over the State, except in San Francisco, which is exempted from the general law of the State. The battle ended, the agents fraternized, visiting the Chinese quarters, and paid their respects to the city generally.—*Am. Ed. Monthly.*

CHANGE OF TEXT-BOOKS AND PROGRAMMES.

As already intimated in the May number of the JOURNAL, the Council of Public Instruction have *struck off* the list of approved books, the following:—

Peck Ganot's Natural Philosophy.
Davidson's Animal Kingdom.
Collier's English Literature.

The following books were at the same time *authorized*:—

English Grammar, Primer, by Rev. R. Morris.
Lessons in Elementary Physics, by Balfour Stewart, LL.D.
Physics, by Balfour Stewart, LL.D. (Science Primers.)
Elementary Mechanics, including Statics and Dynamics, by J. B. Cherriman, M.A.
Elementary Statics, by J. Hamblin Smith, M.A.
Elementary Hydrostatics, by J. Hamblin Smith, M.A.
Outlines of Natural History, by H. Alleyne Nicholson, M.D.
Physiology (Science Primers) by M. Foster, M.A., M.D.
Lessons in Elementary Physiology, by Professor Huxley.
Physical Geography, by A. Geikie, LL.D. (Science Primers).
Geology, by Archd. Geikie, LL.D. do.
Introductory Text-Book of Physical Geography, by David Page, F.R.S.E. (for High Schools).
Chemistry, by H. E. Roscoe (Science Primers).
History of English Literature, by Wm. Spalding, A.M.
Craik's English Language and Literature.
Freeman's European History.

Latin.—Dr. Wm. Smith's Series, I., II., III., IV., and his smaller Grammar of the Latin language.

Arnold's First and Second Latin Books; the English editions, or revised and corrected, by J. A. Spencer.

Harkness' Introductory Latin Book.

do. Latin Reader.

do. Latin Grammar.

Bryce's Series of Reading Books.

J. Esmond Riddle's Latin Dictionary.

Greek.—Dr. Wm. Smith Initia Græca.

Curtius' Smaller Grammar.

Farrar's Greek Syntax.

Greek Lexicon, Liddell & Scott, smaller and larger editions.

Schmitz's Ancient History (retained at present).

Pillans' First Steps in Classical Geography.

Dr. W. Smith's Smaller Classical Dictionary of Biography, Mythology and Geography.

Dr. W. Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities.

Mr. Vere Foster's two series of Drawing Books, but the Council desire to invite the attention of teachers to the great benefits recognised as resulting from teaching children at an early stage to draw from the objects themselves, instead of from drawings.

Memorandum.—If the substitution of new books for those disallowed, cannot at once be accomplished without great inconvenience, a reasonable time may be given, with the understanding that the changes will be made as speedily as they can, consistently with the welfare of the school. It is not intended to enforce the change of text-books either in High or Public Schools during the first year, or without the consent of the Trustees and of the Inspectors.

Where two books are allowed in the same subject, a discretion is permitted, which should be exercised by the Master, with the concurrence of the Trustees and of the Inspector, which will enable him to meet the complaints as to the cost of changing text-books.

The geographical text-books are undergoing revision, and no change is yet authorized in that subject, or in the French.

Due notice will be given as to the time when the new scheme of payment by results will come into operation in the High Schools, and the new programmes are as yet incomplete.