

The School.

Question Drawer next week.

In response to requests of teachers we commence in this issue the publication of the last Entrance Examination Papers. These will be continued in future numbers.

Apropos to the incident of the clerical advice referred to in another paragraph, it seems to us too high ground cannot be taken by the teacher in church or school against the vice of lying. Truth is one of the eternal laws of the universe. It is based on the very foundation of our nature. It underlies the whole superstructure of confidence between man and man. A community of liars would be a pandemonium. Law, order, business, social intercourse, everything that makes life worth living would be undermined and tottering. Once admit with the clergyman in question, that lying may be justified under certain circumstances, and you make honor a myth, and morality a dream. Truth is dragged down from heaven and trampled in the mire of human expediency. It is but a matter of profit and loss, a thing of barter. If this, that and the other gain in money or personal safety, warrants the lie, who shall draw the line, and where? Let Canadians ever and everywhere be taught that "nothing needs a lie."

The clergy take it upon themselves to exhort teachers to have a care in cultivating such moral qualities as honesty, honor and truthfulness in their pupils. This is all right and proper, and most teachers will gladly "suffer the word of exhortation." But alas, for poor humanity! Happily there are not many clergymen like the English Liberal one who lately addressed a circular to his parishioners in regard to their political duties, in which he distinctly advised the poor electors, enfranchised under the new act, if they had reason to fear loss of employment as a result of voting according to their convictions, to lie deliberately to their employers, rather than vote against their consciences. It is no wonder that the Bishop of Carlyle felt called upon to denounce such monstrous teaching, but it is ominous that a leading Canadian journal should be found half-condoning, half-apologizing for so grave a violation of the simpler code of manly, not to say Christian honor. One of the benefits looked for by thoughtful men from the extension of the ballot is believed to inhere in its educational power. It would be sad indeed if its first educational influence should be in the shape of a direct training in the meanness and cowardice of lying.

Normal School and other students will learn, we are sure, with much satisfaction that the "Elementary Chemistry," in this and subsequent numbers, is being specially revised for the JOURNAL by Dr. Kirkland, Principal of the Normal School. These lessons were originally prepared by Dr. Kirkland for *The School Examiner*, and arrangements have now been made to have them revised by the author, so that they will conform in every respect to the present requirements of the Normal School course.

We have received of late from subscribers an unusually large number of complaints of non-delivery of THE JOURNAL. These are explained in part by the fact that the paper was issued only on alternate weeks during the holidays (July and August). Our arrangements in this respect were fully announced in the JOURNAL, but the announcement seems to have escaped the notice of a number of subscribers. Apart from this, however, there seems to have been altogether too much irregularity in the delivery of the paper—an irregularity for which we are unable to account. We regret the fact and are chagrined and annoyed by it. We hope to be able to supply missing numbers in most cases, and the attention of the new business manager having been specially called to the matter he will spare no pains to insure careful and punctual mailing. He will be glad if every subscriber, who fails to receive his JOURNAL duly, will notify him without delay.

We hear it rumored that the Minister of Education is about to authorize the preparation of a Sixth Reader for use in the Schools. It is to be hoped that this is not the case. In the opinion of many of the best educators we have too many scrap readers already, and it would greatly promote both good reading, and the taste for good literature, if select, complete works of the best authors were substituted for at least the fourth and fifth readers already used. To carry the process of the manufacture and use of these books further would be to fly in the face of the opinions of those most competent to judge and to choose retrogression rather than intelligent progress.

The latest educational report for Great Britain and Ireland shows that about 30 per cent. of the teachers are now furnished with residences free of rent. Next to a handsome increase of salaries we know of nothing that would be more effective in improving the status of teachers and securing and retaining good men in the profession in Ontario, than to provide comfortable residences in connection with the schools, especially in country districts where it is often very difficult to find suitable houses for rent. This circumstance alone has, no doubt, much to do with driving married men, and those wishing to marry, out of the profession.

Several parties have of late written to the *Mail* complaining of the exorbitant price charged for the new drawing books. It is said, and so far as we have observed, is uncontradicted, that these books for which 10 cents is charged, could be produced for 3 cents, with a profit. If this is so the arrangement is a monstrous imposition upon the public, out of which the publishing company must make a large fortune in a very short time. According to the computation, which is certainly a moderate one, at least 400,000 of the books will be required per year in the schools. This makes a net gain of \$28,000 per year to be divided between the publishers and the retail dealers. As the latter receive only a fixed percentage on the selling price, the publishers of these books, like those of the readers, must have a decidedly "good thing." The same process will be repeated, we suppose, with new geographies, grammars, &c., as fast as these are authorized. The fact is the