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## Editorial Notes.

EXTRA copies of the last number of the JOURNAL, containing the prize time-tables, will be sent to any address at the rate of seven cents per copy.

PLEASE remember that the JOURNAL is not published during the month of August. The next number will be dated September 1st, and will, we hope and purpose, be on its way to the hands of its readers promptly on that day.

AT the commencement exercises held at Ann Arbor University, Mich., on June 28th, diplomas were conferred on 689 graduates in thirty-four minutes, i.e., at the rate of more than twenty per minute, or one every three seconds. If the usual Latin formula was used in each case the University must possess a lightning elocutionist.

"THERE is no comparison," says the *N. Y. School Journal*, "between the proportion of teachers in city schools and the proportion in schools outside of the large cities who do not take an educational paper. Many, many teachers among those who work in the crowded wards of great manufacturing cities where, if anywhere, the problems of education must culminate in difficulty, say to our agents, 'Oh, yes, if I took any paper I'd take *The Journal*, but I've no use for an educational paper;' while in the backwoods districts, where the salary is so low, as to mean a really hand-to-mouth living of a very mean order, one of the main questions with the teacher is, which educational paper will do her the most good since she can afford but one."

Our experience is much the same as that of our contemporary. What is the explanation? Can any one give us a clue?

*The Schoolmaster* quotes a charming bit of unconscious satire, at the expense of the examination system in England, from the recent report of one of Her Majesty's inspectors. He says, without the italics, "The 'Pied Piper' of Hamelin was lately recited not badly by Standard V, but I do not think it suitable. *There is very little in it on which one can examine.* *The Schoolmaster* says:—"Clearly Browning should have kept this matter in view when penning his famous story. And not only so. The need of the hour is obviously a new school of poets whose muse shall be duly subordinated to the necessity to bring forth something Inspectors *can* examine upon. Happily, as it now appears, the vacant Laureateship has not yet been filled up." We venture to suggest that the rising race of Canadian poets should keep this new criterion of merit in mind, and write with the perplexities of future school examiners ever in mind.

THE week just closed bids fair to be an important one in Canadian history. It witnessed the assembling of the first conference, with one exception, of representatives of the self-governing British colonies, from both hemispheres. With but one or two exceptions all the self-governing colonies were represented. The Intercolonial Conference at Ottawa was absolutely the first that ever sat in a colony. Then, again, the Canadian Parliament ratified the French treaty, the first treaty which has ever been virtually negotiated by a colonial government. Some think the treaty not very valuable to us, but that is another question. The wedge is entered. Still further, our Parliament voted the very handsome subsidy of three quarters of a million dollars a year for ten years, and half-a-million for the succeeding ten years, for a fast Atlantic steamboat line to connect some British port, as yet undetermined, with the St. Lawrence in summer, and with St. John or Halifax in winter. This is making or trying to make, history pretty fast.

WE shall shortly need a branch of the Royal Society, or a Board of Conciliation, or some other court of last resort, for the authoritative settlement of questions of grammar. It is painful to try to imagine what might happen should some of them be left permanently unsettled. Our thoughts have been just now directed to the subject by a brief note in the last

number of *The Week*, in which Mr. William Trant, writing from Manitoba, says, touching one of the points made in the critique of the Public School Grammar, which was republished in the English Department of our last number, "The words that form the verb 'to be' are undoubtedly sometimes used as transitive verbs. In the sentence, 'Two and two are four,' 'are' is, undoubtedly, a transitive verb." We should like much to see such proof of this opinion as would justify the use of the word "undoubtedly." It is pretty clear that the question must turn upon the meaning assigned to "are" in the sentence quoted. Rash assertions are unsafe in such matters, but we are almost ready to maintain that it can be logically proved either that the word "are" is not transitive in the sentence quoted, or in any other, or that it is used in a sense which makes it no longer, properly speaking, a part of the verb "to be;" that is, no longer a verb of *being*.

SOME one has been writing upon "The Scriptural Side of Bicycling." The title is suggestive. We have no doubt that one of the fatal mistakes of many teachers is yielding to the temptation to a sedentary habit out of school. To many a one whose power as a teacher and a moulder of character is very much impaired by a tendency to moroseness or melancholy a couple of hours' spin on the wheel, night or morning, would be a source of new energy and inspiration. With the help of such a steed one could explore the whole country for miles around, enjoy its scenery in every aspect, study the products of its fields and forests, breathe the life-giving oxygen of its hill-tops, exult in the joy of swift motion under the control of the individual will, and come back to the daily duties of the school room with ever-fresh vigor and inspiration. Such a daily quickening of the pulse-beats by healthy exercise in the open air, combined with such communion with nature in all her varied aspects, could hardly fail to strengthen and elevate the moral nature, by lifting the thoughts to higher planes, as well as to improve the physical health, two things which are much more closely related to each other than most of us are apt to suppose. Many a poor urchin, who now daily pays the penalty of the teacher's indigestion and unconscious spleen, in common with his teacher, would have a new revelation of the meaning and possibilities of school life, could the latter but be induced, with or without a wheel, to spend two or three hours of each day in more or less vigorous exercise in the open air. So far as the bicycle is concerned, it is a great pity that the price should continue to be so nearly prohibitive. It must surely be out of all proportion to the cost of manufacture.