

methods adopted, &c. We have, however, a shrewd guess that the appliances exhibited on such occasions cannot always be safely taken as samples of the appliances actually in common use.

"The duty of a teacher is to teach." "Good government comes through good teaching." These maxims from an excellent article on "Whispering," in the *N. Y. School Journal*, are worthy of careful pondering. Many teachers seem to think that the first duty of a teacher is to govern, and that the teaching is a secondary consideration. Of course good teaching is impossible where disorder reigns. But the question is, which comes first in logical order, the governing or the teaching? Can disorder reign in the presence of good teaching? The distinction is of far greater importance than appears at first sight. The schoolmaster who sets out and continues with the idea that teaching is his business, and that just so much government is necessary as may enable him to teach most effectively, has in his hands a clue which will guide him through the labyrinth of the busiest school. On the other hand he who sets out to establish a reign of absolute quiet and order before he begins to teach, is likely to find his time and energies so exhausted in governing that he has little of either left for teaching.

We have not for some time seen anything in worse taste than a High School Master's letter to the *Mail*, the other day, attacking Dr. Purslow of the Port Hope High School, for having written in opposition to the proposed increase in the number of scholarships offered for matriculates in Toronto University. Dr. Purslow's objection to the use of public funds for a purpose which is, to say the least, unnecessary and doubtful, by an institution which is avowedly impecunious, and which is asking further help from the Government, will seem to most impartial minds, we think, to be well taken. But whether well taken or not, Dr. Purslow writes calmly over his own signature, on a question in which he, as a citizen and a taxpayer, has as much right to speak as any other man. The attempt to evade the issue by raising the petty question of the relative number of scholarships taken in such and such a year by different schools is unworthy of a High School Master. As every teacher knows the successful students in any given year is largely a matter of accident, and if it were not, the time is, it may be hoped, near when the intelligent public will learn that there are other and far better tests of the real merits of a High School.

"Our Country and Village Schools" recommends an exercise which it calls "The Sentiment Class." The idea suggests an excellent variation for the Friday Afternoon Exercises. The teacher would first have a "nice little talk" with the pupils about learning short maxims, and illustrate his meaning with a number of choice proverbs, sentiments, couplets, verses, &c. Then let the whole, or perhaps better, a certain number selected alphabetically or otherwise, be requested to come prepared next Friday to stand up, each in his place, and recite some such passage selected by himself. Advise them to choose noble sentiments, beautiful thoughts, grand truths, &c. Such an exercise, skilfully conducted, may be made not only intensely

interesting to the children, but also a means of cultivating literary taste and high moral sentiments which will have an important influence on the future character.

A serious schism is threatened in the Southern Presbyterian Church of the United States over the theory of Evolution. The trouble originated in the dismissal of a Professor from a Theological Seminary in Columbia, S. C., for teaching the questionable doctrine. The matter has been discussed and voted upon in four Synods, with the result of a slight majority in favor of the ousted teacher, but several other Synods are yet to pronounce upon it. The propagandism of the evolutionists is one of the curiosities of the day. The readiness of many to accept the theory as proved, and to teach it as if it were a demonstrated scientific truth, betokens a rashness of judgment which is very far removed from the true philosophical method. As the *Chicago Current* says:—"To accept man's pedigree as laid down in one of the first pages of Darwin's "Descent of Man" requires more pure faith than any Southern Synod demands of its preachers." The scientists condemn the Christian system as demanding belief of the unknowable, but to accept the Darwinian theory as unquestionable truth is to exercise more faith in the unknowable than has yet been required of the Christian believer.

#### UNIVERSITY LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.

We referred last week to the report presented by the Vice-Chancellor to the Senate of Toronto University recommending a scheme for local examinations. That scheme has since been adopted. Its provisions, we are happy to say, are of the most liberal character. Local examinations are to be held wherever there are not less than five students desirous of taking them. Males as well as females may be admitted. A candidate may select any one or more of the subjects for matriculation. Honors will be awarded to those whose papers come up to the required standard, though scholarships will not be given. Candidates taking the requisite subjects may matriculate at these examinations.

The fee for candidates taking the examinations in one or more subjects is \$2. An additional registration fee of \$5 will entitle any one who has passed in the requisite subjects to be registered as an undergraduate of the University.

We would again remind teachers of the excellent opportunity this arrangement holds out to them. We do not see why any young man or woman in the profession, who has not already obtained university standing, should not prepare for these examinations. There is surely no one who could not easily get ready to pass in one or more of the subjects. The examination in prospect is just what is needed to give steadiness and definiteness to private studies, and to encourage a laudable ambition.

We congratulate the Senate and the country on this truly liberal system. It shows that either there is much new blood in the Senate, or that the minds of the old Senators are becoming hopefully receptive of progressive ideas. We have a vivid recollection of the struggle which was necessary, but a very few