

## CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTES.

ENQUIRER: The Summer School is being held at Dunham in the College Building, and all information in regard to its organizations has been sent to the teachers by circular. The movement is a step in the right direction, and is especially for the benefit of those of our teachers who wish to make a special study of French, Drawing, and Vocal Culture. The services of an excellent staff of instructors have been secured, and we expect to publish in our next issue a full report of its success.

QUERY: The following we take from *Handy Helps*, which gives you the information required. "It would require years of study to acquaint one's self with enough of the Chinese language to be able to converse in it. There is a written and a spoken one, and the two are so unlike that a man can read and write Chinese without being able to speak it, and can speak without being able to read or write it. Very few foreigners who go to China to stay for years, ever trouble themselves to learn the language, but are content with "Pidgin English." What is it? In attempting to pronounce the word "business," the Chinese were formerly unable to get nearer to the real sound than "pidgin" or "pigeon," hence the adaptation of that word, which means nothing more nor less than "business." "Pidgin English" is therefore business English, and is the language at the ports of China, or where the Chinese and the men of other nations come in contact. Few words do the duty of many, so very little inflection is given either in the noun, pronoun, or verb. Telegraphing seems to be promoting a "Pidgin English" among ourselves.

THE FIRST OF US: It is almost impossible to say who was the first layman to open school in Canada. We would welcome information on this matter.

The Messrs. Ginn and Company of Boston are soon to issue *Patterson's Arithmetical Reviews* and *Practical Latin Composition* by Mr. W. C. Collar, of Boston. *The School Iliad with Vocabulary*, by the same house, promises to be an excellent volume. Messrs. Heath and Company are also issuing a *German Reader* for beginners by Mr. Joynes, *De Garmo's Essentials of Method*, and Isaac Pitman's *Shorthand Books*.

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TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE MCGILL NORMAL SCHOOL.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—The scholastic term had no sooner begun in September, 1888, than the Council of your Association commenced to rally its forces. The work has been carried on from Sept. 12th to May 21st, 1889. The Executive Committee has held ten meetings at which there has been an average attendance of about seven out of a possible fourteen. The programme for the year was mainly compiled