

the Empire having, in fact, made no advance since the Vienna Exhibition. 'England,' said Sir Charles Reed, 'would make a great mistake if she thought herself at the head of the world in educational matters. We have set ourselves to amend the mistakes of past generations, but the success hitherto achieved is not brilliantly demonstrated, in competition with other countries, at the Paris Exhibition.'

THE wealthy Livery Companies of London, England, have begun to move in the work of founding institutes for the advancement of Technical Education in the Metropolis. At a meeting held recently at Mercer's Hall, the great London Guilds decided to endow a central Institute for the purpose of affording to the London apprentices facilities for instruction in the arts and mechanical sciences; and already about \$100,000 has been subscribed. Liverpool also is moving in the effort to found a college for higher education in the great commercial seaport of England; and already some progress has been made in making provision for a large and efficient teaching staff.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

The Law and Official Regulations relating to Public School Trustees in Rural Sections, and to Public School Teachers (including decisions of the Superior Courts thereon), as prescribed for Second and Third Class Provincial and County Certificates of Qualification, by J. Geo. Hodgins, LL.D., Barrister-at-Law, Deputy Minister of Education. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co. *Revised edition, 1878.* This useful work embodies the substance of lectures delivered to Normal School students, at Toronto, which the legal training and lengthened experience of school law matters enabled Dr. Hodgins to prepare for their use. They now form a manual of school law of great utility, and the revision has enabled the author still further to illustrate the official regulations in force by embodying an ample selection of the decisions of the Superior Courts, in cases of difficulty which have been decided by the Judiciary. An extensive index completes the great service Dr. Hodgins has rendered to teachers

and school authorities in the publication of the work.

Greene's Graded Language Blanks. Greene's Graded Grammar Blanks. Boston: Potter, Ainsworth & Co.; Toronto: James Campbell & Son.—These admirable copy-book blanks mark 'a new departure' in our systems of teaching writing. The conventional maxim or proverb which has so long done duty in the head lines of our copy-books is here displaced by a series of (1) Easy Lessons in Expressing Thought, (2) In Combining Thoughts, (3) In Developing Distinctions, and (4) In Distinguishing Forms—in written speech. Penmanship thus becomes not only an exercise in the art of making accurate and well-proportioned letters, but a useful lesson in the construction of a sentence, and a helpful aid to the spontaneous and natural expression of thought. To facilitate the acquirement of an easy and legible style of hand-writing with fluency and accuracy of expression in the language, is a laudable and desirable work, and we heartily commend the series as an intelligent and practical means in accomplishing this combined result. The Grammar Blanks consist of (1) Etymology, (2) Syntax, (3) Parsing, and (4) Analysis, and furnish a series of exercises in writing, with the advantages of a special drill in grammar. Every schoolmaster should see them.

Milton's Paradise Lost, Books 1 and 11, with Notes, by John Seath, B.A., St. Catharines. (Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co.) *Goldsmith's The Traveller*, a Poem, with Notes, by Wm. Williams, B.A., Collingwood. (Toronto: Jas. Campbell & Son.) The publication of these text-books is a gratifying indication of the increased attention given to the study of English classics in Canadian schools. In no department of educational work was there more need of this attention than in the critical study of English literature. As an aid in acquiring ease and style in written composition, the analysis of the structure of these classics of the language cannot but prove of great value, while familiarity with such authors as Milton and