

For the REVIEW.]

**Afternoon Walks Among the Wild Flowers.***To the Editor of the Educational Review:*

DEAR SIR Some of us had a pleasant time gathering flowers on an interval of the East River, about a mile and a half from New Glasgow, N. S., and I thought you might like to know what flowers are found in this region. I am sorry that it is too late for the REVIEW, though, as the flowers are quite common, the report would probably be superfluous at any time. (The date is June 4th). The sloping banks above the interval were full of choke-cherry trees in full blossom. Under the trees the trilliums were all flowering, but the *Dientra* (Dutchman's breeches) had passed its time of bloom, as had also the dogtooth violet. Purple and yellow violets were blooming their latest. The Indian turnips were just lifting their hoods. (Jack in the pulpit can look very impressive.) The grass of the interval was mixed with bell-wort (*Urtica sessilifolia*) and landwort (two varieties). The wild yellow lily (*L. Canadense*) is nearly three-quarters of a yard high already, and the flower buds are forming. We found one solitary white orchid; it has the habeneria look, but it has no fringe. The yellow pond lily buds were just showing above the water in the "gullies." The earliest opened last year on June fifteenth. The bloodroot (*Sanguinaria*) ceased blooming long ago; we found some with very large seed-vessels. We found some Rhodora in full bloom a week ago in a swamp; and we know where to look for *Clintonia borealis*. I almost forgot to mention the beautiful early meadow rue; it has not yet begun to bloom.

I am not attempting a list of the spring flowers; I give only those we saw in two afternoons.

New Glasgow, N. S.

M. CAVANAGH.

For the REVIEW.]

**The Telling Amenities.**

When so much time, thought and ingenuity are being expended in devising methods for improving the minds and manners of the rising generation, it might be in order to suggest that some fraction of our zealous interest would not be misplaced in another direction.

However well informed a teacher may be on the several branches of studies mentioned in our Course of Instruction, I do consider it imperatively necessary that he or she have some slight conception, at least, of the "small sweet courtesies of life."

I have heard of teachers whose ignorance in this particular was positively appalling, though I trust they are exceptional.

Could anything be more remiss than the young woman who, when the noon-tide hour arrived, dismissed

her scholars and tripped blithely off to dinner, leaving her late visitor—the inspector, to suffer the pangs of starvation, and indulge in the satisfying(?) reflection, that there is a hotel some twenty or thirty miles away, where ~~several~~ hours hence, he may regale his inner man. However narrow her life or limited her experience, it is difficult to imagine a teacher, so utterly and only a teacher, as to have no apparent realization of the social side of existence.

Thoughtfulness and consideration for others, with a degree of discretion and a modicum of tact—but above all, some knowledge of the small amenities of life—are absolute essentials to a well-equipped teacher.

And no teacher has a right to throw discredit on her profession by an act of wilful discourtesy.

EDLWEISS

Woodstock N. B.

For the REVIEW.]

**Tails.**

Some years ago I read a short article, giving the results of some observations that had been made of the tails of dogs and cats. I do not remember who the writer was, but having seen nothing since along the same line, I venture to give my recollection of the article with the results of my own observation since.

The article which dealt only with individuals that were speckled, or of mixed colors, was in substance about this: The tip of the dog's tail is white, that of the cat's black. In either case exceptions are extremely rare.

I do not think I have known exceptions to the rule, as applied to dogs. If a dog has any white on him at all, he is almost sure to wear part of it on the tip of his tail. A few days ago, however, I saw a cat of mixed colors, having the end of the tail white, which is I believe, the first exception I have seen. Grey and black cats invariably have the tips black.

It would be interesting to know the observations of others. Teachers can command the use of many pairs of eyes in observing along this line.

How is it accounted for? Possibly, evolution will explain. In the case of the cat, she is known sometimes to wave her tail from side to side, while on the watch for prey. In the semi-darkness, the white tail would be seen and the mouse alarmed. The "survival of the fittest," therefore, doomed the cat's white tail.

Why the dog generally has a white tail I leave for some others to explain. It is not a mere accident.

F. A. D.

Dalhousie, N. B., May 1895.

Corunna has an 1,800 year old lighthouse.