

The "Political Science Quarterly" is the title of a new review, the first number of which has just been issued. It is under the editorial control of the Faculty of Political Science of Columbia College, and is to be devoted to the study of politics, economics, and public law.

The second volume of the "Narrative and Critical History of America," edited by Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard University, has appeared. This is the first instalment of a great historical work on an entirely new plan, that of co-operation. The whole work is to embrace eight royal octavo volumes, each topic, or section, being treated by a historical specialist, somewhat on the encyclopaedia plan.

Correspondence.

KINGSVILLE, April 12th, 1886.

Editor CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL:

DEAR SIR,—In glancing through the columns of the SCHOOL JOURNAL, I was much amused to notice a few observations from your correspondent "Alpha," of Richmond Hill, and as I am one of the teachers referred to, I trust you will give me space for a few words in reply.

I can assure "Alpha" that his sympathy or pity is quite misplaced so far as the pupil I had the honor of preparing for examination is concerned. 'Tis a pity that people with large hearts and broad sympathies, reaching out in every direction, such as "Alpha," for example, should not extend their compassion to those in need of it. Your correspondent does not like the idea of pupils passing the entrance examination at the age of eleven years. Has he yet settled the age at which the "poor things" should pass? In looking over the list of candidates and schedule of marks for South Essex Schools, I find that forty-four pupils wrote for entrance certificates. Twelve passed without a recommendation, and one was recommended, which leaves thirty-one as failing entirely. Of these thirty-one, I find nineteen whose ages range from fifteen to twenty-one years.

Has "Alpha" no real, genuine sorrow for those young men and young women who failed? His tender heart seems to bubble over and all his sympathy seems to run out for those poor children who are able to pass the entrance at the age of ten or eleven years, while the grown up and those on the verge of manhood and womanhood have to drag their weary feet along, without one word of encouragement or sympathy from our friend.

What a loss Cardinal Wolsey must have suffered in taking his University degree at fourteen, and poor Mr. Pitt, the Great Commoner, who entered Parliament at nineteen, and at twenty-three was the greatest Prime Minister England ever had up to that time, in not having the yearning pity of "Alpha." Had he lived then, he would have deeply sympathized with the poor memory-stuffed children, and they no doubt would have known how to appreciate his kind and tender feeling in their behalf.

I wonder if "Alpha" is a teacher and if he ever prepared pupils for entrance to High Schools, and at what age does he feel his sympathetic heart inclined to have his precocious pupils pass. He talks about memory-stuffing, or as Dr. McLellan in his lecture on "Critics Criticised," calls it, cram. The Dr. does not seem to take much stock in this cram (or memory-stuffing, if you will), *furor*. True, educationists seem to deplore the lack of progress instead of the too rapid progress in our schools.

Has "Alpha" lived in the world long enough to be able to write to the press and not yet learned, or has he forgotten, the fact that some children are as near maturity at eleven as others are at fifteen years of age? Does he not know that some "poor children" have as good, aye and better, reasoning powers at ten than some grown people at twenty and even forty years of age? Could "Alpha" see this pupil who passed the entrance in her twelfth year, he would bubble over with "real sorrow" that so much heartfelt sympathy had been wasted.

You know, Mr. Editor, that sometimes success and real merit are a source of dissatisfaction to some people unless they can be placed to their individual credit, and I feel that "Alpha," if a teacher, is one of this class.

Thanking you for your kindness in giving place to this communication, I am,

Yours, &c.,

L. C. PALMER,
Principal, Kingville P. School.

Teachers' Association.

FRONTENAC.—A joint convention of this Association and the City of Kingston Teachers, was held in the County Court House, Kingston, April 21st and 22nd. In the absence of the president, the chair was occupied the first day by City Inspector, W. Kidd; the President, J. E. Burgess, M.A., presided the second day. W. Scott, B.A., of Ottawa Normal School, acted as Director of Institutes, and his wise and timely counsel was much appreciated. Mr. T. Packer, of Lake Opinicon, opened the proceedings with an address on the "Design and Extent of a Public School Education." He said that trades and professions are not hereditary, and it is outside the aim of a common school education to fit a child for any particular calling. Better to give him an education that will benefit him for any avocation he may have to fill in after life. Education was, like the elements, liquid, solid or gaseous, and the speaker believed in the solid. The average attendance at the public school is 5 years, and the pupils may be summed up in 3 classes:—(1) Those who never get beyond the 3rd Reader; (2) Those who finish with the 4th; and (3) Those who pass into the High School. Practical subjects should receive most attention. Miss Caldwell, of Cataract Public School, read a very interesting paper on "Tact." On motion of Mr. J. W. Henstridge, seconded by Dr. Agnew, I. P. S., it was resolved that the editor of the JOURNAL be requested to publish it. Mr. Scott, who was well received by the members, took up "Special Points in Arithmetic," and impressed upon his audience to develop the reasoning and perceptive faculties in their pupils rather than trust to mere rote work. H. W. Poor, of the local Art School, gave a brief address on the "Advantages and Aims of Drawing in Public Schools." In the evening a public meeting was held in the spacious room of the Dominion Business College, kindly placed at the disposal of the Associations by the principals, Messrs. McKay and Wood. A large audience was present. Mayor Whitney occupied the chair and introduced Mr. Scott in a very appropriate address. Mr. Scott's lecture on "The Rights of Parents, Teachers and Pupils," was well received, and elicited a cordial vote of thanks.

Second Day.—R. Balmer read a well-written paper on "The Study of English," in which many of the leading abuses and pet theories of the present day were dealt with trenchantly. He condemned the parsing and analysis hobby, paraphrasing the style of one author or poet into that of another, and other crude and needless exercises. The fashion of grammar changed from century to century, and what is necessary is uniformity of usage. The child who hears good language used will use no other himself. The speaker would banish grammatical technicalities, would simplify the teaching of grammatical usage, would use English literature to show the mind of the author and his facility or beauty of expression, and would teach composition from the lowest class up. The essayist's views were spiritedly discussed by Messrs. Henstridge, Burgess, Kidd, McQuarrie, Packer and Markie. Miss Ewing read a very practical paper on "The Art of Teaching," in which were many suggestive hints. Mr. Scott then gave an address on "Learning and Remembering." Mr. J. W. Henstridge was again appointed delegate to the Provincial Association, his expenses to be paid out of the funds. Mr. R. K. Row, principal of the City Model School, gave an address on Col. Parker's Methods, as seen by himself when visiting the Cooke Co. Normal School, Illinois. The address was brimful of practical points. J. E. Burgess, M.A., head master of Sydenham High School, took up the subject of Grammar, after which the meeting adjourned.

Publishers' Department.

We desire to inform our old patrons when renewing subscriptions, that our offer of premiums given with the JOURNAL, still holds good. We mention this because when renewing lately, many old subscribers did not notify us of the premiums they might wish to receive; others evidently in doubt have asked us whether we continue to give them. When there is a privilege given, we are anxious that all those who have adhered to us shall participate, and hope this hint will be sufficient.

For the list of free gifts with the JOURNAL, consult No. 2, January 15th; or if the paper be not available, write the Business Manager at this office.

We shall be thankful to those who have found the JOURNAL useful to them in the past, if they will mention the paper to their friends at the conventions to be held this month, and testify to its merits openly in council. We want a large list from every convention, and ask our readers to help in forming it. Sample copies will be sent to every convention, get your friends to examine them and we are confident they will admit that for practical utility, cheapness and excellence, the JOURNAL is leading the van.

Get your Trustees to subscribe as required by the School Law. It will help you with them when the several phases of school work are brought prominently under their notice, and enlarge their views on matters of education.

We would thank the secretaries for brief reports of convention for publication. At meetings where representatives from this office will attend, this will not be necessary as they will furnish reports.