

kind of spring or weight should be attached so as to cause it to close itself after each person who passes through. By observing these few suggestions, which cost nothing but a little pleasant exercise to carry them into execution, a great deal might be done to make the Yard what it ought to be.

Yours,

A TEACHER.

2. SHALL THERE BE HOME STUDY?

To the Editor of the Journal of Education.

DEAR SIR,—I noticed a short time ago in your Journal, a small insertion from one of the United States' Journals. It was entitled "Home Study," or something akin to that. It spoke against having children study at home. "Children were sent to school to study." "Schools were erected for studying." "Parents required their children at home," "Teachers sent home studies because they were too lazy to teach them in school, and so had to get the parents to take their place." These, I think, formed the leading ideas of the paragraph. Now, I do not agree with our more Southern neighbours. Children are without doubt sent to school to study, but what are those to do, to occupy their time, that have no work at home, or in other words, whose parents do not require them. Are they to waste it? Surely, never! Again. During the winter months farmers' children have from two to three hours every evening, that you may call idle time. Now, what better than to give them some tasks for the morrow, and when they go to school on the morrow let them employ their "gained time" on Arithmetic. If we had Public School Libraries, it might then be said, "let them read at home," but while we are without them (and may the time be short) let us send home some exercises for the evening, and thus help to banish the two curses, "light literature" and "social," or, as some know to their cost, "convivial" hours.

Truly yours,

RONALD GREY, Teacher.

Some experienced correspondent will please give a plan which, in his opinion, will be the best, that is, as to study at home, or the devoting of all the time at school to study.—*Ed. J. of E.*

IV. Biographical Sketches.

SIR CHARLES LYELL, the eminent geologist, is dead, in his seventy-eighth year. His services to geological science were great and his reputation world-wide. One of the most important of his many works is an account of his explorations in North America, of the formations of which, especially in the Dominion, he made careful study during a visit of some duration.

B. W. SMITH, Esq., who was Sheriff of this county from 1842, a period of nearly 33 years. At the date of appointment he was a merchant doing business on Yonge street. Mr. Smith was a Canadian by birth, having been born near Kingston, and was of English extraction. He was a very charitable man, and gave liberally to any good cause and the relief of the distressed.—*Northern Advance.*

RIGHT REV. BISHOP HORAN, Kingston, was born in Canada, and for many years was a priest in the diocese of which he subsequently became so prominent a figure. He was called in Consistory on Jan. 8, 1858, and succeeded his Lordship the late Bishop Whelan, and his consecration took place in the May of that year. His diocese has been in existence only about forty-eight years, nevertheless, it contains sixty-six churches and nearly fifty priests. His Lordship also held the important position of assistant at the Pontifical throne since the 22nd March, 1861. Owing to ill health, he resigned his See in April last.

MR. WM. LAWSON was born at Lower Denton, Cumberland, England, and emigrated to Canada in the year 1829—settled in Toronto, (then Little York) on the 11th of June in that year. After pursuing his calling in that place for a number of years he proceeded to Brampton, where he resided for fourteen or fifteen years; from thence he came to Hamilton in the fall of 1847, where he established himself in business. Deceased was early imbued with the principles of Primitive Methodism, and was the first, we believe, to introduce the doctrines of that Church in this country, and has continued a steadfast member thereof up to his death.—*Hamilton Times.*

JOHN BIRRELL, Esq., was born in 1814, in Serwick, a town in the Shetland Islands. He emigrated to Canada about the year 1837, and began his mercantile career in the establishment of Mr. Isaac Buchanan, of Hamilton. He subsequently came to London, and entered into partnership with Mr. Angus, which was dissolved in the year 1843. In 1845 he joined with Mr. Adam Hope, who had removed here from St. Thomas. The firm lasted for five or six years, when Mr. Birrell opened a retail establishment, which, proving very successful, was eventually merged into an extensive wholesale trade. Prospering exceedingly in business, a fact due to judicious care and scrupulous probity, the deceased identified himself very prominently with other local interests, taking a leading share in the conduct of our railways and monetary institutions, and lending his moral and material support to the advancement of every commendable scheme of public enterprise.—*Free Press.*

COL. WM. MERCER WILSON, County Judge of Norfolk, and Grand Master of the Masonic fraternity of Canada, was born in Scotland in 1813, and emigrated to this country in April, 1832, receiving next year the appointment of Commissioner of the Court of Requests. For three years, during the Mackenzie rebellion, he actively commanded a troop of cavalry, and did dashing service on more than one occasion. In 1838 he was appointed Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the County Court of Norfolk; in 1842, Registrar of the Surrogate Court; in 1848, gazetted as Lieut.-Colonel of Militia; in 1853, called to the Bar of Upper Canada; in 1858, appointed County Crown Attorney; from 1862 to 1864, served as Warden of Norfolk County; in 1869, tendered his resignation as commander of the 3rd Battalion, Norfolk Militia, and was allowed to retire retaining his rank—a special Gazette, in which his past services were noticed in most complimentary terms, being issued, and an engrossed copy forwarded to himself by order of His Excellency the Governor-General.

D'ARCY BOULTON, Esq., M.P.P.—The deceased gentleman was grandson to the Hon. D'Arcy Boulton, who in coming to Canada, in the year 1796, was taken prisoner on the high seas by a French privateer, and carried back to France, where he was held in custody for a number of years. Ultimately, however, he reached Canada, where he held, from time to time, the position of Solicitor and Attorney-General. He was subsequently raised to the Bench, forming a prominent figure in the early history of Upper Canada. Judge Boulton had four sons, the youngest of them, Mr. James Boulton, Barrister-at-Law, being the father of the subject of this memoir. The deceased was born at Perth, Ont. In the Michaelmas Term of 1847, he was called to the Bar of Upper Canada, and in 1873 created a Queen's Counsel. In 1870 he was unanimously elected Grand Master of the Orangemen of Ontario West, and in the year following was appointed Deputy Grand Master of British America. He contested unsuccessfully North Simcoe in 1861, North Gray in 1867, and Muskoka in 1872. He was returned for South Simcoe in 1873, and re-elected for the same constituency at the last general election.

WILLIAM MOLSON, President of the Molson's Bank, was 81 years of age, and was of English descent. Hon. John Molson, his father, visited Canada in 1782, and was so much pleased with the country that he decided to settle, and two years after returned to England, raised a considerable sum of money on his English estate, and came back. Deceased was connected with most of the enterprises for the advancement of the country, and took an active part in furthering them. He was, till two years ago, a Grand Trunk Railway Director. In 1863 he retired from the Board of Directors of the Bank of Montreal, and with the Hon. John Molson established Molson's Bank, under the Free Banking Act. Deceased was highly Conservative in his views, and recently refused to enter public life, preferring to carry out important enterprises for the advancement of his country. He took part with other loyal men in suppressing the rebellion of 1838, but strongly objected to the passage of the Act of 1849 against the rebels, and signed the annexation manifesto. As a private citizen he was highly esteemed, there being scarcely any educational or charitable institution in the city which does not experience his beneficence.

DR. R. H. THORNTON came to this country as a missionary from the then United Secession Church in the year 1834; and very shortly thereafter settled in the neighbourhood of Oshawa, where he has lived and laboured ever since. The amount of hard pioneering work done by the doctor, especially in the early years of his missionary career, was very great. He travelled over a very wide extent of what was then a very new and very rough country, though