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* Editorial Notes. *

THE very best instrument of self-culture is the pen. No teacher who earnestly desires to grow, intellectually, should permit a day to pass without putting into written words, with all the clearness and precision of which he or she is capable, some thought or sentiment of his or her own. Nothing stimulates thought like thinking.

THE City Council of St. Paul, Minn., has made a bid for notoriety in progression backwards, by a cut of \$43,000 from the salaries of the teachers, and the abolition of the kindergarten system. Principals have their salaries reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,500. The salary of no teacher receiving less than \$80.00 per month is to be affected. This action is taken in spite of the energetic protest of the School Board.

THERE seems to be, in some quarters, a strong tendency towards a kind of know-nothingism in connection with university matters. Some would have every chair filled by a Canadian and a graduate of the University. We agree with this view, on condition that as good and able men can thus be obtained as in any other way, not otherwise. We believe that professors have sometimes been appointed from abroad, when quite as competent ones could have been obtained at home. But the aim should be to get the best and ablest men, wherever found. The introduction of new blood is often the best means of promoting health and vigor.

Now that teachers are settling down again to regular work, we ask their special attention to the Prize Competition announcements on the editorial page. These proposals will, we are sure, commend themselves to our subscribers, not only for the sake of the prizes, but especially from the fact that the work done in preparation for the competition will be directly in line with the teacher's professional studies, and will thus surely repay him, whether he is successful in winning a prize or not. We hope for a very vigorous competition, and shall be disappointed if we do not receive many excellent papers.

THE most marked and, as we believe, most significant and hopeful educational reform of the period is seen in the large place that is being given to literature, and the new and common-sense methods which are being adopted in the study of it. Few progressive teachers, who know how to appreciate good literature, will hesitate to endorse the view advocated by Horace E. Scudder, in the September *Atlantic Monthly*, that "the time has come when the . . . statement may be made that there should be no break in the continuity of literature in the schools; that from the day when the child begins to hold a book in his hands until the day when he leaves the public school, he shall steadily and uninterruptedly be presented with genuine literature; that the primer itself shall serve as an introduction to literature."

A GOOD deal of interest is naturally felt in the question of the selection of a fit and proper person to succeed the late lamented Sir Daniel Wilson in the Presidency of the University of Toronto. The appointment is, of course, in the hands of the Minister of Education and his colleagues in the Ontario Government. From various intimations we judge that the intention is to lay special stress upon business capacity in the choice of a new President. No doubt there is special need that the financial management of the University should be in the best possible hands during the next few years, but we fail to see why these should necessarily be the hands of the President. Why should not the Chancellor be specially authorized, if he is not so already, to look

after funds and investments? To our thinking, the President should be, above all, a scholar and an educator. Combined with these essential qualifications, there should be, if possible, high literary ability.

ACCORDING to announcement, Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, is to leave to-morrow, the 2nd inst., for an European tour. He expects to be absent about six months. It is hoped that rest and change will improve the Minister's health, which has not been quite satisfactory for some time past. It is stated that he expects to combine business with pleasure, by examining into the operation of the schools in England and Scotland, under the new free Education Act. He hopes also to have opportunities for studying educational institutions and operations in Germany and France, with a view to observing what is new and useful in school methods in those countries. We have not learned whether the important vacancies in the presidency and faculty of the Provincial University will be filled before Mr. Ross' departure, or not. The teachers of Ontario will wish the Head of the Department a pleasant and prosperous tour and a safe return.

THE Catholics of Manitoba have decided to maintain separate schools for their children, though they pay taxes for public schools. It is plain the English Government is going to follow the American plan—public schools for all; if not satisfied, open and pay for those that suit you.—*New York School Journal*.

Would it surprise our contemporary to learn that the English Government has about as much to do with Manitoba's system of education as has the United States Government. Canada, and each Province of Canada, has full control of its own educational system, subject only to the constitutional restriction that it must not deprive any religious denomination of any right or privilege it possessed in regard to education, before confederation. The *School Journal* has no doubt been misled by the fact that the Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council, the highest judicial authority in the realm, was recently called on to decide, on appeal, a mere question of interpretation of the Constitution of Manitoba.