

A subscriber to the REVIEW, who has recently removed to the West, asking for a change of address, writes: "I am now teaching in this province (Alberta). I observe that the system of education is quite different from that in New Brunswick, but I cannot see that the principles underlying excel those of my native province. I am greatly absorbed in the fruitful opportunities and progress of the West. The observance of the nature here is most interesting to me. Miles on miles of fertile plain, painted by golden fields of harvest and fretted by winding copse and sward; droves of horses, herds of cattle and flocks of sheep roaming at will make an impressive picture."

To Subscribers.

We thank our subscribers for the general and cordial response to our notice in last month's REVIEW, to be particular in sending the former as well as the present address when asking for a change; also in giving prompt notice of a desire to discontinue if they no longer wish to receive the REVIEW. Nearly all of our subscribers of the past year are remaining with us, and to these are added an increasing new list. The REVIEW has never had so large a list of subscribers as at present. The following letters may serve to show how it is appreciated:

Will you kindly discontinue my paper. I have enjoyed the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, and found it helpful. As I am not teaching now, I feel that I cannot afford to continue taking it.

Yours very truly, A. M.

I welcome the REVIEW every time it comes, and read it with increasing interest. I find many valuable and encouraging hints in it.

Yours truly, C. J. M.

I have been much indebted to the REVIEW during the time I have been teaching for its many suggestions and helps in the school work.

J. R. B.

Enclosed please find one dollar, which accept as my renewal to the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW, as I know my subscription must soon expire, and I know you like one to be prompt in paying. I always enjoy the paper, and the Supplement Pictures are fine.

C. S. M.

Spare the Birds.

A lady who spends the summer in the neighbourhood of a large city of the Maritime Provinces, and who is an attentive observer of the habits of our songsters, says she has never noticed fewer birds than during the past season. The blackbirds, especially the red-winged blackbird, many of the warblers, the little nuthatch, have been very scarce. On the other hand, the number and depredations of insects have increased. One evidence of this is the wholesale destruction of the leaves of the white birch tree from their ravages. The natural enemies of insects are the birds, and if these are destroyed or driven away, a law of nature is interfered with. Birds have been constantly on the decrease since civilization began on this continent, owing to various causes, chief among which are the wholesale destruction of our forests and the wanton destruction of these appointed guardians of the crops of the world. In England the song-birds are protected. They are properly regarded as the friends of the farmer and gardener. Their music enlivens the groves and hedges. Their warfare against insects is unceasing. In England no one thinks of shooting a song-bird, even were it permissible.

In this country instruction should be given on the preservation of our song birds, as well as on the preservation of the forests, their natural homes. This is one way in which every rural school can be of assistance to the farmer.

The examination of the crops of many birds has shown that their chief food is insects. Audubon states that a woodcock will eat its own weight of insects a day, and there are many other birds fully as voracious. The English sparrow, who is despised for his quarrelsome and disagreeable habits, has yet done much good in the neighbourhood of cities and towns in saving crops. But it is in the rural districts that the English sparrow has not yet penetrated, and where the song-bird is not appreciated as it should be. A farmer who has seen a bird carrying off a grain or two of seed will treasure this up against him, and overlook, or not try to see, the vast good that birds are to him and his crops. This is a perversity that education is helping to remove.