

Homeric Problems, by Dr. Freeman: "Naturalism, Roman Catholicism and Converts," "London Medical School," and "Contemporary Life and Thought," will be interesting to Teachers.

Vicks' Floral Guide. Every school-room and school ground should have flowers. They educate and elevate. They may be made of great service in adding to the interest of children in their school, and in decreasing the difficulty of the teacher in disciplining his pupils. *Vicks' Floral Guide* tells what flowers to select, where to get them, how to treat them, and does it better than any similar work.

To the Editor of the *Canada School Journal*.

SIR,—Permit me to direct attention to two of the clauses of the School Bill now before the Legislature.

The tenth clause proposes that Masters in High and County Model Schools shall be ineligible as members of County Boards of Examiners. My objection to this is that there is a serious omission. If High School Masters should not be on Boards of Examiners, much more Public School Teachers should not. I think I am correct in stating that more candidates go up for third class certificates, and it is only such that County Boards can grant, from the Public Schools than from the High Schools. At all events, their attendance at the latter has been for only a brief period, and their Public School Teacher has a deeper interest in them than their High School Teacher. It is to be hoped that the clause will be amended.

By the twenty third clause trustees of Separate Schools in every village, town or city, being the county town of the county, are empowered to appoint a "competent person," to be approved of by the Education Department, to be a member of the County Board of Examiners of such county. To us this appears to be a most objectionable provision. On reading it, we cannot but think there is a purpose to be served by it. County Councils, hitherto, have had the power of appointing these Boards, the law providing that there must be one or more Public School Inspectors on it. All the members, however, must possess certain qualifications from the department. But, if we read this clause aright, such qualifications may not be possessed by the "competent person," and his appointment is withdrawn from the Council and handed over to the Separate School Trustees. Now, we do not object to a Roman Catholic being placed on the Board, but to the source of his appointment. With as much reason might the trustees of Public Schools in any village, town or city, have the same privilege,

Yours respectfully,
INSPECTOR.

THE SCHOOL AMENDMENT BILL.

To the Editor of the *Canada School Journal*.

DEAR SIR,—Will you be good enough to allow me space in your valuable paper to call attention to the School Amendment Bill.

No doubt Mr. Crooks intends by the second section of this Bill to create a greater interest in School Trustee elections, but he will find himself greatly mistaken when the clause comes into operation. The franchise even now is only too widely extended, and were it curtailed, and the property qualification for a school trustee made the same as that for a member of the Board of Aldermen in cities and towns, the result would be a deeper interest taken by the electors in the choice of trustees, and the election of a superior class of men to fill these offices. It is impossible for the Legislature to devise a test that will secure for this important trust a Board in whose members will be found happily blended the intelligence, morality and patriotism so necessary in the character of a School Trustee. Still, success in life is about as far-reaching a test as the people can apply to the one, while social position and popular respect may be trusted to pronounce upon the other.

Then the amount of money dispensed annually by school corporations having now mounted up to something like three millions and a half of dollars per annum, there is certainly a need of securing to those whose property is taxed to meet this large expenditure, a controlling voice in the application of these large sums. To give this control to sister corporations freely chosen by mostly the same electorate, is one of the most short-sighted acts that could possibly be thought of. If Mr. Crooks desired to ferment discord, create and keep alive antagonisms between municipal councils and school boards, he could not have devised more effective machinery. But had he desired to check extravagance real or assumed, on the part of school corporations, he should have assigned more power to property as a factor in the constitution of these Trustee Boards. He should have

made the one list of voters do for both elections, he should have brought on these elections at the same time, and adopted the ballot as the medium of voting in both these cases.

Then the two corporations being similarly constituted, a simple provision might have been inserted, making it obligatory upon the Trustee Board to refer the question of the purchase of a site or the erection of a building, to the ratepayers, when this course was demanded by a certain number of the trustees themselves, or of property owners, when the latter made their wishes known to the board in writing. This would have been more in accordance with the spirit of our constitution, than to give one election barely a veto over the decisions of another elected by the same constituency, at least as respects physical boundaries. The twenty-fifth section, so far from forming a safeguard to the property owners, and checking extravagance, when such is found to exist, will, in nine cases out of ten, furnish captious and pragmatic alderman with the means of preventing legitimate and necessary expenditure.

But this is not the worst feature in connection with this proposed amendment. In most of the cities of Ontario, perhaps in all, the members of the Trustee Board are quite as intelligent a body of men, of quite as good standing, socially considered, and quite as liable to be affected by the visit of the tax-gatherer, as are the members of the Board of Aldermen. In addition to all this, they are, or ought to be, thoroughly acquainted with the wants of the schools as respects accommodation—what the others are not, and therefore common sense would point to these as the parties that ought to be invested with the power to impose taxation for school purposes, subject only to the veto of those who will have to foot the bill.

The teachers of the Province looked to Mr. Crooks' proposed modification of the Act, to produce a radical change in the distribution of the superannuation fund. As the law and regulations stand at present, they may be said to actually exclude female teachers from all participation in the fund, and yet there is no portion of the teachers better entitled to share in these benefits in proportion to their service. It is needless to point out to any man of judgment, that it is a cruel mockery to call upon a woman, who generally enters the profession at sixteen or eighteen, to struggle on until she reaches sixty, in order to qualify her to share in this provision, as not one in twenty is capable of such endurance. Besides, old teachers, especially old female teachers, know well the difficulty, or rather the impossibility of obtaining an appointment, when they have attained to this venerable age. On this subject the law might, with infinite advantage to the female teachers, have been changed, and strict justice and humanity would have prompted the change.

Yours, &c.
Middlesex, Feb. 28, 1879. CONSTANT READER.

Publishers' Department.

The friends of the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL will be glad to learn that the subscription list is increasing unprecedentedly fast in all the different provinces. Nova Scotia has contributed over 1,100 new subscribers since the beginning of the year, and over 550 have been received from New Brunswick during the month of February. The number of patrons, now over SIX THOUSAND, indicates the interest that is taken in educational matters, and shows the appreciation in which the JOURNAL is held by teachers and friends of education throughout the Dominion.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL should reach the office not later than the 20th of the month, and to ensure insertion must be brief.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers wishing the address of the JOURNAL changed, will please mention the post office to which it has formerly been sent, and write the new address in an unmistakably plain hand.

Educational intelligence for the column of "Ontario Notes and News," "Personals," &c., are respectfully requested.

We wish it understood that as the CANADA SCHOOL JOURNAL has ceased to be a provincial organ, it is published in the interest of education throughout the Dominion, and occupies a perfectly independent position. Its pages are open to all intelligent writers, for the free discussion of educational subjects, no matter how diverse their opinions may be.

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