

tion; instruction simply means the imparting of knowledge to the mind. The question has been discussed in regard to this one phase alone. What books should be used, what kind of instruction should be given, what hours might or might not be set aside for the teaching of this, that, or the other branch. Never do they go beyond the circle of instruction. Still it is called a question of education. Education includes instruction; but instruction is only a portion of education. Instruction fills the mind with certain information or knowledge; education moulds the heart, inculcates principles, develops the physical as well as mental parts of man; education has to do with the forming of character, the preparing of man for the battle of life on earth, and for another life beyond the confines of the present. It is because this distinction has not been grasped that the question has presented so many difficulties; considered as a matter of education, and not merely of teaching and learning, the solution should be very easy—if people wished to reach it.

It would be interesting to know the cause of so much friction between the Commanders-in-Chief of the Canadian militia and those who come under them. It cannot be possible that the home authorities purposely select generals who are calculated to create unpopularity for themselves. Nor is it at all likely that chance could have sent us men who were all unfortunate enough to be misunderstood. Not being of the military school, we are not competent to judge; but certainly more or less trouble surrounded and criticism followed the three last commanders.

The fall of Guisa, the slaughter of a whole garrison, the wiping out of eight hundred Spaniards by General Garcia and his rebel army may have widespread effects both in the Old World and the New. The terrible struggle has, however, proven the courage and patriotism of the Spaniards, and goes to show that all the brutality is not on their side.

Premier Haultain wishes to have the North-West Territories recognized as a Province of the Dominion; but he does not want to have any section of the Territories detached from the whole. From the gold fields of the Yukon to the wheat fields of the East, he desires that the new Province shall extend. Such a Province must sooner or later become the most important part of the Dominion—at least as far as size is concerned.

This recalls to us the very wise advice given by a clergyman in Mandeville, R.I., to his parishioners. He warned them against the fatal effects of the "gold fever," and begged of them not to exchange "certainties at home for uncertainties at the Klondike." There is something very practical in this sermon. This rush for gold will result, in thousands of cases, in poverty, untold misery, madness, and death. Homes will be abandoned and asylums will be filled; plenty and contentment will be replaced by penury and unrest; many a vacant chair will stand by the deserted hearth, and many a lonely grave will be filled amongst the passes of Alaska.

The press of England is evidently not satisfied with President McKinley's message to Congress. It is being severely criticised in many quarters. It contains so very little that the criticism seems thrown away. As a Canadian statesman once remarked, concerning another question, "there is nothing to it." However, they should be satisfied in England; the President's expressions are in marked contrast with ex-President Cleveland's bombast and bluster—and yet they did not relish the Cleveland messages over yonder.

Principal Grant seems to think that a prohibition law in Canada would be a failure, and instead of aiding the temperance workers, it would have an evil and immoral effect. Possibly he is right; it is in accordance with human perversity to do exactly what has been prohibited.

Mr. Weir deserves great credit for having brought in his Bill regarding immoral posters, or placards. Had the desired law passed it would have been interesting to note how it could be enforced, or, rather how it was likely to remain unenforced. The other day complaint was made to a city officer about certain posters; he is reported to have said that he did not consider them immoral. Perhaps he did not; and maybe, as far as he was individually concerned, there might be nothing in them of the dangerous or immoral kind. But, would that officer feel inclined to call the attention of his wife, or sister, or even any lady acquaintance, to those pictures or posters? If passing along the street in the company of any lady would he not instinctively feel inclined to draw her attention to something on the other side of the way, or at least to become suddenly so interested in some topic that no time would be given for a glance at the walls?

We noticed in a recent issue of a generally well informed publication the beautiful poem, entitled "Forewarned," attributed to the late lamented Thomas D'Arcy McGee. The poem opens thus:—

"In the days of my childhood I had a strange feeling,
That I was to die at the noon of my day;
Not quietly into the silent grave stealing,
But torn, like a blasted rock, sudden away.

Although the sentiment and gloomy foreboding might well apply to the sad ending of the gifted orator, statesman, poet and historian; still the poem was not penned by McGee. It is one of Gerald Griffin's early productions. The author of "The Colleageans," whose works are a delight and were at one time most universally read, closed his beautiful and useful life, as a member of the Christian Brothers Community. McGee was a great admirer and lover of Griffin, and this poem was one of his favorites; hence, perhaps, the error in attributing it to him.

The following despatch from Dublin, dated 10th December, is very peculiar: "The evening Telegraph says that the War Office has sent an order to Dublin for the sharpening of all sword bayonets in the possession of regular troops in Ireland. The order is unprecedented and a perfect mystery to both officers and men." This would make one think rather of the year 1797 than 1897. That was the time when they knew how to sharpen bayonets and to use them when they were properly sharpened. There does not seem to be any apparent cause for such a peculiar proceeding at this juncture in the history of the British Isles. If there is reliance to be placed upon reports, the opponents of Home Rule would do better to sharpen their wits for the coming session. They may find that wit will serve them better than cold steel in their cause,—but likely neither one nor the other, nor both combined, could prevent the triumph of the principles that they wish to smother.

A KINDLY WORD.

Before a number of THE PEN had appeared, and when only our prospectus was circulated, the Catholic Record, of London, Ont., paid us the following generous tribute. We only trust that our little paper will be ever up to the standard that such a friendly criticism would demand.

"THE PEN is the title of a new literary venture which will make its appearance in Montreal the present month. It will be published by J. K. Foran,

Lit. D, LL. B. Our readers will recollect that this gentleman was for some years editor of the True Witness, of Montreal, and while he held that position the paper showed a marked improvement. Mr. Foran is also widely and most favorably known throughout the Dominion as a writer of whom our country may well feel proud, his volume of poems, published a few years since, being a valuable and highly appreciated addition to the literature of our young country. From the prospectus of THE PEN, we notice that in the initial number will appear a continued story of Canadian backwoods life; articles upon the various historical epochs and conspicuous figures of the past and present centuries, and those will be enhanced from time to time by contributions from the pens of eminent Canadian writers. 'In Canada,' the editor truly says, 'there is ample scope for the exercise of a truly patriotic and sincerely frank pen. We have a land of vast proportions, unlimited resources, and boundless liberties; the streams of nationality coming from various sources should blend in the great ocean of our Canadian nationhood; harmony, mutual forbearance and Christian tolerance should reign supreme. It will be the duty of THE PEN to propagate as far as its influence may extend, sentiments in accord with this statement of our actual position.'

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