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The great mass of teachers are themselves but partially educated and of mediocre talents.

In the proper definition of the term, Education, the great mass of citizens who have grown up and passed from our public schools are not educated people. A part only of what constitutes an education is taken cognizance of by the State; and that part but imperfectly understood and still more imperfectly carried out.

Sixty months is ample time for the average boy or girl to learn all that is taught in our common schools. How comes it that with treble the time, we have in so vast a number of instances an infinitesimal result?—*The School Chronicle.*

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

The New Testament is that part of the Holy Scriptures written after Christ's ascension by certain of His Apostles and their immediate disciples. It contains the History of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and of the first propagation of Christianity, with an exposition of the doctrines He taught for the salvation of mankind.

The word Testament is derived from the Scriptures, as in St. Mark XIV, 24; 2 Cor. III, 6, and other passages, and it was applied by St. Paul, himself to the Books of Scripture, as in the second passage referred to.

In the original Greek, the word has a two-fold meaning, that of a *covenant*, and that of a *testament* or *will*; according to the first meaning, which is the most generally received the New Testament is a book containing the terms of the New Covenant between God and man. It was written by eight persons, and comprises twenty seven books handed down to us in the Greek language. These books are divided into the Historical, the Epistolary, and the Prophetic portion, and they are called the Canon of the New Testament, because they convey to us *the rule or standard* of a Christians faith and practice. If we deny the authority of these Scripture, we deny the truth of some of our Lord's most frequent teachings, and with it the Divinity of His mission. Even as a literary composition, the sacred Scripture forms the most remarkable book the world has ever seen. Those of the Old Testament are of all writings the most ancient, and they with the New, have the strongest claims upon our attentive and reverential regard.

The books of the New Testament are said to have been collected and admitted to the Canon by St. John. This, however, is uncertain; but the list, as we now have it, first appeared in the Canons of the Council of Laodicea, A. D. 364.

From the time of the Apostles to the invention of printing, a period of fourteen hundred years, the only method of multiplying copies of the New Testament was by *transcribing* or *writing them out*; and these copies were called *Manuscripts* (MSS.) No one Manuscript (MS.) was free from error. This resulted from various reasons. *Letters* were sometimes omitted, or exchanged, or inverted improperly, and words would be mis-spelled. This might arise partly from carelessness, or ignorance, or from the faded condition of the M S., or the abbreviated and slovenly way in which it may have been written, or from the attempt of the copier to improve, as he would think, the style and idiomatic expression of its author, or from