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## The Educational Journal.

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J. E. WELLS, M.A. *Editor.*  
H. HOUGH, M.A. *Manager Educational Dept.*

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## Editorial Notes.

WE publish by request in this issue the paper on the Bible in Schools, which was written for the Welland County Teachers' Association, by Rev. John Mordy, M.A., and read by Rev. John Young before that body. In our next we shall have an article presenting the other side of the question, by Mr. W. Doig, of Kippen, which was read at the East Huron Teachers' Association.

THE Board of Governors of McMaster University are about to expend \$36,000 in building and apparatus in connection with Woodstock College, the aim being to perfect its arrangements in every respect for doing the work of a school of the highest class for boys. The course will be specially adapted for those who propose to carry their school education no further. The ladies' department of the Woodstock College is to be discontinued, or rather transferred to Toronto, where, through the liberality of Mrs. McMaster, the governors are enabled to establish at once a ladies' college of a high order.

IN another column will be found some interesting notes of a kind that we are always glad to receive. Our correspondent jots down and reports some ideas in regard to text-books and kindred matters which he heard circulating amongst the teachers at the West Lambton Association. We wish other friends of the JOURNAL would do us, and the cause of education, the same service. It would be helpful to all concerned to know more about the opinions of practical teachers in regard to such matters. Many useful hints would thus be conveyed to various quarters in which they might do good.

WE are indebted to the Kincardine Reporter for an excellent report of the West Bruce Teachers' Association. The report was just of the right kind, giving clear and full analyses of the papers and addresses and synopses of the discussions, but was too lengthy to be republished as a report. At the same time we were unwilling to deprive our readers of the benefit of the excellent treatment of the various subjects; hence, we have transferred several of the fuller synopses to the department of "School-Room Methods." We do not think we could have found more practical and profitable suggestions anywhere for the teaching of the subjects dealt with. We are sure the papers will be read with interest.

THE following queries are put by the *American Teacher* to its readers. It may not harm some of the readers of the JOURNAL to put similar ones to themselves:

"Are you finishing your school year with that 'very worst boy' in your class, still in a degenerate state? Are you willing to assume the responsibility of your year's work with him? Have you done as you intended doing, and did you intend doing anything with him other than tolerate him? Are you willing to have this boy's next teacher judge of your humanizing influence by his deportment? As between yourself and your conscience, are you glad of what you have done and thoroughly satisfied with your work? Can you look on it as exemplified to him and say 'it is good'?"

THE experiment of making attendance at religious services voluntary which was commenced at Harvard two years ago, has been justified by the results. Though the attendance is perhaps not quite so large, the religious interest is manifestly greater than under the compulsory system. This is, no doubt, mainly because greater pains have been taken than ever before to make the exercises interesting and profitable. They have been conducted by a succession of able men, and the topics treated of have been of living, practical interest. Rev. D. N. Beach, of Cambridge, who has an article on the subject in the current *Andover Review*, reaches the sage conclusion, "The way to get university students to chapel is not to compel but to draw them." The same principle will hold, we fancy, in reference to all classes of worshippers.

THE blackboard is one of the indispensables in every class-room, for teacher and pupil. If we were required to pronounce upon the efficiency of a teacher, whom we did not know, by some mechanical test, we should be inclined to make that test the extent to which the blackboard was used by himself and by his pupils. But working at the perpendicular board is tiresome especially for little hands and arms. In some places the boards are fitted to run in grooves like window sashes, and like them balanced by weights. The plan is excellent. Not only can the board be adjusted to the height of the child, but for child or adult it can be raised or lowered so as to keep the portion of it which one is using at the moment at the right height. By all means insist upon having first-class blackboard surface in your school and plenty of it.