

One of the most remarkable political movements of the age is now in quiet progress in Great Britain. The extension of the franchise and the reconstruction of the constituencies not only on new geographical lines but on the new principle of single constituencies for single members, have in them all the significance of a revolution. It is greatly to the credit of both political parties that the redistribution of seats, affording as it might have been made to do, a rare opportunity for "gerrymandering," is being done by a commission in such a way as to give general satisfaction. So far the fairness of the decisions made has not been seriously called in question though numerous "interests" are affected, old political organizations wiped out, allied families separated and hundreds of political agents impoverished. The peaceful result is no doubt largely due to the fact that no politician can even guess what effect the extension of the franchise and the redistribution of seats is going to have upon party strength. Still it would be ungrateful and unjust to deny that the manifest fairness and honesty with which the changes are being made, have contributed much to allay suspicion and disarm hostile criticism.

The School.

A correspondent reminds us of what would otherwise have escaped our notice, that in the confusion incident to changing the JOURNAL from a monthly to a weekly we omitted to publish the December High School Entrance Examinations. In compliance with the wish of a number of teachers we will supply the omission in next issue.

We have received a communication on "Drawing" which we cannot publish as the writer has forgotten to give us his name and address, thus violating the standing journalistic rule. The gist of "Subscriber's" complaint is that while "Drawing" is prescribed as a subject for examination, no indication is given as to the necessary kind or amount required. The matter is certainly left in a very indefinite shape but it cannot be doubted that the pupil who shows a tolerable aptitude in such elementary exercises as those prescribed in Walter Smith's Intermediate Freehand Drawing will be found sufficiently prepared.

The Students of Harvard College have for some time been seeking to cut down the expenses of College life by means of a co-operative association. The business done would seem to be considerable, the cash transactions from September 18th to December 1st of last year, amounting to over \$15,000. The students are said to pronounce the scheme a success and to find the reduction in expenses very considerable. The students of Michigan State University are now following the example of Harvard. Of course the retail dealers in both cities are strongly opposed to a system which means that their "occupation's gone," so far as their trade with students is concerned. We have always wondered that the advantages of co-operation are not more extensively secured, not only by students but by all classes in the community.

Apropos to the question of School Law Consolidation discussed in another paragraph, is it not time that the teachers, as professional bodies in the different Provinces, should exert a larger influence in school legislation? Bills regulating matters connected with Law and Medicine, are, it is well known, generally shaped in accordance with the suggestions of members of those professions, if not actually framed by them. Is there any good reason why an exception should be made in regard to the teaching fraternity? Who so well fitted to pronounce, for instance, upon the merits and demerits of school text books as those whose business it is to make use of them in the actual work of instruction?

The proposal of Mr. Ross to confine Third class Certificates henceforth to counties is one which, we venture to say, will not commend itself either to teachers or to the public. It may be well that the lower class certificates should not be made permanent. "Excelsior" should be the motto of every teacher of the third or any other class. But it would be hard to show any good reason why certificates which are granted on the basis of uniform provincial examinations should not be good for the whole province. To confine them to a single county is to take away the best chances of promotion and so the most direct stimulus to exertion and emulation, from those holding such certificates. Can it be that Mr. Ross is an ingrained monopolist, bound to discourage all competition?

A paper by Miss L. T. Ames, of Boston, in the N. E. Journal of Education contains some good thoughts on the question "Do our Schools Teach Morality?" Starting from the obvious truth that "moral training is pre-eminently the training of the will," Miss Ames goes on to show that while there is reason to fear that there is less and less of this kind of training imparted in the family of the day, and while the church and Sunday School, having no power to enforce anything, cannot touch the child's will, the punctuality, silence, attention, cleanliness, regard for the rights of others, and, more than all, obedience and respect for authority, insisted on in every well-disciplined school, are so many constant and invaluable lessons in self-control. The faithful teacher may find much encouragement in the thought that while he is enforcing these duties as so many conditions necessary to good order and good work in the school-room he is at the same time contributing materially to the formation of habits which are essential to an upright character and a useful life.

An important question has of late been agitating the overseers of Harvard College. It was nothing less than the barbarous proposal to print the Quinquennial Catalogue in English instead of Latin. Reverence for antiquity has for the present prevailed, and the rotund Jacobus, Henricus and Johannes will not be flattened down into plain James, Henry and John, for the gratification of vulgar eyes and ears. English is, however, pushing its way, and bids fair to win before many years. The fact that degrees of various kinds are now conferred, where no knowledge of Latin is required, makes a strong argument in favour of the use of the vernacular. It is