

## A HELPFUL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE.

In my last school I had a number of small pupils who were in the habit of saying each morning that they were going to try to be very good that day and neither talk nor whisper.

While nearly all the scholars in the class were making their good resolutions, I noticed one little boy sitting very quietly not saying a word. Turning to him I said, "Well Dan, what have you to say for yourself, are you going to try to keep from talking too?" Dan replied, "I don't think I can keep from talking so I won't promise for fear I can't keep my word. I might forget."

I found this nobleness of character showing itself in all this little boy's actions.

---

## Contributions.

The JOURNAL is not responsible for opinions of contributors.  
Replies to contributions will be welcome.

---

### BIRD STUDY.

EDITOR EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL.

The letter from Mr. J. H. Kitley in your last issue relates, I believe, what might and should be a chapter of the experience of each teacher in the province; and, if it were, who could calculate the refining and softening influence upon the boys who pass through our hands? There is no time better suited for hard study than the present, as at date of writing the trees and fields literally swarm with bird life while the upper air is not without its feathered occupants. In hopes that I may be of some help to another and that someone may help me I shall try to answer some of Mr. Kitley's questions and if I should be in error perhaps some one will correct me.

The thrush I think is the Veery or Wilson's thrush. If so it can be easily distinguished by its uniform brown upper parts and faintly spotted breast. It usually frequents damp woods but I saw one here several times in and around the town during the last fall of snow.

If there were otherwise any doubt about the identification of the marsh wren, the habit of building more than one nest would settle the matter. This wren almost always builds several nests but occupies only one.

The gulls so common are Bonaparte's gulls. At least they are very common here.

The bird with a song somewhat similar to that of the oriole is not very definitely described, but is perhaps the rose-breasted grossbeak. I met with this bird at the same place, a few miles south of MacGregor, for two successive years on the twenty-fourth of May. Its song is most striking and at first the bird reminded me of the oriole, but more from habit than song. The notes are more like those of the robin, but are a much higher specimen of bird melody. The yellow marking mentioned was probably the yellow lining of the wings of the female.

The trees here just now swarm with white-throated sparrows, and with them is what appears to me to be another sparrow, but larger and much more striking in appearance than the white-throat. The following is as nearly as I