

Notes and Comments.

THE *Chicago Current* under its present management is a periodical of great vigor and timeliness in the presentation of its opinions. We are frequently indebted to it and make due acknowledgment accordingly.

WE have received from Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston, the publishers, a pamphlet containing some very useful hints on the teaching of English literature in high and public schools. We shall be happy to send a copy of this pamphlet to any one sending us his address.

WE have received from "Science Master" a third communication in reference to "Reynolds' Experimental Chemistry," in which he replies to Professor Reynolds and Mr. Spotton; but as the subject has occupied all the space in our columns we can afford to it, we cannot publish anything more on it just now.

AMONG our contributors this week are Mr. J. C. Harstone, Head Master of Seaford High School, who makes a good suggestion in reference to the English curriculum for teachers' examinations, and Mr. T. W. Standing, of Langford, whose thoughtful article will be useful to all teachers of reading.

WE commend to the careful reading of all students of English literature the paper on Shelley's *Adonais* which we publish this week from the pen of Mr. J. O. Miller, whose articles on "Matthew Arnold as a Master of Style," published in the *EDUCATIONAL WEEKLY* last summer, attracted such general attention.

THE Owen Sound Collegiate Institute was formally opened on Wednesday, January 27; the Ingersoll Collegiate Institute on Monday, February 1. The Minister of Education was present at the opening ceremonies on each occasion. We offer our sincere congratulations to Principals Merchant and Briden and their coadjutors.

MR. MILNER has written us respecting a *lapsus calami*, by which he wrote "Jason" for "Absyrtus," in page 6 of number 53 of the *WEEKLY*, and desiring us to call attention to it, which we somewhat hesitatingly do. Those who noticed the mistake, we are sure, never thought of saying anything worse than "even Homer nods." Mr. Milner's reputation as a scholar is too well established to suffer from such a slight slip.

THE recent visit to Toronto of M. Ovide Musin, the celebrated Belgian violinist, afforded our music-loving people an opportunity of hearing one of the great master-musicians of the age. Owing to that conservatism of Toronto audiences which makes them very timid in patronizing anything of which they have not some personal knowledge, the attendance at his magnificent concerts was not large. We understand that the management of the Monday Popular Concerts have

secured M. Musin for one of their evenings in April. If so, we trust all music-lovers will make every effort to hear him.

FROM an advertisement in another column it will be seen that the manufacturers of school furniture are invited by the Education Department to contribute samples of their productions to the Ontario educational exhibit which is now being formed by the Education Department for the Indian and Colonial Exhibition presently to be held at London, England. From the acknowledged superiority of Canadian school desks and seats over those of English make it is thought that our enterprising Ontario manufacturers may reap considerable benefit by bringing their wares before the notice of English school authorities.

AT the recent convention of the teachers of Peel, Mr. S. H. Preston, teacher of music in the Normal School, Toronto, gave a very interesting "model lesson" in elementary music, treating the teachers present as a class of beginners. Mr. Preston's method was much appreciated by all who heard him. Mr. Preston is, we believe, about to establish a class for teachers in Toronto, to which he invites all those interested in the teaching of music. Similar training classes are maintained in Boston, and with great success. Mr. Preston promises to favor the readers of the *EDUCATIONAL WEEKLY* with a series of articles on the "Teaching of Music," but the subject is one very difficult to treat in writing, and we trust that as many teachers as possible will take advantage of Mr. Preston's oral lessons.

By the recent Consolidated School Act the holidays for public schools extend from the first Friday in July to the third Monday in August, which in most years will be just six weeks. We understand that the Council of the County of Grey is endeavoring to secure the co-operation of the councils of other counties in petitioning the Minister of Education to reduce the statutory vacation for public schools to three weeks. Even supposing this petition were generally signed by county councils, (and we do not think it will be; Peel, for example, has rejected an invitation to do so by a vote of 16 to 5,) we do not believe the Government or the Legislature would agree to grant the prayer. But it will be as well for teachers to be on their guard, and endeavor so to mould public opinion that there will be no possibility of this reactionary measure being passed.

THE publication of the international magazine, *Education*, was begun in September, 1880. Since that time it has been the exponent of what is best in educational thought both in America and in England. Its contributors are among the foremost educators of this age. But published bi-monthly and

sold at \$4.00, it was too expensive to come within the reach of any but the most earnest of the teaching profession. We have much pleasure in chronicling a change which will greatly popularize this useful publication. At the beginning of this year it passed into the hands of Dr. W. A. Mowry, who for some time past has been managing editor of the *New England Journal of Education*. Dr. Mowry becomes both proprietor and editor of *Education*, and will publish it *monthly* instead of bi-monthly as heretofore, and he has reduced the price to \$3.00. He enlarges the scope of the magazine, and will make it not only a review, but a record of educational progress. To those of our readers who have not seen *Education*, we heartily commend it as a periodical which they will find replete with able and scholarly discussions of all the great educational topics of the day. In our "exchange" column next week will be found an account of the contents of the January number.

WE have received from Kah-ke-wa-quona-by (Dr. P. E. Jones), the managing editor, the first number of the *Indian*, a paper to be devoted to the aborigines of North America, and especially to the Indians of Canada. The appearance of this number is admirable, and its contents are scholarly and interesting. The salutatory editorial shows the comprehensive aims and noble purposes of its promoters. The *Indian* will endeavor to promote Christian religion, agriculture, and industry; to restrain immorality and intemperance. It will furnish its readers with news from all the Reserves; it will explain and expound all laws affecting Indians; it will record the history of Indian tribes, and the biography of noted chiefs; it will be the repertory of Indian literature, and will take an especial interest in Indian archaeology. In this last respect it will be a great help to other workers. The *Indian* announces that a chief purpose of its existence is to promote the maintenance of manual labor schools and the establishment of additional schools of this nature. In this we sincerely hope it will be successful. Anyone who has mingled with the Indians knows that with great natural insight into everything relating to forest and stream, there is combined in their nature an indifference to manual labor in the mechanic and agricultural arts that is a great impediment to civilizing forces. And yet under systematic training and under good influences, as in the schools of Muncy and Sault Ste. Marie, this indifference is removed. The Indians are with us. They are not disappearing as has been stated. Their number in the Reserves is increasing. It thus behooves all who are interested in the well-being of our country to help forward Indian civilization. We wish therefore to our new contemporary the *Indian* abundant success.