

months—add 1 to the units figure and it will stand thus,—56—the first figure is shillings the second pence, 5s. 6d. multiplied by 2 is 11s. the interest required.

ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOLS.—The public mind of the Lower Provinces is now being directed to this important subject. The press of New Brunswick is taking a noble stand with reference to this matter. Those we have observed, in favour of this view of advancing education, are, The Courier, Colonial Presbyterian, The News, New Brunswicker, Church Witness, Globe, Herald, St. Andrews Standard, Carleton Sentinel, Westmorland Times, Borderer, in a word, the great majority of the press of the Lower Provinces, is in favour of direct taxation for Schools. Another subject of no less importance is also being discussed—namely; Provincial aid to Sectarian institutions of education; several of the leading journals of the Provinces condemn, in no measured terms, the present system of making such large appropriations in favour of Sectarian Colleges, &c.

CHINA.—Sir John Brown says that China contains a population of more than 400,000,000 of human beings; and that there is between 40 and 50 millions of British capital invested in that country. Speaking of the language of China he says:—"The written language of China was understood by 500,000,000 of the human race. The study of this language was the study of a life. In an elementary school in China it was necessary for a lad to learn 700 characters before he could read the easiest book; and there were 6 or 7,000 which it was neces-

sary for him to know in order to carry on a diplomatic correspondence with the higher authorities.—There were no less than 70,000 words in the language, and the large dictionary consisted of 70 volumes, folio. There was a great taste for knowledge in China, because it was the stepping stone to rank, authority, wealth and dignity. There was no Chinaman who was not a good arithmetician, and in his long intercourse with China, he never knew a Chinaman who made a mistake in an account. Children, servants, everybody, presented correct accounts, unless disposed to cheat, and a mistake in a Chinese account was scarcely ever discovered. Everything was reckoned by decimal system, and he was glad of an opportunity of stating how much the introduction of that simple principle facilitated education.

TANNING.—The *Scientific American* says, "it is well known that by keeping the hides and the tanning substance from coming in contact with the air, the tanning process is materially facilitated. In order to effect this practically, the only way is to carry on the tanning in vacuo."

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.—In Saxony, Baden, Wirtemberg, Bavaria, and other States of Germany, all children are bound to attend School from six years until fourteen, under pain and penalties; still the moral and intellectual character of that country is by no means high. Such systems of advancing knowledge only tend to cramp the mind. Slavery is the password in infancy; and in old age the same.

White Specks in Butter.

In reading the November number of the *Farmer*, I see in your request for essays, one which will find a re-

sponse from the ladies, namely:—"What is the cause of, and best remedy for, white specks in butter?"