

**WENTWORTH.**—The regular half-yearly meeting of the Wentworth Teachers' Association took place in the Court House, Hamilton, on the 12th and 13th of May. Owing to the severity of the storm which raged on the first of these days over the whole of the district the attendance was at no time very large and on the first day it was very slim indeed. In consequence of this untoward incident the proceedings were not as interesting as they usually are with this association. On the evening of Friday, the 12th, Prof. Meeke of Chicago gave a varied and quite successful literary entertainment at the Court House which was fairly attended by the public. Friday morning was devoted to routine business, the subject of "Corporal Punishment" being dropped from the programme on account of the absence of the person who was expected to take it up. The election of officers was the chief business of the afternoon, Mr. Maclean of Dundas taking the place of W. H. Ballard, M. A., as president for the ensuing year. On Saturday morning Mr. J. H. Smith, inspector for the county, explained his method of teaching primary arithmetic with the aid of the numerical frame. C. Robertson, M. A., gave a brief address on "Parsing" in which he criticised the indictment brought by Richard Grant White against formal grammar. Mr. Robertson himself advocated the relegation of formal grammar to a late period in the pupil's course but would not deprive it altogether of a place in school. Geo. A. Chase, M. A., then read a very interesting and practical paper on "English Literature in the Public School." He advocated a complete revolution in the present methods of teaching English and the use, for this purpose, of complete literary productions instead of mere fragments. Mr. Chase received a hearty vote of thanks for his valuable paper but did not feel disposed to comply with the request of the association to allow it to be published. In the course of the brief discussion which followed W. Houston, M. A., expressed his cordial concurrence in the views of Messrs. Robertson and Chase about the expediency of having less of formal grammar taught in schools, and more of English literature.

**DUFFERIN.**—The meeting of the Dufferin Teachers' Association which took place in Shelburne on Thursday and Friday May 25th and 26th, was the most successful one ever held in the county. All the teachers with a few exceptions were present. A number of trustees from various parts of the county and many friends of education, conspicuous among whom were two ministers and several members of the County Council including the warden, Mr. Colwell Graham, honored the meeting with their presence. In the absence of the president, A. S. Steele, B. A., the Vice-President, Mr. R. L. Mortimer occupied the chair. The following is the programme:—Agriculture in Schools, by D. Stewart; Grammar in Schools, by Thomas Allan; a class in Geography taught by Wm. Gray; Music by R. H. McMaster; Phonic Lesson on Meiklejohn wordbuilder to a first class, by Geo. Suttie; Uniform Promotion Examinations, by Inspector Gordon; Object Lessons, by S. S. McCormack; a Third Class Reading lesson, "The Miser Punished," by W. Lyon Mackenzie; Writing, by W. A. McLim; Education in General, by Jas. Ferrie. All these subjects elicited lively but friendly discussions. On Thursday afternoon Mr. David Boyle and Mr. W. J. Gage, gave half-hour addresses, the former advocating the Royal Canadian Series of Readers now in course of preparation and the latter advocating the Meiklejohn Readers. A committee was named to consider a change in our series of Readers and the following is their report which was voted on by the convention and carried, about four to one:—"We consider the Meiklejohn Readers the best series of reading books yet published in Canada and would recommend them to the Minister of Education with a view to their authorization in order that they may be used in our schools as we consider them much superior to the reading books now in use." Committee: N. Gordon, P. S. I., D. Stewart, A. L. McIntyre, Wm. A. McLim. On Thursday evening Miss Lewis, of the Toronto School of Elocution, gave an entertainment of readings in the M. E. Church, the readings being interspersed by music under the able management of Mr. Sleightholm. Miss Lewis also addressed the convention on the subject of Elocution and in the course of her remarks paid a high tribute of praise to the Meiklejohn Readers as being the best adapted for teaching she had ever seen. The convention passed a unanimous resolution giving the subject of Uniform Promotion Examinations, a six months' hiatus. On the last day of the convention, the Town Council of Shelburne gave a free dinner to the teachers at the Mansion House, after which speeches were delivered by Messrs. Wm. Jelly, M. P. P., N. Gordon, P. S. I., F. G. Dunbar, J. P., D. Stewart, J. P. and A. L. McIntyre.

#### REVIEWS.

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.**—*New England Publishing Co., Boston, Mass.* It might have been thought that with such publications as "Education" "The Journal of Education," and "The Primary Teacher," issued by this enterprising company, that there was scarcely room for another bearing upon the same topics. However we find from the paper before us, which is the first number of a monthly journal devoted to the elucidation of the principles and methods of the "New Education," that there was still much scope not embraced by the other periodicals, and a fresh development that may be secured and utilized for the teacher's

benefit. The articles, which are well written, are from practical educationists, and the odor which pervades them savors more of the school-room or institute than of the editor's sanctum. Teachers discuss with teachers the live matters that come before them in their work, and in this way much more practical, genuine good may be done than by the theorizing that too often fills up the teacher's magazine. The paper is edited by the Hon. T. W. Bicknell, whose world-wide reputation as a scholar is in itself sufficient to guarantee its excellence. The dollar per annum for which the journal is sold could not be spent to better advantage by a teacher, especially a young teacher, as the beneficial effects resulting from its study would be of incalculable service to him in his daily work.

**THE ORIGINAL CHATTERBOX.**—*Estes and Lauriat, Boston, Mass.* We have at various times urged the advisability of supplying children who are learning to read with supplementary reading books. The young mind, as the beauties of language are unfolded to it, seems to grasp at everything that comes in its way to satisfy the newly acquired appetite, and the temptation to become morally and intellectually poisoned by vicious, trashy stories is often very strong. We therefore commend very highly such publications as Chatterbox, as from the nature of the reading matter and illustrations, instruction in the most pleasing form is conveyed and a desire for healthy literature formed. The magazine is issued monthly, price \$1.00 a year.

**THE CENTURY.**—*Scribner's Monthly.*—June.—To those few teachers who have not seen and read *The Century*, we cordially say: "Before the holidays subscribe for at least six months. The 24th volume began with May, and you will thus have three numbers in July to read as you are resting. Rest gives benefit in proportion to the joyousness of our spirits while we free from work. Go to some healthful quiet place for your rest, and take *The Century* to make you joyous, and the end of the vacation will find you strong and happy." The June number contains five illustrated articles: "Around Cape Horn," "Opera in New York" (No. iv.), "The Bee Pastures of California," "The Century Prizes for Wood Engraving," and "Marble Mining in Carrara." The portrait of Cardinal Newman forms the frontispiece, and is one of the finest engravings ever issued. None of the numerous articles are of special interest, but they are all interesting. The editorial departments are full of information and practical suggestions. In "Home and Society" there is a very valuable article on "House Construction." It is probably the most useful article in the Magazine. "Bric-a-Brac," is better than usual.

#### NEW BOOKS.

**An Etymological Dictionary of the English Language.** By Rev. Walter W. Skeat. *New York, MacMillan & Co.; Toronto, Willing & Williamson.*

The sources of English Words and Phrases classified and arranged so as to facilitate the expression of ideas and assist in literary composition. By Peter Mark Roget, M.D., F.R.S. *New York and Chicago, John R. Anderson & Co.; Toronto, Willing & Williamson.*

**A Compendious Dictionary of the French Language;** adapted from the Dictionary of Alfred Elwall. By Gustave Masson. *New York, MacMillan & Co.; Toronto, Willing & Williamson.*

These volumes, each admirable of its kind, have been handed us as yet to press. A fuller notice of all of them, and especially of Skeat's Etymological Dictionary, which is one of the most valuable works on the English language, will appear next month.

#### MAGAZINES.

**THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.**—The No. of this ably conducted monthly for May contains six articles, vigorously written by contributors most of whom are well known in the world of letters on interesting and important subjects. "Party Schisms and Future Problems" by Carl Schurz, opens with describing the faction quarrels which exist within the two great political parties of the United States and which are said to be fiercer than the contests between them, and proceeds to give an analytical representation of the present situation, not a foreshadowing of the future, nor a platform for it. "Days with Longfellow" by Samuel Ward, will be read with an absorbing interest by thousands in America and over all the world where the name of the great poet, one of the greatest of modern days, is known and whose "Psalm of Life," and that little gem "The Arrow and the Song" are, of themselves, sufficient to render his name immortal. "What does Revelation Reveal?" by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, shows an active and inquiring mind, but one that has not rested upon the Bible with simple and hearty faith. "The Navy" by Lieut-Commander Henry H. Gorringe undertakes to prove that an efficient naval force is essential to the welfare of the United States, that the vessels now on the navy list are useless for the operations of modern warfare, that the blame of this rests, not on Congress, but the system of naval administration and that the creation of an efficient naval force would be greatly to the advantage of the carrying trade of the States, and could be effected at a comparatively small outlay. W. H. Mallock furnishes Part I of "Conversations with a Solitary." And Gail Hamilton writes clearly and forcibly on "the spent bullet," showing that neither surgical science, theology nor law has gathered any laurels from the assassination of President Garfield, and that the only one who did so was the victim himself—the President, the politician and the statesman.

The June number of *The Atlantic Monthly* contains a fine steel portrait of the late Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a poem, "Decoration Day," by him, a poem in memory of him by that wonderful septuagenarian, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and an account of his life by O. B. Frothingham. Mr. Hardy contributes five additional chapters of "Two on a Tower," Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, two of "Doctor Zay," William Henry Bishop, three of "The House of a Merchant Prince," and M. H. Catherwood, a complete short story, called "Serena." The fourth of the very interesting series of "Studies in the South" makes its appearance. The remaining contents are "Mrs. Centivire," "The Poet's Birds," "The New Eastern Question," "The Night-moth's Comment," "The Rapid Progress of Communism," "Charles Darwin," "Alphonse Daudet," "The Contributors' Club," and "Books of the Month."