

intellectual below mechanical work. If planing clap-boards and ringing bells made men great, as Mr. Hinsdale well says, the road to greatness would be easy enough. Young Garfield worked hard and long at many studies, giving special attention to a far-reaching course of classics—Greek and Latin—as also to English literature. He had the advantage of having teachers appointed for their learning and capacity to teach; not, as seems to be our destiny in Ontario with every educational appointment, because they were either foreign aristocrats or subservient hacks of partisan journals.

It is noteworthy that one of the most valuable aids to Garfield's intellectual development was the existence at Hiram College of co-education in its fullest and freest form. In one of his speeches when President of the United States, Garfield said :

"I am glad to say, reverently, in the presence of the many ladies here to-night, that I owe to a woman, who has long since been asleep, perhaps a higher debt intellectually than I owe any one else. For her generous and powerful aid, so often and so efficiently rendered; for her quick and never-failing sympathy, and for her intelligent, unselfish and unswerving friendship, I owe her a debt, for payment of which the longest term of life would be short."

This was in January, 1881. Alas! the term was to be short indeed. The lady referred to was Miss Almeda Booth, a fellow-student, and, to the honour of our Normal School wiseacres be it recorded, a student boarding in the same house with young Garfield. Together they explored an extensive field of classical learning—"Xenophon's Anabasis" in one term, the "Memorabilia" in the winter and spring terms of 1852-53. They did not fall in love; but Garfield found the true and tender, noble and devoted wife, whom England and America have learned to honour, in a young lady pupil.

We commend this admirable little book, the literary form of which is a credit to Hiram College, to all Canadian teachers. We are glad to be able to give even this brief account of its contents for the benefit of that

class of teachers—it is the one to which Garfield belonged—who are too poor to buy books. For the benefit of these, it is the aim of the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY to be constantly on the watch for the higher class of educational literature, and to take some pains to give a full analysis of such excellent books as that now reviewed.

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THE VERBALIST. By Alfred Ayres, author of "The Orthoepist." New York: D. Appleton & Co.; Toronto: N. Ure & Co. 1882.

THIS unpretending but most useful little book should stand ready at hand as a work of reference for everyone engaged, professionally or otherwise, in literary composition, especially on this Continent, where solecisms and vulgarisms are so apt to creep into our speech and writing from the cant of trades, the more racy expressions of doubtful correctness that float about, even in good society, and, worst of all, from that slang of the criminal and uneducated proletariat which too many newspapers think can be made to do duty for wit. The work is clearly and pointedly written, and with sufficient sense of humour to make the book amusing as well as improving. One is startled at finding many expressions, familiar enough in use with educated people, as incorrect. We give an instance at random from page 151: "PROPOSITION.—This word is often used when *proposal* would be better, for the reason that proposal has but one meaning, and is shorter by a syllable. 'He demonstrated the *proposition* of Euclid, and rejected the *proposal* of his friend.'"

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GUIDES FOR SCIENCE-TEACHING. COMMON MINERALS AND ROCKS, by William O. Crosby. Boston: Ginn, Heath & Co., 1881.

THIS is the twelfth volume of a series issued under the auspices of the Boston Society of Natural History, and "intended for the use of teachers who desire to practically instruct classes in Natural History." The subjects are treated from the mineralogical standpoint, and the localities referred to are chiefly in the New England States. The volume is as pleasantly written as the nature of the subject will permit. It covers, in a general way, the whole ground, and must prove highly useful for the purpose intended, especially where it is possible to visit and study the collection of specimens made by Mr. Crosby in the Museum of the Boston Society.