

gest to the County Council of Carleton not to continue him as examiner.

It is obvious from these facts and circumstances that the examinations of candidates for certificates of qualification as teachers of different classes have not been conducted according to law, and with fairness, since 1871; that the certificates thus obtained are of inferior value to certificates fairly obtained in other cities and counties; that injustice is thereby done to teachers in other parts of the Province, if not even suspicion created as to the fairness and thoroughness of examination by County or City Boards of Examiners.

I do not notice minor irregularities complained of and proved, as to the manner of conducting the examinations in question in the City of Ottawa; nor do I attribute any corrupt motives to Mr. Borthwick, who seems to be very energetic and faithful in his duties as Inspector of Schools. But he has evidently desired to confer special favours upon teachers and candidates within his own jurisdiction, yet in reality injuring them; and other members of the examining Board appear to have been consenting, and therefore responsible parties to several of the irregularities of the chairman in these examinations.

Under these circumstances, I feel myself compelled by duty, but with great pain and deep regret, to decide that Mr. Borthwick cannot any longer be recognised as School Examiner for the City of Ottawa; and, I would respectfully suggest to the Board of Public School Trustees for that city, that they do, for the time being, as did the Board of School Trustees for the City of Toronto some time since, appoint no Board of Examiners for the city, but let the candidates for certificates go before the County Board of Examiners. It seems useless and needless expense for two Boards to meet in the same building, and do precisely the same work; and I suggest it as appropriate for the Board of Public Schools, in the City of Ottawa, to adopt the County Board of Examiners who meet in their city as their own Board of Examiners.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
E. RYERSON.

TORONTO, 20th December, 1875.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a minute from the Education Office, in which the opinion of the Central Committee is desired on certain questions connected with the recent investigation at Ottawa.

1. We are asked, *first*, "whether any action is necessary respecting the certificates of the candidates who are shown to have had access to the examination papers before the examination."

In the opinion of the Committee, candidates who availed themselves of the opportunity afforded them of becoming acquainted with the contents of the examination papers before the time fixed for the examination, must be held to be accessories to a grave offence, and their punishment should be signal. It is recommended that the certificates which may have been awarded to them at the examination in connection with which the offence was committed, or at any subsequent examination, be at once cancelled, and that the candidates be reduced to the standing which they held as teachers prior to the date of the offence. In the event of their hereafter offering themselves as candidates for first-class certificates they should not be allowed to compete for medals. Any medal which may have been awarded to a teacher guilty of the misconduct above described, but which may have not yet been bestowed, should be forfeited.

2. The opinion of the Central Committee is desired next, in regard to the candidates who are proved "to have been furnished with answers to the problems."

These candidates stand in a very different position from those previously referred to. It is quite conceivable that, when the presiding Examiner wrote the answers to certain questions on the black-board, or furnished the answers on slips of paper, the students thus favoured may, without any intention to commit a wrong, have carelessly assumed that he had authority for what he was doing. It is a pity that the slips were not refused, and that a protest was not raised against the action of the Examiner in writing the answers to the problems on the black-board; but, to regard the students who failed to pursue such a course as having deliberately made themselves parties to a dishonourable act, might, in some cases at least, be a cruel injustice. At the same time it would be unfair to other teachers to recognise an examination in which the answers to the questions were improperly furnished as altogether valid. The recommendation of the Central Committee is, that the candidates concerned be allowed to hold their present certificates till the next examination of Public School teachers; and that they be required then to submit to re-examination.

3. The opinion of the Central Committee is desired in regard to

candidates who may have been assisted in other ways than those already specified.

I presume that what is here referred to is the assistance alleged to have been given to some of the candidates by hints regarding the questions in Physiology. The opinion of the Central Committee is, that the candidates affected by the charge should be dealt with in the same way as those who were supplied with the answers to the problems.

4. We are asked whether, in the event of a re-examination being necessary, it should extend to other candidates than those proved to have been assisted.

This point is one of considerable difficulty. The examinations conducted by the Ottawa Board have been so loose, that a measure of suspicion hangs over all the certificates granted by the Board. At the same time, it would be hard to punish candidates who have earned their certificates fairly, and, as the irregularities are alleged to have extended over several years, it might be extremely inconvenient, as well as unfair, to require a general re-examination of the candidate in all these years. On the whole the Committee are of the opinion that the re-examination should be limited to the candidates who are shown to have had the answers furnished to them, or to have been otherwise assisted.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) GEORGE PAXTON YOUNG,
Chairman of Central Board.

V. Short Critical Notices of Books.

HARPER & BROTHERS, NEW YORK; HART & RAWLINSON, TORONTO.—
Nooks and Corners of the New England Coast, by S. A. Drake. With numerous illustrations.—A chatty, pleasant work by a gentleman who has made himself thoroughly acquainted with every "nook and corner" of the coast between Newport and Mount Desert Islands. There is just a spice of antiquity in a hundred years ago to give additional interest to American history, and the author has made the most of the incidents and accidents of the revolution. One of the most delightful trips that can be imagined is, as the now famous motto of the book says, in Gen. Grant's language, "on this line, if it takes all summer." The illustrations are very graphic, and there is no lack of them, giving a much better idea of the scenery than is usually got from woodcuts.

The Character and Logical Method of Political Economy, By Prof. J. E. Cairnes, LL.D.—This work, by the Professor of Political Economy in the University of London, is most important both as a speculative treatise and as one in which various economic theories are discussed. In the present day, in view of the practical shape which almost all the problems of this science assume, an enquiry, such as the one before us, can scarcely fail to be of great service in setting forth the true principles which should determine the ultimate conclusion arrived at, on each of the important questions of the science of Political Economy.

From HARPER & BROTHERS, New York. Hart & Rawlinson, Toronto.
Oliver Goldsmith's Select Poems. Edited by William J. Rolfe, A.M., formerly Head Master of High School, Cambridge, Mass.

This is uniform in appearance with Messrs. Harpers' edition of some of Shakespeare's Plays, edited by Mr. Rolfe. It contains Macaulay's Essay on Oliver Goldsmith, and selections from the memoirs which have been written of Goldsmith by William M. Thackeray, George Colman the younger, Campbell, John Foster, and Washington Irving. The poems which have been chosen for this edition are only three—"The Traveller," the "Deserted Village," and "Retaliation"—to each of which are appended lengthy notes. Several good engravings are added, illustrating the poems.

Dialogues of Plato. Translated by Henry Cary, M.A., of Worcester College, Oxford.

Another valuable work added to Harpers' Classical Library, which now comprises twenty-four volumes. The translation before us contains, among others, the "Apology of Socrates," "On Friendship," "On the Beautiful," "The Duty of a Citizen," and "The Immortality of the Soul."

The Might and Mirth of Literature. By J. W. V. Macbeth. A Treatise on Figurative Language.

The object of this admirable work we cannot indicate better than in the author's own words. It "embraces a complete survey, on an entirely new plan, of English and American literature, interspersed with historical notices of the progress of the language, with anecdotes of many of the authors, and with discussions of the fundamental principles of criticism and of the weapons of oratory, and in which upwards of six hundred writers are referred to. Its object is to discuss figures of speech far more thoroughly than has been done, to present a wide review of American and English literature, and to make the whole subject as amusing and laughter-exciting as it is instructive." This the author has done, and we heartily commend his most valuable and original volume. It gives a very complete list of English and American authors, with examples of their writings and an analysis of their style, while illustrating the various figures of speech—Etymology, Syntax, and Rhetoric.

Healey: A Romance. Another volume of the Select Library of Fiction.
Miss Angel, by Miss Thackeray, author of "Old Kensington," &c.
The Lady Superior, by Eliza F. Pollard.