

TALKS WITH TEACHERS.

As the time of normal school entrance examinations approaches and as many teachers and candidates entertain numerous misconceptions regarding them, I take the liberty of bringing a few points concerning them to your notice.

Mark this.—All holders of second or third class licenses who propose to enter the normal school in January, 1896, or to become eligible for examination for advance of class in June, 1896, are required to pass the preliminary examinations in July, 1895. Holders of third class licenses who have spent only one term at the normal school are required to spend an additional winter term at the normal school before they can be admitted to the closing examinations for advance of class.

Do not write for the requirements, they are specified in the school manual. The preliminary examinations begin the first Tuesday in July. Do not write to ask where they will be held. They are usually held in the same places, and you can usually ascertain on your arrival at the stations the precise locality. The fee for normal school entrance is one dollar, except the candidate has failed and is again applying for the same class, when she will be permitted to pass the examination without further charge.

Candidates are not to send certificates of age and character to the inspector. They are to be presented on entrance to the normal school. All applications must be sent to the inspector on or before May 24th. Do not begin to send them in March and do not delay them till June. The inspectors are away from home nearly all the time and these examinations impose a very large amount of additional work and responsibility upon them. They do not care to have it spread over half the year nor is it pleasant after their list has been alphabetically made out, according to classes, to have a few applications come in late. It is said the reception of late applications last year nearly caused a strike in the education office.

Let me add a few words in the way of advice to teachers preparing candidates. You are aware that the standard is being raised each year, and more is now required than at any former time. Be frank with your pupils. Encourage them to aim high. If they aspire to a first or second class license, keep them another year rather than let them go forward and fail, or perhaps content themselves with only a third. A third class license is only a painful necessity. It will not injure a girl to pass the age of sixteen before entering normal school. It will be a positive advantage to her to be

much older before she assumes the responsibilities of a teacher. All the scholarship is now obtained in the schools. More time is therefore necessary. It is of the greatest importance to acquire sufficient book knowledge for first class before entering normal school. After you begin teaching opportunities for doing this are few and distractions are many.

First class teachers are already in greater demand, and this will increase. Why is this? First, because of the higher standard of scholarship required for teachers, and second, because a district having once employed them there is a desire created to engage them again. As the teachers render more valuable services I hope to see salaries keep step.

Watch the REVIEW for information regarding these examinations.

For the REVIEW.]

Notes on English.

TENNYSON'S "PRINCESS," V, 412-3.

Some time ago a reader of the REVIEW sent word to the editor — and he passed it on to me — that the articles headed as above had been much enjoyed, and that the said reader was sorry they had been discontinued. It was very nice on the reader's part to say this to the editor, and it was very kind on his part to pass the compliment on to me. But — and here's the rub — the readers of the REVIEW were distinctly warned that these Notes would be continued only on condition that they — the readers — should supply material for them. Every one has his own peculiarities, and one of mine happens to be a disinclination to assuming that the reading public must be interested in whatever I happen to be interested in. Were it not for this constitutional defect the "Notes on English" would have run on till now, or, if a change had been deemed necessary in the interests of the REVIEW, they might by this time have developed into "Notes on Things in General." They continued just as long as readers continued to supply questions or other material for the making of them. When the supply of straw was discontinued, the output of brick stopped also.

The appreciative reader mentioned above supplied no straw, so I simply swallowed his compliments and continued the lock-out in the brickyard. But now, after many days, another reader sends some more compliments, and backs them up with a bit of raw material which enables me to resume the work of note-making.

He wants to know what Tennyson means in the following passage from "The Princess:"

"All that orbs
Between the Northern and the Southern morn."