

Miss Clara E. Bridges, of Fredericton, has been appointed to a position on the staff of teachers in the St. Stephen, N. B., schools, caused by the resignation of Miss Sands.

Prof. M. Ingres has established a branch of the Berlitz Schools at Woodstock, N. B.

The Grammar School at Woodstock, N. B., under the principalship of R. P. Steeves, M.A., is steadily increasing in efficiency.

Mr. Walter A. Taylor, A. B., of Carleton, N. B., (Mt. Allison) has recently gained a fellowship at Harvard University, worth \$300.

Mr. W. H. Matheson has retired from the school at North Bedeque, P. E. I., and has been succeeded by Mr. A. D. Fraser.

Inspector Bridges will visit the parishes of Stanley and Douglas, in York County, during January.

QUESTION DEPARTMENT.

W. J. W., ST. JOHN. — In the question department of your issue for December, I notice you state that "*Gordius* belongs to the family *Gordiacea*, to the order *Colemanitina*, to the class *Annulata*, to the province *Articulata*." While Packard, in the last edition of his *Zoology*, (1888,) states that *Gordius* belongs to the family or sub-order *Gordiacea*, to the order *Nematoidea*, to the class *Nematelminthous*, and to the branch *Vermes*. He places *Vermes* below mollusca, while in Cuvier's division, *articulata* is higher than mollusca, in the scale of animal life. It is puzzling to a beginner to find authorities differing so widely. Perhaps the REVIEW can throw some light on the subject.

Ans.—The classification of *gordius*, given in the last number of the REVIEW, is that of the first edition of Sir Wm. Dawson's *Hand-book of Zoology*. In his last edition he simply breaks up Cuvier's province, *Articulata*, of his first edition into the two provinces *Arthropoda*, (spiders, insects and crustaceans,) and *annulata* (worms and worm-like animals). Nicholson's *Manual of Zoology*, a standard text-book in the leading British universities, depresses *gordius* even lower than Packard, and places mollusca at the head of the invertebrata. We quoted Dawson's hand-book as it is, specially adapted to our Canadian fauna, and is more elementary in its outline. It is the text-book adopted by the N. S. Summer School of Science in Zoology, and we presumed the one most likely to be generally used by young Canadian students.

The cause of this disagreement in classification which is so puzzling to the student who refers to more than one system, is due to the fact that Zoologists attempt to put in a *linear* series, organisms, which

stand related in a manner which could be better expressed in a series of *three dimensions*, or in a zoological tree. Attenuate this tree into a line and you will have to toss for the precedence of the articulata and mollusca. While some of the mollusca are very complexly organized, some of the insects are, in many respects, apparently nearer the vertebrata, and the worms are placed next them on account of their close resemblance to the larval forms of the insects, although the worms generally are very conspicuously of lower organizations than the mollusca. Nicholson would classify *gordius* as follows: *Genus*, *gordius*; order, *gordiacea*; division, *Nematelmia*; class, *Scolecida*; sub-kingdom, *annuloida*. When not otherwise specified, the REVIEW will use Sir Wm. Dawson's classification, not on account of any supposed superior merit in his system of classification, which, nevertheless, has the support of some of the greatest of zoologists, but on account of its elementary and concise form combined with its special reference to Canadian forms of animal life.

W. M. G., JEDDORE. — Please find some specimens marked W. M. G. in a parcel, and please determine what they are. They came from the top of a rock named Gibraltar, about 600 feet high, at the extreme north of Meagher's Grant. It is a scrub about ten feet high.

Ans.—It is *Pinus Banksiana* Lamb., which is *Pinus rupestris*, of Michaux. The French, in Quebec, Gallicize Michaux's name into *Pin des rochers*—the "the pine of the rocks." It is generally known in English as "Banks' pine," the "Gray pine" and the "Scrub pine."

J. M. C.—Correct. The white, *Arsenopyrite*; the variegated, *Bornite*; the black, *Cassiterite*, (Tin ore—the oxide). "Sulphurous" fumes in latter, if present due to some extraneous matter.

LITERARY NOTES.

A COMPLIMENT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF DALHOUSIE, HALIFAX.—Professor MacGregor's lately published text-book on "Kinematics and Dynamics" has been adopted as the basis of a course in the University of Cornell.

Professor Alexander, of Dalhousie, is reported to be preparing a volume for publication. It is said to be an introduction to the study of Browning.

Teachers of English literature will be glad to learn that Mr. A. J. George, who edited *Wordsworth's Prelude* so acceptably, has in preparation to be published early in 1889, *Selected Poems of Wordsworth*, comprising lyrics, sonnets, odes and narrative poems, such as are requisite for a thorough understanding of the genius of the great poet. It will be published by D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.