

—THE first prize in the competition for composition writing opened in November last by the publishers of *Our Times*, Messrs. E. L. Kellogg and Company, of New York, has been awarded to a Quebec girl. The winner of the prize is Miss Emma Lucier, a pupil of St. Ann's Convent, and the subject of her essay was "The Klondike Gold Fields."

—IN a recent number of the *School Moderator*, the statement is made that "in every case where state uniformity of text-books has lowered the price of books it has cheapened the quality of the books. Some states that adopted the plan were loaded with a series of old books that were so far out of date that the companies could not sell them in the open market."

—THE salaries of Long Island City teachers have not been paid since October, and many of the teachers are suffering from lack of money. Before consolidation, the city failed to sell revenue bonds to meet the expenses for the last two months of the year. Some of the salaries were increased by the retiring board, for no apparent reason, and Pres. Bowley says that the school fund this year is not large enough to pay ordinary expenses; much less increased salaries. The finance committee of the board will consult with Comptroller Coler about payment for the past two months.—*School Journal*.

—IT is said that of 12,843 teachers employed in the schools of Massachusetts, 4,803 are normal school graduates. There are ten normal schools in the state, four having just been established, and the old schools, instead of suffering in numbers, have enjoyed an increased attendance.

—TRULY they do things on a grand scale in America. The latest educational proposal is calculated to take away one's breath. It is nothing less than the building of an ideal home for the University of California. The discretion of the designer is to be unfettered. All he is asked to do is "to record his conception for an ideal home for a university, assuming time and resources to be unlimited." Existing buildings are to be swept away, and on a cleared space of ground he is to erect "at least twenty-eight buildings, all mutually related; and, at the same time, cut off, as a whole, from anything which might mar the effects of the picture." The grounds and the buildings are to be treated together, landscape gardening and architecture