

Dr. Inch refers to the fact that he has been superintendent for eighteen years, and that in the course of a few months he will have completed sixty years of continuous educational work in the province. In his long and honourable career, he has been an inspiring example to young teachers, steadily working his way up to the most important educational position in the gift of the province, and his dignified and consistent course has won for him the grateful esteem of his fellow-teachers.

Education in Prince Edward Island.

The report of Chief Superintendent Dr. Anderson, for Prince Edward Island, for the year ending September 30, 1908, shows the highest percentage of average attendance—64.66—ever attained in that province. This is chiefly attributable to the greater regularity of children in the ungraded schools, which number 412 out of 597 in that province. The superintendent thinks that an average of 70 is possible of attainment if parents, teachers and school trustees will unite to preserve the orderly habits, health and comfort of children. Great improvement is also noted in the matter of better school accommodation and furniture, and of the steady annual increase in the amounts voted for school purposes in the various sections.

While such increase is gratifying, Dr. Anderson observes that the ratepayers have not reached the limit of their capability in this regard. The salaries of teachers still remain at such a low figure that there is little inducement to remain in the service. He says: "The better class of teachers serve in our schools for one, two or, in a rare instance, three years. When they are beginning to be valuable they leave, and convey their experience and skill to a more generous, because more appreciative, employer. To retain them in our service ought to be our aim, but to do that we must offer greater inducements than we do at present."

The outlook for the schools, while encouraging on the whole, has many discouraging features, among which are too great apathy on the part of some parents and trustees. One simple way of overcoming this, Dr. Anderson thinks, "would be to bring the parents of the children into close touch with the management of the school by making it a condition of eligibility for trusteeship that trustees, or a majority of trustees, should have children of or under school age." This would undoubtedly be an improvement if men having sufficient leisure, public spirit and intelligence can be secured.

Lessons in English Literature.—VII.

BY ELEANOR ROBINSON.

The Canterbury Tales—Continued.

On the third day of the pilgrimage, the physician told such a sad story that the host was very much cast down. "This is indeed a piteous tale," he said. "I have no heart in me until I hear a merry one. Friend Pardoner, tell us some jokes or a funny story quickly."

"It shall be done," said the pardoner. "But first I must have a drink of ale at this inn."

But the gentle folk knew what sort of man the pardoner was, and they were afraid that his jokes would not be to their taste. So they cried out that he was to tell them a story that they could learn something good from.

"Certainly," said he, "I will think about some honest tale while I am drinking."

He probably drank too much, for before beginning his tale, he talked very freely about himself. He told how he deceived the people by selling them old rags and bones that he pretended had come from holy places, or belonged to holy men, and would cure them of diseases, or make their crops grow; and how he told them hundreds of lies in his sermons; and how, if people would not give him money for his pardons, he would preach about them, and hold them up to shame before all the congregation. He said plainly that he cared for nothing but money; and that he would not work for it, but would get it by cheating the poor people. Even though their children were starving, he would take their last penny.

"It is true," he said, "that I am guilty of the sin of avarice myself, but I can make other people repent of it, and give it up. It is the only sin I ever preach against, and my only text is, 'The love of money is the root of all evil.' When I preach, I tell many stories that show the awfulness of the sin, for ignorant people will remember a story when they would forget a sermon."

"Though I am a wicked man, I can tell you a moral tale; indeed, I am used to telling them, for that is how I get my money. So now I have finished my ale, be quiet, and listen to me."

THE PARDONER'S TALE.

Once upon a time, in Flanders, there were three young men who gave all their time up to drinking, and gambling, and swearing, and all kinds of wickedness. On a certain morning, as they were sitting drinking in a tavern, they heard a bell ringing, and knew it was the bell that was carried before a dead body on the way to the grave. One of