

"Give the names of the books of the Old Testament?"
 "Devenshire, Exeter, Littikus, Numbers, Stronomy, Jupiter, Judges, Ruth, &c."
 "What is a miracle?"
 "Don't know."
 "If you saw the sun shining overhead at midnight, what would you call it?"
 "The moon."
 "But if you were told it was the sun?"
 "I should say it was a 'lie.'"

Another boy, giving his impressions in regard to Moses, wrote as follows:

"He was an Egyptian. He lived in a bark maid of bull rushers, and he kep a golden calf, and worship braizen snakes, and he het nuthin but kwales and manner for forty year. He was kort by the air of his ed while riding under the bow of a tree, and he was killed by his Abslon, as he was a-hanging from the bow. His end was pense."

"What is meant by conscience?" said a schoolmaster to his class. The almost simultaneous reply of half their number was:

"A hinward monitor." An inspector who happened to be present inquired: "And what do you understand by a monitor?" To this an intelligent youth exultingly answered: "A hironclad."

Every teacher will recognize in these answers the confusion of ideas, and the mistaking of names for things which all pupils fall into, and out of which there is no means of getting them, except by patiently correcting the errors they make while endeavoring to put their knowledge into a definite shape on paper.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The propriety of establishing Industrial Schools is being considered in some parts of Canada. A good deal of misapprehension seems to exist in regard to their real character, and much confusion arises from the careless use of the terms Reform Schools, Industrial Schools and Industrial Education.

Reform Schools, or Reformatories, are formed for the purpose of reclaiming children who have already entered upon a career of vice. They are special prisons for juvenile criminals, in which they are not only restrained from doing evil, but kept from their former degrading associations and vile associates, and educated. Some Reformatories educate only the mental and moral faculties, but most of them give the inmates instruction in some trade or industrial pursuit.

Industrial Schools are schools for neglected children, in which industrial training occupies a leading position on the programme of work. They are not punitive, but protective. They are combined home and school institutions, established by a State or municipality for those children whose parents, through poverty, drunkenness, or for other reasons, are unable or unwilling to take care of or educate them. The term Industrial School, in its strict application, is applied to institutions especially intended for giving instruction and training in one or more of the industrial arts. The higher schools of this character are named Technical Schools.

Industrial education is the name given to the teaching of any branch of industry in public schools. Needlework and industrial drawing are the only branches of this character which have yet been engrafted on the public school programmes. Reform schools have become established institutions in every civilized country in the world. Germany had 354 in

1867; Great Britain had 65 Reform and 106 Industrial Schools in 1873; France has 411 Reform Schools; and the United States 61.

SHOULD COUNCILS CONTROL SCHOOL BOARDS?

There is considerable agitation in some parts of Ontario in favor of the repeal of the clause in the School Act giving Trustee Boards power to issue a requisition on city and town councils annually for the money needed for school purposes. We have no fear, however, that this law will be removed from the statute book. It is the keystone of the educational system in cities and towns. There is little danger of school boards being extravagant, but there is every reason to fear that councils would be unduly given to cheeseparing economy in school matters. Men are sparing when they vote money to be spent by others. Councils could not be expected to take sufficient interest in school affairs to have an intelligent understanding of their proper requirements. If they should get control of the school purse strings they should also be responsible for the spending of the money; and, judging from the way in which their duties are usually performed, they have quite as much to do already as they can attend to properly. The only economy that could result from making the Aldermen responsible for the school grant would be secured as the consequence of their ignorance of the wants or indifference to the welfare of the schools. The whole trouble really arises because some Aldermen wish a little cheap popularity, and take advantage of the fact that the surest way to influence the heads of a great many men is through the medium of their pockets. These worthy Aldermen forget that School Trustees are representatives of the people, and responsible to the people quite as much as they are themselves. The two bodies are entirely distinct. Their duties in no way clash. The Trustee Boards are quite as respectable as their friends the Aldermen; and it certainly seems to be somewhat presumptuous for the one body to wish to interfere with the duties of the other. It would be quite as reasonable for the School Board to assume to dictate to the Aldermen the amounts they should spend for police, street improvements, &c., as for the Aldermen to attempt to control the expenditure of the School Boards.

Is there any reason why trustees in cities and towns should not have as much power in regard to the raising of school funds as those in rural districts have? The School Trustees in the smallest section in Ontario have full powers to decide the amount of money that should be spent in their district for school buildings, salaries, etc. They also collect and levy their own rates. The powers of the school corporations are identical in this respect in every section and corporation. The only difference made in practice is that the School Boards do not collect their monies in towns and cities in order to avoid expense, as the regular municipal collectors can do it without any additional trouble. Even this difference need not exist, as the law provides that rural trustees may have their taxes collected by the township collectors. In many cases this is done.