

academic honours, and had long allotted on entering college together." What can it mean? On p. 58, Miss Edgarton, speaking to Mr. Styles, very ambiguously remarks, "you taught yourself last winter, I believe," to which he replies, "I only tried to teach."

It is a sad pity that Mr. Thomas did not secure the services of some fair English scholar to look over the MS. of the "Frontier Schoolmaster," in which case the following brace of sentences would never have seen the light. "For nearly two months I tried *effectually* to secure a situation. I became familiar with all the streets, and learned all the places of business, in that antiquated Dutch city, in my efforts to obtain employment, but *in vain*."—p. 66.

It is always disagreeable to hear trustees speak of *hiring* a teacher, but when the teacher himself informs us he was *hired*, we become infinitely disgusted.

Near the foot of p. 69, we read, "The school manager who *hired* me, endeavoured etc.," which appears all the more singular because, on the opposite page, he says, "I was *inaugurated* as teacher." "Hire," is an excellent word in its right place, but we beg to submit for the benefit of all and sundry that the teacher is *engaged*—not *hired*, as a moment's consideration will shew. It is, to say the least, cool, to find on p. 72, that Lower Canada has "an almost Arctic climate." Our Frontier Schoolmaster once had a berth in a Custom House near the "line," and suspecting a certain Mr. Towner of smuggling harness, addressed him thus: "I was not aware that they make such *harnesses* as these where you came from;" and on the following page—80—we find "*a harness*." Surely this is intolerable.

"I had remained in the Custom Office, all the while with very little to do, and had *whiled* away the time chiefly with books." In connection with this sentence, we simply wish to point out that although "*whiled*" is similarly used by many good writers now-a-days, the correct form is devoid of *h*, which rather tends to obscure the meaning.

In one place, we remember seeing, "the road *lays* by our house." Mr. Thomas in-

forms us in the preface that he taught school twelve years, and one would think such experience quite extensive enough to enable anyone to overcome all the common difficulties of English composition. Skipping over a multitude of equally egregious mistakes we had marked for extract, we find one of the very worst on p. 427. We reproduce it without note or comment: "Embracing the first convenient opportunity, I inquired of a prominent school committee as to the character of the school. To my surprise he informed me it was the poorest one they had had for years."

The Essay on School Management is the best thing in the book, and worth its whole cost. In spite of the serious drawbacks, the volume presents, we have no doubt that many will read it with considerable zest. Some of the characters are pretty well drawn, notably, Uncle Jack, Mr. Barnum, and Mrs. Sarjant. Mr. Niel is overdone. "Mack" and Miss Edgarton are the best figures in the sketch.

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PRIMER OF FRENCH LITERATURE, by George Saintsbury. Clarendon Press Series, Oxford. Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

MR. SAINTSBURY is probably the most fit man to be found out of France to compile such a little work as this. And it is, indeed, a work that has been very much needed, the acquaintance of English-speaking nations with French literature having been too much of a broken and isolated nature, confined to a few favourite authors of picked merit, and to such of the yellow-covered productions of to-day as chance to strike the peculiar British fancy. Few Englishmen cared to form an idea of French literature as a whole, and M. Taine attacked the complicated field of English poetry before any similar international work that we are acquainted with was attempted by any one on the other side of the Channel. Indeed we may extend our remark even further, and say that no Frenchman, until a comparatively recent period, has presented a comprehensive view of the literary achievements of his countrymen. As Mr. Saintsbury remarks, "The first three chapters