

Books Received.

The Canadian Parliamentary Companion for 1876.—Edited by Henry J. Morgan, 11th Edition. This welcome directory comes to hand this year, with additions which will render it more useful than ever. It is compiled with great care from latest information. The book is now read in all parts of the Dominion, and in nearly every portion of the British Empire, and is everywhere regarded as an authority on Canadian affairs.

HOW TO WRITE LETTERS.—We have to thank Messrs. Sower, Potts & Co., 530, Market St., Philadelphia, for sending us this useful little volume. It is not the usual letter-writer's guide, offering silly and impossible models for beginners and others in epistolary difficulties, but shows how letters should be written, and addressed, and systematically presents such facts, forms, laws, and usages as are supposed to be essential to good letter writing;—to use the words of the prospectus:

“**HOW TO WRITE LETTERS**” has a three-fold purpose: first, to serve as a Text Book for the use of schools—auxiliary to the study of Language and Literature, and to a practical business course; secondly, to assist private learners—those who are anxious to improve in letter writing but are unable or unwilling to avail themselves of the help of a living teacher; thirdly, to supply an authoritative work to which persons of all classes, occupations, and professions may resort for information, in regard to the many perplexing questions concerning epistolary art and propriety, which are constantly occurring to every one in the exigencies of life.

In accordance with the first part of this design, the main subject, as well as each subordinate subject, has been developed from a central idea, carefully outlined and treated by the topical method, the whole being abundantly illustrated and utilized by appropriate models and exercises: in accordance with the second part of the plan, every part of the subject has been explained so minutely as to leave no important point obscure or doubtful, and according to the third part, the work has been made to cover a wide field—sometimes, perhaps, going beyond the strict requirements of the subject—and much supplemental matter of general interest has been added, concerning orthography, punctuation, titles, forms of address and salutation—American and English—, postal information, etc., constituting the whole of Parts II and III.

Sower, Potts & Co., have also recently published a work on *Child's Literature, Language Lessons, Object Lessons and Composition*, entitled—*Literature for Little Folks*, by Elizabeth Lloyd. Price in Boards, 50 cents. Cloth, 75 cents.

This little volume is filled with sacred precepts and lessons in beauty, truth, refinement and culture, made so interesting and enticing that children and teachers will hail it with delight. Children in their Second Reader, whose time becomes tedious when not pleasantly occupied, will find this to just fit in and supply their needs. It contains the gems of sacred and child's literature, easy words and sentence lessons in composition, and object lessons from pictures. It instils literary taste, the use of correct and refined language, knowledge of authorship and habits of memory, observation and quick perception. The plan of the work is original and delightful.

FROEBEL'S KINDERGARTEN OCCUPATIONS.—We have received from Mr. E. Steiger, 22 and 24 Franklin St., New-York. *Froebel and the Kindergarten system of Elementary Education* by Joseph Payne. *Hoffman's Kindergarten Toys and how to use them*, several tracts, and four numbers of *Kindergarten Occupations*. These last are among what are called gifts in this very natural system of education for very young children. The first number relates to *Sticks for Stick-laying*. This Gift consists of thin wooden Sticks, about 13 inches long, to be cut into various lengths by the teacher or pupil, as occasion may require. These Sticks, like most of the previous Gifts, are designed to teach numerical proportions and forms. Stick-laying is an excellent preparation for drawing. The Multiplication Table is practically taught by means of this Gift. Reading, according to the *phonetic* method, is taught by imitating with these Sticks the letters of the Alphabet. In the same way the Roman and Arabic numerals are taught previous to instruction in writing.

500 assorted Sticks, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 inches long, and 265 Designs on 12 plates, in a strong Paper Box, with chromolithographed Cover, 75 cents.

The second number relates to *Drawing on Slates and Paper*. The material used is, first, *Slates* grooved in squares, next, *Paper* ruled in squares. This method of beginning drawing is the most systematic and perfect ever invented for young children. It is interesting to note how rapidly, by it, even the youngest pupils advance.

1 Slate, 6½ by 8½ inches, grooved in squares 1 inch wide, on one side, with narrow frame, rounded corners; 3 slate pencils, and 91 Designs on 12 plates, in a strong Paper Box, with chromo-lithographed Cover. 75 cents.

The third number furnishes the child with material for Perforating or Pricking designs on paper. The instruments are a pad or cushion made expressly, a perforating needle, which is furnished with a proper handle, dotted designs, and paper sheets. The paper is placed on the cushion, the design is placed over it and then the child is taught to prick it out with the needle by perforating the dotted lines of the design. The results are both instructive and amusing.

2 Perforating-Needles, 1 Perforating-Cushion, 1 Package of 20 leaves of paper, ruled in squares on one side, and 93 Designs on 12 plates, in a strong Paper Box, with chromo lithographed Cover. 75 cents.

The fourth number relates to *Weaving Paper*. Strips of colored paper are, by means of a steel, brass, or wooden needle of peculiar construction, woven into another (differently-colored) leaf of paper, which is cut into strips throughout its entire surface, except that a margin is left at each end to keep the strips in their places. A very great variety of designs is thus produced, and the inventive powers of teacher and pupil are constantly stimulated.

1 Steel Weaving-Needle, 20 Mats of assorted colors and widths, with corresponding strips, and 60 Designs on 12 plates, in a strong Paper Box, with chromo-lithographed Cover, 75 cents.

These *Kindergarten Occupations* are a proper substitute for toys, dolls, and the like. They combine pleasure with instruction, engaging the attention of children when at home—during vacation, inclement weather, sickness, etc. While in an enchanting way keeping children to themselves, busy, contented, and quiet, these Occupations are invaluable as a first means of acquiring manual skill, artistic taste, and a love of study. We can recommend them to all schools where there are very young children, and for home use they will be found invaluable, combining as they do both instruction and amusement. Mr. Steiger will please accept our thanks for the same.

The Canada Educational Directory, by Alex. Marling LL. B., chief Clerk Education Dept. Ontario. Our thanks are due to the Publishers Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co., for this book. It will be found a useful book of reference on educational matters in general throughout the Dominion, although very meagre information is given about some of the principal Educational Establishments of the Province of Quebec. The changes in the management of the Ministry of Public Instruction and in the Council of Public Instruction, Quebec, are not given: this may be owing to their having been gazetted too late for insertion in the Directory.

We have also to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following documents.

- Thirty first annual Report of the Commissioners of Public Schools Rhode Island.
- Twenty sixth Report of the Commissioners of the Public Schools, State of Missouri.
- Twenty ninth Report of the Commissioners of the Public Schools New Hampshire.
- School Report of the Commissioners of the Public Schools, Virginia 1875.
- Report of Supt. of Education, Alabama, 1875.
- Thirty ninth Annual Report, Board of Education, Massachusetts.
- Reports of State Board and Supt. of Public Instruction, New Jersey.
- Circular of Information No. 5, Washington.
- Annual Report, Supt. of Schools Burlington.
- Biennial Report of Supt of Public Instruction, Colorado.
- Annual Report Board of Education, Ithaca.
- Annual Report Ontario Schools of Agriculture.
- The Public Schools of Rochester.
- Forty seventh Annual report on Public Schools of Baltimore
- Semi Annual Circular, No. 2, from Chief Supt. Education, Fredericton N. B.
- Twentieth Annual Report of the Board of St. Louis Public Schools.

Wanted

For School section No. 2, Municipality of Grand Grève, Gaspé Bay, a Teacher with an Elementary School Diploma, able to teach both French and English. Salary: One hundred and sixty dollars. For further particulars apply to

CHARLES EXOUR,

Secy.-Treasurer,

Grand Grève, Co. Gaspé.