

branch in my course in pedagogy. Fortunate, indeed, is the boy at the impressionable age of just entering his teens who has for his teacher a man who is himself a student with a purpose in life, and possessing personal traits that command his admiration, and who thus presents to him ideals of character and high achievements. I take this opportunity to weave this chaplet of praise to the memory of the best and most influential teacher of my boyhood.

### AN ESSAY ON HABITS.

A story is told of an English school-master who offered a prize to the boy who should write the best composition in five minutes on "How to Overcome Habit."

At the expiration of five minutes the compositions were read. The prize went to a lad of nine years. Following is the essay:

"Well sir, habit is hard to overcome. If you take off the first letter, it does not change 'abit.' If you take off another you still have a 'bit' left. If you take off still another, the whole of 'it' remains. If you take off another, it is not wholly used up; all of which goes to show that if you want to get rid of a habit you must throw it off altogether."

### Book Notes.

The following volumes just to hand are particularly suitable for school libraries and they are all so artistically printed and bound that they would serve as choice Christmas presents.

BEASTS OF THE FIELD,  
BIRDS OF THE AIR,  
SECRETS OF THE WOODS. }

By W. J. LONG,  
Published by Copp, Clark Co.,  
Toronto.

The first two of these contain what was given in "Wilderness Ways" and "Ways of Wood Folk," but the illustrations and letter press, paper and binding are in every way superior. Mr. Long has succeeded in getting closer to actual animal life than any other modern writer. His writing has not the artistic finish of Mr. Thompson's, but he is far more true to experience. He makes no exaggerated statements, and he does not create animals with human intelligence. No nature study books are more attractive and none more worthy of a place in a library.

KING ARTHUR AND HIS COURT, by Frances N. Greene, published by Ginn & Co. These are the stories of Tennyson's Idylls, given in simple but charming prose form. Just such a book as will delight boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 18. Copp, Clark Co. are agents in Canada.

The Handbook to the Victorian Reader, edited by Mr. W. A. McIntyre and Mr. J. C. Saul, has been for some time in the hands of the printers and may be expected shortly after the new year. The general intention of the book is to supply such information as is necessary to the understanding of the selections contained in the Readers. With this end in view, information is given in regard to the circumstances under which each selection is written, and interesting facts in connection herewith are related, all different words, phrases and allusions are explained and, in addition, where necessary, a list of books is given where further information may be obtained. In cases where selection is an extract