

call him a rat; and this animal eating potato-parings is too small to be a hog, so we call him a pig; understand? Well, go on then, and look attentively at the pictures."

"P-a-i-l, bucket. I-n-k, inkstand," spelled the boy gazing at the pictures.

"No, no," cried the bookseller, and began to explain. The explanation lasted some twenty minutes, after which the bookseller said again:

"Understand, now? Well, then go on again and be sure to look close at the pictures so you will know what they are." The boy began again with his nose almost touching the page.

"V-a-t, tub. Q-u-i-l-l, feather. O-x, cow."

"Stop!" roared the bookseller.

The boy stopped, put down the book and took up a howl.

"Madame," said the bookseller to the school teacher, "I will order a lot of unillustrated first re - to-morrow."—*Detroit Free Press.*

### Educational Notes and News.

Waterdown High School Literary Society is in a flourishing condition. The members are preparing for an open entertainment with good prospects of success.

The average cost annually for each pupil attending the public schools in Ontario is \$6.69. The number of schools is 5,000; teachers, 7,198. The number attending public schools is 27,000; high schools, 12,000.

The Ridgetown High School gymnasium building will be 32 x 50 feet, fourteen feet sides, well lighted, and face Harold street. The contract price, exclusive of painting, is \$316.50.

The number of teaching days in the Ontario rural public schools for the latter half of 1885 is as follows:—July, 2; August 11; September, 22; October, 22; November, 21; December, 17; total, 95. In cities, towns and villages the number is 84.

Mr. J. F. Bruce Rogers has been engaged to take charge of the Walkers Public School for 1886, at a salary of \$500.

Mr. Logan having declined to accept the position of classical master in Perth Collegiate Institute, Mr. Charles Young was re-engaged, at a special meeting of the Board of Education, for six months.

Miss Maggie McFarlane, of Cowal, who taught school in section No. 7 for the past two years, has been re-engaged for the coming year at an advanced salary.

Between \$30,000 and \$40,000 was expended on public schools in Hamilton during the holidays—building the west avenue school and making improvements in some of the old buildings.

City Public School Inspector, J. L. Hughes, Toronto, is authority for saying that stammering can be cured effectually by the phonic system of teaching reading.

Miss Alice and Nancy Inglis, of Springfield, have engaged to take charge of Orwell school for next year.

Boys and girls of a former generation, whose entire schooling was comprised in half a dozen three months' terms, learned to spell and write and "cipher" with an ease and accuracy which many children do not now attain after a ten years' course in the schools. Under the old system the pupils did not listen to so much instruction in geology, botany, physiology, astronomy, nor did they devote much attention to music, drawing, German and French, all of which are dimmed into the ears of even the babies now; but what they did learn was of immediate use and an excellent groundwork for the practical education which must come in later life.—*Indianapolis Journal.*

Out of the present teaching staff in the public schools, Fenelon Falls, only one teacher, Miss McDiarmid, has been re-engaged. Mr. Wilson was appointed head master and the selection of him is considered a wise one. The other appointees are strangers to the village. For the several positions there were no less than 132 applications,—one from Dublin, Ireland,—and more than fifty per cent. were for the principalship.

The School Inspector, Mr. Carlyle, visited the Bright school and spoke very praiseworthy of its standing and the great improvement it had made under Mr. Burke's tuition, and says that the school never was in a better condition.

The Educational Committee of the County Council at their session this week recommended the appointment of Messrs. Rutherford, of Aylmer, and Samuel McColl, of Danwich, as County Examiners, thus ignoring the claims of the Principal of the St. Thomas Collegiate Institute, Mr. Millar. The Council coincided in the Committee's action, a motion to appoint Mr. Millar being lost.—*London Free Press, Nov. 21st.*

Mr. Wark, principal of the Sarnia Model and Public Schools, has been re-engaged at an increase of salary, which is to be \$850. All the other teachers were re-engaged.

Mr. R. S. P. Reynolds, of Nissouri, has been appointed principal of Ailsa Craig Public School for 1886. Mr. J. W. Braithwaite, of S. S. No. 26, London, will succeed Mr. Reynolds in S. S. No. 5 Nissouri.

On Thursday the teacher of the Orwell school, Mr. Jesse W. Mills, punished a child named McCready for "cutting up," and after recess the parent of the pupil put in an appearance. He felt very indignant, and practically proved his wrath by striking the teacher several times, for which he will answer before Judge Hughes.—*London Free Press.*

Principal Grant, of Queen's University, sizes up our public school system at just about its true character, and he calls it "one sided, rigid, harsh, and pretentious." There is too much pedantry and examination about it. The aim apparently, is not so much to give every child, quick or dull, a fair chance for the harmonious development of all his faculties, as to employ rigid tests for the discovery of these pupils who have retentive memories. It is a process of mere weeding out, not education at all. There is too much of the unnatural forcing, hot-house system about it. People are beginning to find this out. Our glorious education system is a good deal like the glorious French army before the war with Germany—pretty much on paper. We judge a tree by its fruit; where are the fruits in this case? Much that is valuable in the child nature is, Truth fears, being sacrificed to produce mere shallow intellectual sharpness, which is far from being education.—*Berlin News.*

The Sarnia Board of Education are about to increase their High School staff. An assistant is to be appointed at a salary of from \$900 to \$1,000. Mr. McGuire's salary has been increased to \$700.

Shame on our schools that make the names of Homer and Horace, Sophocles and Virgil, Xenophon and Livy more familiar than the names of Longfellow and Irving, Bryant and Emerson, Whittier and Lowell. Our own literature is nobler, purer, more inspiring than anything that Cesar wrote or Homer sang, and yet we are content to let the great masses of our children pass through our schools without giving them any just idea of who our best authors are, or of what they wrote. This must be reformed and that speedily. The glory of a nation is its literature; the glory of our schools should be that they teach literature.—*Educational Courant.*

The Free School system, or, as it is now termed, "gratuitous education," is a question that is rapidly coming to the front in England. Mr. Bright, M. P., is not in favor of it. In his speech at Street, Oct. 12th, he says: "I think that a good deal may be said for free schools in many circumstances, and in other circumstances there are some things which may be said against them. But this, at any rate, I will say without hesitation—that I think as a mere burden upon parents the payment of a penny or two pence or threepence, whatever it may be, for a child for his week's education is not a burden from which conscientious parents ought to shrink. That is my view; for, after all, I suppose there are very few laborers' families who pay more for the education of their children at a board school than the price of a quart of beer a week.

Recently a number of pupils in Walkerton, Canada, engaged in a fight during the "noon spell," but outside the school premises. For this they were punished corporally by the head master. Two of the belligerents thus chastised were sons of his honor, Judge Barrett, who indignantly repudiated the legal right of the teacher to inflict punishment under such circumstances. It was not claimed that the castigation was excessive, but simply that the fault having been committed outside of the school grounds, the teacher