

THE revised course of instruction for grammar and high schools in New Brunswick, to take effect August 1st, 1898, has been published. It is noticed that Latin and Greek are to be optional with the pupils. If they elect not to take them a more extensive course in English, mathematics and science is to be provided for them. It may be inferred from this that pupils from the country districts who have had no preparation in Latin and Greek will not, on that account, be debarred from entering the high schools as has been the case in the past. This is as it should be.

A FLAGRANT case of meanness on the part of a school board has recently come to the knowledge of the REVIEW. In a prosperous district in the parish of Sussex, N. B., the trustees engaged a teacher at the beginning of the present term. A few weeks after the teacher received an offer from another section of the province of a position in an advanced school with a better salary. He asked the trustees to release him from his engagement and proposed the name of a capable teacher to take his place. They refused to do so unless he would forfeit the amount of salary due him, about thirty dollars. The teacher left, and the trustees or a majority of them refused to pay him any salary whatever for the three weeks' service, but accepted the substitute who had been proposed for the situation.

There have been many cases similar in one respect to this one. Boards of trustees have released teachers who have had a chance of improving their status on a proper substitute being provided, honorably paying what was due; but we have yet to learn of a case where a teacher was allowed to sever his engagement on the condition that he should forfeit his salary. We doubt very much if public sentiment anywhere would support a school board in an act so manifestly unfair and ungenerous.

THE announcement is made that hereafter examinations in music will be held throughout Canada under the direction of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, London. Centres have been established at Halifax, St. John, and other principal cities in Canada. The board does not teach music, but was organized to conduct thorough and searching examinations. No one connected with it receives a cent. In Canada the surplus, after paying the necessary expenses, will go to found scholarships in this country. When arrangements are completed further announcements will be made.

In the *Atlantic Monthly* for October, in discussing the question "Are we losing Shakespeare?" there is the following: "Why is it that we must read lamely and

haltingly the supreme poets of our race? The answer is simple. We have not the necessary English education to read English literature easily. If it is true that we have lost Chaucer as popular literature, that we have lost Spenser as popular literature, that we are losing Milton as popular literature, how shall we ultimately escape losing Shakespeare? We shall lose him because in our schools and colleges we give to the learning of foreign languages and literature the time that we should give to our mother-tongue."

A NOTE in the *New Brunswick Magazine* for October contains good news for those of our readers, and they are many, who are interested in New Brunswick history. It is a remarkable fact, by no means creditable to us, that no proper history of New Brunswick has yet been written. The note above referred to announces that Mr. James Hannay is now at work upon a history of the Province and has already made considerable progress in the undertaking. Nobody can doubt but the result will be a work of great interest and value despite the great difficulties of the task. The writing of an acceptable history nowadays is far more difficult than it was a few years ago, partly because of the enormous labor required in working through the abundance of records which have accumulated in the past few years, and partly because of the more critical and impartial treatment now demanded in all debatable matters. But we have no doubt that Mr. Hannay will overcome all difficulties and produce a work worthy of himself and of the province.

At a recent Maine convention, State Superintendent Stetson took occasion to compliment the teachers upon the manifest improvement in writing that had taken place since the introduction of vertical writing. This was not only noticeable from the letters received by the department, but in the work of the schools. He had formerly been opposed to the vertical system but had been converted by the teachers and pupils from results alone.

Vertical writing has evidently a good hold in Prince Edward Island. At the Charlottetown Convention a speaker made some disparaging reference to vertical writing, which was met by a very evident note of disapproval on the part of the teachers.

THE loss by fire of the well equipped printing and stationery establishment of J. & A. McMillan is a severe one. The firm has long held such an honorable position among publishing houses in these provinces that the announcement will cause a wide-spread feeling of regret. But the head of the firm with that energy