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CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER:

	PAGE
I. PAPERS ON DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOLS.—(1) The Cambridge School Case. (2) Opinions of Practical Teachers. (3) A School without Corporal Punishment. (4) Hon. E. D. Mansfield, of Ohio, on the Discipline of Schools. (5) Legal Decision on the Matter in Ohio. (6) Experience of a Parent in Ohio. (7) Objectors Answered. (8) An Opposite View. (9) Unwise Legislation in New Jersey. (10) A Plan of Rewards and Punishments in Schools. (11) Opinion of the Hon. N. Bateman, of Illinois	145
II. PAPER ON METEOROLOGY.—(1) Abstract of Monthly Meteorological Results, for July, 1867	153
III. PAPER ON ASTRONOMY.—(1) The Earth's Year	154
IV. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.—No. 23. The Ex-King of the Greeks. 24. Archbishop Turgeon. 25. Rev. John Climie. 26. Professor Faraday. 27. Civil List Pensions	154
V. MISCELLANEOUS READINGS.—(1) Angry Words. (2) Kindly Words. (3) A Talk with my Boys on Meanness	155
VI. EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.— <i>Dominion of Canada</i> .—Technical Education. Victoria University. Northumberland Teachers' Convention. Church School for Girls. King's College. Prize Books. Acadia College Anniversary. <i>United Kingdom</i> .—The Year's Progress in England. Education for Labourer's Children. Oxford and Cambridge. National Education, Ireland. The Queen's University in Ireland. Dublin University. <i>United States</i> .—The New Department of Education. The Peabody Fund. Statistics of the Common Schools of Connecticut. Philadelphia Schools	158
VII. DEPARTMENTAL NOTICES	160

PAPERS ON DISCIPLINE IN SCHOOLS.

A CASE of discipline, important from its results, took place last year at the Allston School, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It has attracted so much attention among American educationists, and has called forth such a general expression of opinion upon the subject of discipline in schools, that we have thought it best to insert in this number of the *Journal*, an abridgment of a narrative of the case which was drawn up by the Cambridge School Committee, and published, in an address to their constituents, in reply to the attacks and misrepresentations to which the authorities had been subjected. We also give several illustrative papers bearing on the subject.

At the time assigned for the hearing, the complainants, with their counsel, and the teachers, with their counsel, appeared, and both parties were fully heard by the Board.

Evidence was offered which satisfied the Board of the following facts: During the forenoon session of the school, on the day of the punishment, Josephine Foster, a member of the school, sixteen years of age, refused to comply with a direction of Mr. Roberts, the principal, in her writing lesson. For such disobedience, the master, as a punishment, ordered her to stand in front of the other pupils, and told her to take that position thereafter during the hours of instruction in writing, until she was ready to comply with his requirement. This punishment seemed to make but little impression upon her.

The principal was absent from the school-room during the opening hour of the afternoon session; and a teacher, Miss

Gray, with another female assistant, had charge of the room. While the principal was absent, the teacher observed Josephine engaged in whispering with another girl, and, going to her seat, inquired of her if she had been whispering. The manner of answering expressed indifference and defiance, being, as the teacher described it, equivalent to the words, "I don't care." The teacher then put the same questions to Josephine's companion in the offence, who answered in the same disrespectful manner. The teacher thereupon sent both of the girls to the recitation-room, following them there herself. She inquired what they had been whispering about, and was informed by Josephine that her companion asked her, in substance, if she was going to obey Mr. Roberts' order during the writing lesson; to which she (Josephine) replied, "No." Leaving the girl in the room, the teacher took the other pupil into a separate apartment, inflicted upon her hand a few blows with a rattan, and dismissed her to her seat. The teacher then returned to the recitation-room, and directed Josephine to hold out her hand for similar punishment. This she refused to do, saying, "I won't be whipped." The teacher endeavored, unsuccessfully, to persuade her to obey; but, meeting only with a persistent refusal, determined to suspend the attempt for the time, and to await Mr. Roberts' return. Meanwhile, the girl remained in the recitation-room.

The principal reached the school room about a quarter past three o'clock, and the teacher at once reported the case to him. He expressed regret that the difficulty had arisen, particularly as the girl had frequently before manifested unwillingness to comply with the requirements of her teachers, and was of a disobedient and stubborn nature. He suggested that she should be allowed to take recess with the other scholars, in the hope that the exercise and mingling with other pupils might bring her to a better frame of mind. After conferring, all the teachers agreed that an abandonment of the intended punishment would, under the circumstances, have a pernicious effect on the particular pupil, and injure the general discipline of the school. The principal, however, declined to take the case into his own hands,—saying to Miss Gray that it would be less humiliating to the girl to submit to a female teacher than to him, and that, as the pupil had manifested a disposition to make physical resistance, the teacher might call upon one of the other female assistants if she required assistance. He also recommended her to use his ferule (a flexible instrument, made of two flat pieces of leather, sewed together, and