

exactly. We are falsely assuming that because people read easily, and use the words they meet, therefore they know not what these words mean. When they read words

accurately descriptive of things, and then bring their notions to the test of the things, how often do we find them indefinite or erroneous!—*Intelligence.*

## NOTES FOR TEACHERS.

It is stated that a majority of the teachers in Berlin, Germany, are unfavourably disposed toward the Kindergarten. They agree that the children's minds are developed, they have facility of expression, power to calculate and to remember, and that they obtain a rapid conception of things. They complain that they lack perseverance because easily wearied, and are more inclined to play than to work.

THE *Mail*, in the political platform which it submits to the country in view of the approaching provincial elections, advocates "reform of the Education Department; abolition of the political headship; return to government by a permanent General Superintendent wholly unconnected with machine politics; abolition of the Nelson and other publishing monopolies; and free competition in school books." We of Quebec ought surely to feel thankful that the discussion of educational affairs is kept in such great measure free from the arena of party politics. Notwithstanding the faith which outsiders have in the excellence of the Ontario system of schools, the people of that Province themselves seem at times to lose all faith in it. Let us hope that the faith will return to them after the election is over.—*Educational Record.*

A MEMBER of the Stratford Collegiate Institute Board recently addressed a circular to parents, asking

their views on the efficiency of the teaching staff, and soliciting suggestions as to any changes that would in their opinion seem desirable. A list of suggestive questions was appended for the parent to answer. Such intermeddling is very much akin to the action lately taken by a deputation who waited upon a teacher of twenty years' standing in the Province of Quebec, asking him re-organize his school in behalf of their boys. If teachers are satisfied to be a kind of upper servant, taking the kicks with the half pence they receive as fees, such intermeddling with old and tried teachers will not readily cease. To a respectful suggestion on the part of a parent, no discreet teacher will object, but when one or two officious parents combine to terrorize the teacher, it is time to dismiss such officiousness with the silent contempt it so richly deserves. But for this terrorism in Ontario, there would be fewer changes in the head-masterships and other educational positions, and the less of it we countenance in this Province the better for all concerned.

COLONIZATION IN SOUTH AMERICA.—There has been during the last fifteen years since 1870, an increasingly large emigration from European countries into South America. It is true that Germans in large numbers (chiefly of the peasant farmer class) prefer the northern half of the continent, but one hundred and twenty thousand Germans, increasing at the rate of two