

SOMEBODY'S MOTHER.

THE woman was old, and ragged and gray,
And bent with the chill of the Winter's day.
The street was wet with a recent snow,
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.

She stood at the crossing and waited long ;
Alone, uncared for amid the throng
Of human beings, who passed her by,
Nor heeded the glance of her anxious eye.

Down the street, with laughter and shout,
Glad in the freedom of "School let out,"
Came the boys like a flock of sheep,
Scattering the snow piled wide and deep.

Past the old woman, so old and gray,
Hastensd the youngsters on their way,
Nor offered a helping hand to her,
So weak, so timid, afraid to stir
Lest the carriage wheels or the horses' feet
Should crush her down in the crowded street.

At last came one of the merry troop—
The gayest laddie of all the group—
Who paused beside her and whispered low,
"I'll help you across, if you wish to go."

She lifted her tired eyes to meet
The pitying glance of his brown eyes, sweet,
As her aged hand on his strong young arm
She placed. And so, without hurt or harm,
He guided the trembling feet along,
With the steady step of his own, so strong.

Then back again to his mates he went,
His young heart happy and well content.
'For she's Somebody's Mother, boys, you know,
For all she's aged, and poor, and slow.

And I hope some fellow will lend a hand
To help my mother, you understand.
If ever she's poor, and old and gray,
And her own dear boy perhaps far away."

And "Somebody's Mother" bow'd low her head
In her home that night, and the prayer she said
Was—"God be kind to the stranger lad,
Whose heart can pity the old and sad ;
And guide and lead till life's journey is done,
The kindly boy who is Somebody's Son."

—Mary D. Brine.

* Question Drawer. *

E. U. would take it as a favor if some teacher of a rural school would give an outline description of his or her method of conducting an examination at the close of the term.

"TEACHER."—(1) By "Forms II, III, and IV," in the Prize Competition Announcement, are meant classes using the Second, Third and Fourth Readers respectively.

(2) By "application of the decimal system in Addition and Subtraction," is meant the theory of what is called "borrowing" and "carrying." What is wanted is a model lesson bringing out the reason for these processes, so as to make it clear to children.

C. M.—It would be difficult, probably impossible, to find any journal suitable for children of all grades in a public school. *St. Nicholas*, you say, is too expensive. *Harper's Young People*, is an excellent paper for all but the very young. *Little Folks*, Cassell Publishing Company, New York ; *Treasure Trove*, E. L. Kellogg & Co., New York ; *Youth's Companion*, Perry, Mason & Co., Boston ; *Babyland, Our Little Men and Women, The Pansy, Wide-Awake*, all by the D. Lothrop, Co., Boston ; *Our Little Ones*, and *The Nursery*, Russell Publishing Company, Boston, etc., are all excellent for the ages for which they are designed. You had better write to the publishers for sample copies, mentioning the EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL, and then make your selection.

K. MCL.—In "Charles's Wain," *wain* has the capital W because it is the name of an individual object. The two words together constitute the name given to this particular constellation.

L. E. T.—The law provides for the quarterly payment of teachers, and no doubt the salary could

be collected quarterly. For the other questions you had better address the Educational Department. They are matters of business routine. We know nothing of the song in question.

BUSHWHACKER.—(1) The authorized holidays are "every Saturday, every public holiday, and every day proclaimed a holiday by the authorities of the municipality in which the school section is situated." (2) We know of no regulation permitting a teacher to take a holiday to visit other schools. He is expected to attend the Teachers' Institute. (3) We do not suppose that any teacher has a right to take any holiday other than those prescribed, unless in case of sickness, or other necessity. What the Trustees could and would do in case of his taking a holiday without leave, would depend on circumstances. He cannot make up any lost time in teaching on holidays or in vacation. Stopping the day's pay would hardly meet the difficulty. If you think of doing anything of the kind you had better write to the Department.

CONSTANT READER.—For answer to your request, see article on Phonics, by Rhoda Lee, in Primary Department.

C. D.—(1) The Banks of Newfoundland probably at one time formed part of the North American Continent. We have only to conceive of a vast plateau three hundred miles in length, and formed in the same manner as any other plateau still existing at a high level, becoming submerged by the subsidence of the land until covered with fifteen to eighty or ninety fathoms of water.

(2) The generally accepted derivation of *coward* is from Latin *cauda*, through French *coward* (old Fr. *coue*, a tail,) with allusion either to the short tail of the timid hare, or perhaps to a cowed dog or lion with its tail between its legs. The word has been associated in English with "cow," (hence *cowherd*, *cowheard*, *cowheart*, etc.,) perhaps through the influence of a wrong derivation.

(3) We are not aware that comets have been shown to have erratic courses. So far as known they move about the sun in either parabolic or elongated elliptical orbits. The term "erratic" sometimes applied to them, probably had its origin before the courses of any of them had been ascertained. There is still a good deal which even astronomers do not know about comets.

(4) We could not account for the absence of an atmosphere in the moon, even were we certain of the fact, save as we should account for the presence of one in the earth.

Educational Notes.

SERIOUS trouble has arisen in connection with the Jubilee Board School, Tynemouth. It appears that the Board has recently issued the following in the form of a circular to its teachers:—"Corporal punishment—Regulations of the Board. Rule 31.—No corporal punishment shall be administered in any schools of the Board except by the head teachers. Certified assistant teachers, pupil teachers, and uncertified assistants are not allowed under any circumstances to strike a child. They must try to interest the children in their work, and in cases of difficulty must appeal to the head teacher. Any teacher infringing this rule will, in future, be severely dealt with by the Board. We, the undersigned, each for ourselves, certify that we read the above extract (Rule 31) from the Board's regulations and received a copy of the circular thereon, and we hereby promise [to try] to abide by the same, as witness whereof we append our respective signatures." The five assistants at the Jubilee School, in the first instance, refused to sign the circular at all, but afterwards appended their signatures with the addition of the words *to try* as inserted above. Certain members of the Board view this as a piece of "insolent insubordination," and it has been decided to dismiss five assistants and advertise for others in their stead.—*The Schoolmaster*.

THE *Empire* of November 19th, Toronto, says: Mr. J. W. Johnson, F. C. A., principal of the Ontario Business College, Belleville, and first-vic president of the Ontario Society of Chartered Ac-

countants, delivered a lecture in the public hall of Upper Canada College on Friday afternoon before the assembled school. His subject was "Joint Stock Companies." The lecture was of a most interesting character, dealing with partnerships and the formation of companies. He also dwelt at some length on the banking system of the Province, and explained clearly the changes made in the banking law of 1891. He explained to the boys what was meant by letters patent, illustrating what he meant by exhibiting one that contained the signature of the Hon. John Beverley Robinson, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province. Mr. Johnson's style of lecturing is fluent, clear and concise, and his somewhat dry subject was handled in such a way as to render it replete with interest even to young boys.

EAST VICTORIA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—Two teachers' institutes under the direction of the above association were held, the one at Bobcaygeon on Friday, October 16th ; the other at Kinmount on Friday, October 21st. The attendance of teachers was good, and the subjects discussed interesting. Mr. S. McClelland, Chairman of the School Board, Bobcaygeon, presided at the evening entertainment in that village, and Mr. J. H. Knight, Public School Inspector, at all the other sessions. Mr. J. C. Brown, Public School Inspector for the County of Peterborough, attended all the meetings at Bobcaygeon, and at the morning session at Kinmount. Dr. Curry, Public School Inspector for the County of Haliburton, attended at Kinmount during the afternoon. Several teachers from the counties of Peterborough and Haliburton were present. The evening entertainments were well attended. The following subjects were discussed: 1. What literature should be taught in the second class? 2. Public school examinations and exhibitions. 3. Pronunciation. 4. Uniform promotion examinations. 5. Relation of words. 6. Writing. 7. Circles on the terrestrial globe. 8. Fractions and compound rules.

THE CENTURY MAGAZINE IN 1893.

It would be hard for a person who cares for good reading to make a better investment than a year's subscription to *The Century Magazine*. No region is too remote, no expense too great, if it will only produce what the *Century's* readers want. This is the policy that has made it, as the *Pall Mall Budget*, of London, says, "By far the best of the magazines, English or American."

The November number begins a new volume and contains the first chapters of a powerful novel of New York society, called "Sweet Bells out of Tune," written by Mrs. Burton Harrison, the author of "The Anglomaniacs." In this story the fashionable wedding, the occupants of the boxes in the Metropolitan Opera House, the "smart set" in the country house are faithfully reflected, and the illustrations by Charles Dana Gibson, *Life's* well-known cartoonist, are as brilliant as the novel.

In this November number begins also a great series of papers on "The Bible and Science," opening with "Does the Bible contain Scientific Errors?" by Prof. Shields, of Princeton, who takes decided ground that the Bible does not contain scientific errors of any moment, and who most interestingly states the case from his point of view. Other articles in this series will include one in the December (Christmas) number, "The Effect of Scientific Study upon Religious Beliefs."

An important series of letters that passed between General Sherman and his brother, Senator John Sherman, is also printed in November, which number contains also contributions from the most distinguished writers, including an article by James Russell Lowell, which was not quite completed at the time of his death. The suggestion which Bishop Potter makes in the November *Century* as to what could be done with the World's Fair if it were opened on Sunday, is one which seems the most practical solution of the problem yet offered.

The December *Century* is to be a great Christmas number—full of Christmas stories, Christmas poems, and Christmas pictures—and in it will begin the first chapters of a striking novel of life in Colorado, "Benefits Forgot," by Wolcott Balestier, who wrote "The Naulahka" with Rudyard Kipling.

Papers on good roads, the new educational methods, and city government are soon to come.

Four dollars will bring you this splendid magazine for one year, and certainly no cultivated home can afford to be without it. Subscribers can remit directly to the publishers, The Century Co., 33 East 17th St., New York. They should begin with November, and so get first chapters of all the serials, including "Sweet Bells Out of Tune."