

"The requisition for good government and its results," says an exchange, "good order, are: (1) On the part of the teacher, (a) self-government, (b) careful preparation for the work in hand; (2) comfort as a condition of the pupils; (3) occupation for all at all times; (4) pure air, *pure air! PURE AIR!* (5) cleanliness; (6) few rules, besides the comprehensive 'mind your business.' Whatever may be done to make the school-room attractive will help in the matter."

The need for Truant Schools, as distinct from Industrial Schools and Reformatories, has hardly been sufficiently appreciated yet by those interested in the working of the Elementary Education Acts; there are, however, signs that School Boards are becoming alive to the many advantages of this new departure. Some five or six Truant Schools are already in full work at Sheffield, Liverpool, West Ham, and other towns, and the results are most encouraging.—*Educational Times*.

From a book recently published—"England, as seen by an American Banker,"—it appears that the rhyme

"Thirty days hath September,"

was written by a school-teacher in Newcastle-on-Tyne, named C. F. Springman. He introduced into his school the idea of teaching history, geography, and other branches through the medium of rhyme, and one day hit upon this bit of jingle in order to impress upon the minds of the boys, in an indelible manner, the number of days in the different months of the year.

The death of Walter Smith, of Drawing-teaching fame, removes one of the most prominent English characters in American educational life. Much as the public regrets the complications of his later American experiences, his name will be associated with the introduction of the germs from which much of our present elaborate and elegant drawing science has fruited; and those whom circumstances forced to differ with him at last will join heartily with his latest friends in honoring his memory, in respecting his talent, genius, and devotion to a great interest.—*Exchange*.

Oxford has been once more desecrated by the annual orgy known as St. Giles's Fair, which has again rendered a great part of the University temporarily uninhabitable by respectable people. Surely it is high time this barbarous anachronism was abated. If anything, the nuisance was last month worse than usual. Roughs abounded whose chief amusement appears to have consisted in the knocking off and crushing of inoffensive persons' hats, and drunkenness and indecency were rife for the better part of two days. And this in the principal street of our first University.—*Educational Times*.

The humane work of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children of this city is worthy of great praise. During June, July, and August, the following work was accomplished:—724 convictions; 1,195 children relieved and sent to homes and institutions; 233 children cared for in the society's rooms; and 788 cases investigated at the request of police magistrates, which involved the welfare of 1,101 children, of whom 329 proved to be worthy cases for relief, and were accordingly rescued from being committed to prison, saving for the city an estimated sum of \$32,000.—*N. Y. School Journal*.

## Literary Chat-Chat.

Browning has forwarded his publishers the last sheets of his new poem.

"Christ and Christianity," is the title of a work of five volumes, by Rev. H. R. Haweis, now in press.

George H. Baker, the Philadelphia poet, is said to have a new volume of poems in course of preparation.

It is said that the Earl of Carnarvon will shortly give to the public an English version of the first twelve books of the *Odyssey*.

*Treasure-Trove*, for October, includes in its attractive bill of fare portraits of "Our Poet Ambassador" (James Russell Lowell) and "The Grand Old Man" (William Ewart Gladstone), with appropriate sketches of each.

The *N. E. Journal of Education*, for September 30, is almost exclusively devoted to "Temperance Instruction in Public Schools." It contains many short articles by prominent statesmen, physiologists, physicians and educators, all of which abound with facts bearing upon the subject, or useful hints for teachers, who have now to give instruction on it.

Oliver Optic (William T. Adams) has published 113 books since he began with the "Boat Club Series" in 1853. He has quite regained his sight, which a few years ago was seriously impaired. He is reported as saying that his life-work is nearly ended, and that one book a year is all he now cares to write.

*Our Little Ones and The Nursery* for October is a charming number of this charming little magazine for children. It overflows with articles and stories, in prose and poetry, just suited to please and instruct the little ones, and with illustrations that are beautifully clear and telling. It is edited by Oliver Optic (William T. Adams), and comes to us from the Russell Publishing Company, Boston.

Dr. Holland's "Timothy Titcomb" was declined by Phillips, Sampson & Co., and by Derby & Jacks, and the only book previously written by Dr. Holland had proved a failure. It was offered to Mr. Scribner, who was an excellent judge of the merits of a work. He at once saw that "Timothy Titcomb" would be popular, and it was accepted and published. It proved remarkably successful, and a large edition was sold immediately. Dr. Holland's succeeding works were favorably received by the public.

The Interstate Publishing Company, of Chicago and Boston, have issued a new edition of "The Supplemental Dictionary," by Rt. Rev. Samuel Fallows, D.D. It is claimed that this dictionary contains nearly 35,000 words, phrases, and new definitions of old words, not found in the latest editions of Webster's or Worcester's Unabridged. It is uniform in size and style with Webster's Unabridged, and contains 530 pages. The work will hereafter be sold to the trade, and the price reduced to \$3.75 in sheep; \$4.50 in half morocco.

The *Century*, for October, maintains the high reputation of this unique magazine. Few numbers have appealed to so wide an audience with topics of such general interest. The frontispiece is a portrait of the Liberal statesman of Norway, Björnstjerne Björnson, and the illustrated article by H. L. Brækstad, with reference to his greater prominence as a writer, is entitled "A Norwegian Poet's Home," and gives some account of his literary habits and country life. Nearly all the numerous other articles are by well-known writers, and are full of present interest.

D. C. Heath & Co., of Boston, have ready "Dr. G. Stanley Hall's select Bibliography of Pedagogical Literature," a volume of over 300 pages made up of lists of books—the best books—covering every department of education. Of the 2500 volumes included in this publication many are characterized or described by the editor in a way which must be of real service to the teacher who wishes to read only the "very best" in his department.

"Studies in Greek and Roman History; or Studies in General History," from 1000 B.C. to 476 A.D. By Mary D. Sheldon, recently Professor of History in Wellesley College.

"Modern Petrography." An account of the application of the Microscope to the study of Geology. By George Huntington Williams, Associate Professor in John Hopkins University.

"Illustrations of Geology and Geography." For use in schools and families. By N. S. Shaler, Professor of Paleontology, assisted by Wm. M. Davis, Assistant Professor of Physical Geography, and T. W. Harris, Assistant in Botany, Harvard University.

Day after day the sad intelligence reaches us that the poet John G. Saxo is slowly dying at his home in Albany. His misfortunes crowded upon him fast one after another, and have wrecked a strong man mentally and physically. In a railroad disaster, in 1875, in which he was rescued from a sleeper just in time to escape a horrible death by fire, he received a shock to his nervous system from which he never recovered. This, with family ties broken by death, has filled the poet's life with melancholy, and his once gay and buoyant spirit is oppressed and sad. He sees but few people, and converses with friends only on rare occasions. At such times, he talks willingly and sometimes fluently; but these periods are not frequent, and he is mostly alone with his grief which, although it may be silent, must be deep and poignant. Those who remember him as he appeared a few years ago happy and strong on the rostrum, delighting audiences wherever he went with his strength of imagery, pleasing poesy, and charming wit, will indeed be saddened by looking upon the picture now presented. To look upon a soul like this, crushed by misfortunes before its beauty and grace have felt the burden of years, is but to gaze upon a melancholy scene, and behold the crown of thorns where we would place only the laurel and immortelle.—*Chicago Current*.