

they elected their officers, consisting of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. I also appointed a committee on programme. We took a collection to purchase a blank book for the secretary's use, each one giving a penny and some gave five cents, from which we had enough to purchase the blank book and also one volume towards a start for a school library, as they have none here. When the appointed time came for the first meeting, the president took his place and called the meeting to order with as much dignity as a man of thirty. When the programme was rendered, which was quite long enough, behold my surprise when my boy of last winter, who was too great a mathematician to spend any time in such a way, was called on, to see him walk out and recite the "Psalm of Life." The mystery may be explained by stating that he was elected secretary, and I also appointed him one of the committee on programme, and I will acknowledge here in confidence, not without an object; still I was surprised to see how well it worked. We have never had an evening without a good programme, and even the smallest ones will take a great interest in such a simple arrangement. Try it and see.

A TEACHER.

#### MCGILL NORMAL SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

*To the Editor of the Witness.*

SIR,—I have read with much pain your report of the proceedings at the last meeting of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of this city. I regret exceedingly that two of the reverend gentlemen who constitute so important a part of that board should have permitted themselves to indulge in a gratuitous discussion of the McGill Normal School examinations.

It is the duty of the staff of this institution, after careful examination and prolonged and sympathetic discussion, sometimes to remove pupils who show inaptitude for the work of the teacher. I protest against the offensive connotation of the word "slaughter," as applied to the discharge of this duty by the Rev. Dr. Shaw.

I am very sorry that the Venerable Archdeacon Evans, of whose self-denying labors on behalf of the Church of England teachers-in-training here I have often had occasion to speak in terms both highly appreciative and well deserved, should stand committed to a statement so utterly unfounded as that "if the marks in the Normal School are fifty and the pupil gets thirty-nine and three-quarters she is plucked." I have, indeed the greatest difficulty in persuading myself that there is not some serious mistake in the report.

May I be permitted to remind the Protestant Board of School Commissioners that a new responsibility arises from the admission of the press to their deliberations, and that it should be met by a becoming dignity and reserve.

S. P. ROBINS.

MONTREAL, January 12, 1894.