

The School.

The Secretaries of the Teachers' Institutes would confer a favour on us as well as materially aid the objects of the Associations by sending us condensed reports of the most important exercises at the annual meetings.

The Rev. Dr. James Martineau has signified his wish to retire from the chair of Ethics and Apologetics, in Manchester New College, London, at Michaelmas next, after forty-five years of active service. Dr. Martineau, who is now in his eightieth year, has been Principal of the College since 1857. In view of his great ability, and the long and distinguished service he has given the College, the trustees are desirous that he shall still retain the Honorary Headship of the Institution.

The authorities of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, have made an excellent move in establishing a course of Sunday afternoon lectures on "Questions of the Day," in the David Morrice Hall. The Montreal correspondent of the *Canada Presbyterian* says that these lectures, which are delivered by professors, and eminent ministers and laymen of different denominations, attract large and appreciative audiences. It is not creditable to the various colleges in Toronto that they are, so far as we know, doing nothing to awaken thought and influence public opinion in regard to the great moral and religious questions of the day.

Much stress, but by no means too much, is being laid upon the necessity of teaching the rising generation to read and appreciate English literature. Amongst the various means that may be used to this end with good effect, the practice of requiring pupils to memorize selections in prose and poetry for the Friday afternoon recitations, which we hope are kept up in all the schools, is one of the best. Great care should be used in the selection of gems of thought and expression, and in seeing that the meaning is clearly understood and interpreted, and the memorizing accurate. Few exercises have more educational value. The memory is trained, the art of reading or speaking effectively is taught, and both the literary taste and the thinking powers of the pupil are improved by the study of good models.

A Nova Scotia correspondent complains, not without some ground, that the *SCHOOL JOURNAL* gives a disproportionate amount of its space to Ontario school matters. We have large numbers of subscribers in the Maritime provinces and are very anxious to do them ample justice, but it is sometimes difficult to do so. We trust our regular correspondents will not fail to keep us posted in all educational matters, but we also cordially invite communications and news items from all subscribers. We should be particularly glad too if some of the Inspectors and teachers would send us from time to time examination papers on public school subjects, and anything else of educational interest. It is our aim to make the *JOURNAL* just as useful to teachers in British Columbia and Prince Edward Island as to those in Ontario.

Is your schoolroom well ventilated? The question of recess, or no recess, is being debated with a good deal of vigour in some of the American School Journals. The question has, no doubt, two sides. But one consideration, trivial though it may at first appear, ought really to have much weight in determining the result. We have not yet seen a schoolroom so well ventilated that, if occupied to a point at all near the limit of its capacity, it did not need a thorough purification with doors and windows open at least once in the course of each morning and afternoon. It is simply impossible for teacher or pupil to do good work in a foul, burned-out atmosphere. To the arguments in favour of recess, drawn from the rest and re-invigoration of body and brain, may then be added that drawn from the opportunity afforded for thoroughly renewing the vitiated air of the school room.

In the course of the warm discussion which is going on in the London papers occasioned by the whipping of two girls in the Frampton Cotterell School, Mrs. Rose Mary Crawshay, well known for her philanthropic efforts on behalf of the poor, suggests that the stick could be safely banished from the public schools if a system of rewards were substituted, and suggests that the reward should take the form of some kind of extra food, and offers to contribute £5 a year towards a fund for the purpose. To this suggestion a dean of the Episcopal Church replies.—"A child seduced into obedience by the hopes of a good stomach-full is not moving on a higher plane than another child kept in the path of rectitude by the dread of a whipping administered *supra dorsum nudum*." To this dictum we decidedly demur, especially in the case of ill-fed children. Would the dean contend that the labourer who gives a fair day's work for a fair day's pay is not moving on a higher plane than the negro forced into activity by the slave-driver's lash?

One of the arguments strongly urged by the Eastern Ontario deputation in the interview with the Minister of Education in opposition to the scheme of University Federation, is entitled to serious consideration. This was to the effect that the removal of Queen's and other colleges to Toronto would have the result of largely lessening the number of those who would be able to obtain a University education. It is certainly of the first importance that the advantages of a college course should be brought within the reach of the largest possible number. If it can be shown that centralization would have the effect of putting a college course beyond the reach of many farmers' sons and others who would otherwise be able to attend the local institution, the fact would constitute a very weighty, if not wholly conclusive, argument against federation. It is quite certain that large numbers of young men attend the denominational Colleges who would never come up to Toronto to attend the Provincial University, but it may be questioned whether the fact is not the result rather of denominational than of local influences. The voluntary College, by virtue of its relations to the Denomination upon whose members it relies for support, has a thousand points of contact and attraction, such as no State institution can ever have. If this be the