

Examination Papers.

ADMISSION TO HIGH SCHOOLS.

[We intend for the future to insert under this heading, in chronological order, the various examination papers that have been set for admission to high schools.]

FOURTH BOOK AND SPELLING.

JULY, 1879.

1. "Dressed in robes of gorgeous hue,
Brown and gold with crimson blent,
The forest to the waters blue
Its own enchanting tints has lent;
In their dark depths, life-like glowing,
We see a second forest growing,
Each pictured leaf and branch bestowing
A fairy grace to that twin wood
Mirrored within the crystal flood."

—*Indian Summer*—*Mrs. Moodie*.

(1) What is said to be 'dressed in robes of gorgeous hue'? What is meant by 'dressed in robes of gorgeous hue'?

(2) Explain the meaning of 'blent,' 'tints,' and 'crystal' in the place in which each occurs.

(3) What is said to be 'life-like glowing'? Arrange the words of lines five and six in a different order, so as to show what the meaning is.

(4) Point out the silent letters in line five and line seven.

2. Give in your own language the substance of the lesson on the conquest of Peru.

3. "Any one who thinks a mansion in Belgravia the acme of splendor would have been astonished, had he lived in those days, to find how completely the abodes of these Roman lords outshone 'the stately homes of England.' On entering the former the visitor passed through a vestibule decorated with rows of pillars, and then found himself in the *impluvium* in which the household gods kept guard over the owner's treasure, which was placed in a safe or strong box, secured with brass or iron bands. In this apartment guests were received with imposing ceremony, and the patron heard the complaints, supplications and adulations of his great band of clients or dependents, who lived on his smiles and bounty, but chiefly on the latter. Issuing thence, the visitor found himself in the *tablinum*, an apartment paved with mosaic and decorated with paintings, in which were kept the family papers and archives. It contained a dining room and a supper room, and a number of sleeping rooms, hung with the softest Syrian cloths; a cabinet filled with rare jewels and antiquities, and sometimes a fine collection of paintings; and, last of all, a pillared peristyle, opening out upon the garden, in which the finest fruit hung temptingly in the rich light of a golden sky, and fountains which flung their waters aloft in every imaginable form and device, cooled the air and discoursed sweet music to the ear, while from behind every shrub there peeped out the statue or the bust of some great man, carved from the purest white marble, and placed in charming contrast with bouquets of rare flowers springing from stone vases."

(1) Of what is this a description?

(2) Where are Belgravia and Syria?

(3) Explain the meaning of 'mansion,' 'acme,' 'vestibule,' 'guests,' 'patron,' 'supplications,' 'adulations,' 'issuing,' 'mosaic,' 'decorated,' 'archives,' 'cabinet,' 'jewels,' 'anti-

quities,' 'peristyle,' 'device,' and 'bust,' in the place in which each occurs.

(4) Are the letters *ch* in 'archives' pronounced like *k*? Show, by spelling the word according to its sound, how you pronounce 'bouquets'.

(5) 'In those days' (1st sentence). In what days?

'On entering the former' (2nd sentence). On entering what?

'Issuing thence' (4th sentence). Whence?

(6) 'Lived on his smiles and bounty, but chiefly on the latter' (3rd sentence). Explain the meaning.

(7) 'Discoursed sweet music' (last sentence). What 'discoursed sweet music'? What is meant by discoursing sweet music?

4. What is the difference in meaning between 'statue and statute'; 'cloths and clothes'; 'find and fined'; 'rows and rose'?

DECEMBER, 1879.

1. Tell what you know about the founding of English colonies in North America in the seventeenth century.

2. "They threw themselves at the feet of Columbus with feelings of self-condemnation mingled with reverence. They implored him to pardon their ignorance, incredulity, and insolence, which had created him so much unnecessary disquiet, and had so often obstructed the prosecution of his well-concerted plan; and passing, in the warmth of their admiration from one extreme to another, they now pronounced the man whom they had so lately reviled and threatened, to be a person inspired by Heaven with sagacity and fortitude more than human, in order to accomplish a design so far beyond the ideas and conception of all former ages."—*Robertson*—*The Discovery of America*.

(1) In what year was America discovered by Columbus? In whose service was he at the time, and how many vessels did he have with him?

(2) What part of America did he first discover?

(3) Explain the meaning in which 'implored,' 'incredulity,' 'prosecution,' 'well-concerted,' 'reviled,' 'inspired,' 'Heaven,' 'sagacity,' 'fortitude,' 'conception,' 'ages,' are used in the passage.

(4) 'Created him so much unnecessary disquiet'. To what does this refer? What was 'his well-concerted plan'?

(5) 'From one extreme to another'. What were the two extremes?

(6) 'More than human'. What is understood after 'human'?

3. "The Red Man came,
The roaming hunter tribes, warlike and fierce,
And the Mound-builders vanished from the earth.

The solitude of centuries untold
Has settled where they dwelt. The prairie
wolf

Hunts in their meadows, and his fresh-dug den
Yawns by my path. The gopher mines the
ground

Where stood their swarming cities. All is
gone;

All—save the piles of earth that hold their
bones,

The platforms where they worshipped un-
known gods,

The barriers which they builded from the soil

To keep the foe at bay, till o'er the walls
The wild beleaguers broke, and, one by
one,

The strongholds of the plain were forced, and
heaped with corpses."

—*Bryant*—*The Prairies*.

(1) 'The solitude of centuries untold'. Explain the meaning of 'untold'. Parse it.

(2) Explain the meaning in which 'yawn,' 'swarming,' 'beleaguers,' and 'forced' are used in this passage.

(3) What is meant by 'keep the foe at bay' and 'the strongholds of the plain'? Who, according to Bryant, were the foe?

(4) What is the gopher?

(5) Point out the silent letters in 'The roaming hunter tribes, warlike and fierce'; and in 'The platforms where they worshipped unknown gods.' What final letter in the latter of these lines has a sound different from that which it usually has?

4. What is the difference in meaning between pine, the noun, and pine, the verb?

rue, " and rue, "

crew, " and crew, "

mean, " and mean, "

fare, " and fare, "

row, " and row, "

rail, " and rail, "

hail, " and hail, "

ward, " and ward "

blow, " and blow, "

mow, " and mow, "

peer, " and peer, "

JULY, 1880.

1. Tell what you know about the battle of Thermopylae.

2. "Impoverished by these disasters, it was not till the patent had nearly expired that Sir Humphrey procured the means to equip another expedition. With the assistance of Raleigh, now in high favor with the Queen, he collected a fleet of five ships. 'We were in all,' says the chronicler of the voyage, 'two hundred and sixty men; among whom we had of every faculty good choice; as shipwrights, masons, carpenters, smiths, and such like, requisite to such an action; also mineral men, and refiners. Besides, for solace of our own people, and allurement of the savages, we were provided with music in good variety; not omitting the best toys for Morris-dancers, hobby-horses and many like conceits.'"

—*Fourth Reader*, pp. 34 and 35.

(1) Give Sir Humphrey's surname; quote the celebrated saying he uttered before he was lost, and tell what you know about the expedition.

(2) Name the queen referred to.

(3) Tell what you know about Raleigh.

(4) Explain the meaning of 'impoverished,' 'disaster,' 'patent,' 'chronicler,' 'voyage,' 'mason,' 'mineral,' 'refiner,' 'solace,' 'allurement,' 'savages.'

3. Speed on the ship! but let her bear
No merchandise of sin,
No groaning cargo of despair
Her roomy hold within,
No Lethcan drug for Eastern lands,
Nor poison-draught for ours;
But honest fruits of toiling hands,
And nature's sun and showers!

—*Fourth Reader*, p. 69.

(1) Explain the meaning of 'merchandise,' 'cargo,' 'despair,' 'hold,' 'Lethcan,' 'drug,' 'draught.'

(2) To what kind of business does the poet refer in lines 3 and 4? in line 5? and in line 6?

(3) Parse 'sun,' line 8.

(4) What is meant by 'fruits,' in line 7? Why are they called 'honest'?

4. Distinguish 'paine' from 'pain,' 'rain,' " 'rein' and 'reign,' 'main,' " 'mane,' 'fame,' " 'feign,' 'lain,' " 'lane.'

5. Name the vowels. What is a diphthong? Point out the diphthongs in lines 3, 5 and 6, of the stanza quoted in question 3.