

missive period, no pecuniary benefit can accrue to the sections which may adopt it. II. Resolved, that in the opinion of this Association, First and Second Class and Intermediate candidates, who pass on the majority of the subjects required, and fail to pass in the other groups by a percentage not less than half that required, should not be again

compelled to write on the groups in which they have already passed, but only on those groups in which they have failed. III. That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Minister of Education.

D. E. STEPHENSON,

*Secretary.*

## CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

THE HISTORICAL READER. London: T. Nelson & Sons; Toronto: James Campbell & Son.

THE publishers intend this manual as a Supplementary Reader, to be used in schools where history is taught. It consists of extracts in prose and poetry, bearing upon remarkable persons and events in English History, made from the works of authors of the highest standing. Though we do not endorse the statement in the preface that "the specimens of standard authors which it (the book) contains will encourage a taste for good literature," we certainly do think that putting such high class literature before our advanced classes will familiarize them with a good English style; and this is greatly needed to counteract the bad effect of the slovenly writing to be found in too many of our school text-books. When we state that Hume, Green, Robertson, Macaulay, Kinglake, Carlyle, Froude, Tennyson, Mrs. Browning, and Cowper, are among the authors laid under contribution, our readers will infer that judgment has been used in making the selections. Among the subjects and persons treated of are the Roman Conquest, the English Conquest, Bede, Alfred, Death of Becket, Magna Charta, William Caxton, Mary Queen of Scots, The Armada, the Heights of Abraham, the Reform Bill. In further proof of the earnestness of the publishers to produce a really good book, we have an extract from such recent works as Justin McCarthy's "History of our own

Time," and Kinglake's "History of the Crimean War," with a diagram of the battle of the Alma. Like the others of the Royal School Series, this book is enriched by vocabularies of difficult words, by explanatory notes, and by sketch maps. We can strongly commend it for private reading, as well as for a class book in our schools.

A GRADED SPELLING BOOK, by F. H. Harrington, Superintendent of Public Schools, New Bedford, Mass. New York: Harper Brothers.

A CASUAL glance at the contents of this book shows that it has been prepared by one who has had experience in school-room work. Its distinguishing features are seen at once. 1. In the early pages, the words for spelling are printed in script, as well as in the Roman type. 2. It is really a progressive spelling book. 3. Attention is confined in the ordinary lessons to words most frequently used, not only in ordinary intercourse, but in the common studies of the school-room. 4. An attempt is made to teach the proper use of words, by printing a few promiscuously, and subjoining elliptical sentences requiring their use. We think this, as an exercise, is so admirable, not alone in spelling, but in composition, that we give an example from page 2, second part.

Chiefly, preserved, crocodiles, reptiles, consist, lynx, sandwich, lizards, frigates, highly, remarkably, cracker, sardine, esteemed, slices, toads.