

To organize all such societies into one, to bind them together by the common ties of interest and emulation, to direct them in prosecuting their work from one central department, would surely be one of the grandest educational reforms of the age.

The Rev. Dr. Vincent conceived the idea of accomplishing this great work, and by founding the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle he has established a simple and effective means for the accomplishment of his noble purpose. The special features which adapt it to the circumstances of all communities are :

1. Its course is broad, and the books to be read are standard works in their respective departments.
2. The course can be read with ease by those who determine to follow it, whatever may be their position.
3. While local circles for mutual aid, drill, and discussion are very desirable, they are not essential. Even one person can prosecute his reading independently.
4. Where local circles are formed, every possible variety of literary exercises may be conducted in direct connection with the prescribed course. Debates, discussions, reviews, essays, &c., may all be based upon the books recently read, and as every member will be familiar with the subject from his recent reading, all will be able to take an intelligent part in such proceedings.

The attention of teachers and all interested in the wider diffusion of intelligence through good reading, is specially directed to this great movement.

#### MUSIC—WHICH METHOD?

The spread of the "Tonic Sol Fa" system of teaching music in England has been undoubtedly very rapid, notwithstanding the fact that the Government of Mr. Gladstone came into power barely in time to prevent the issue of a departmental edict against its recognition by Her Majesty's Inspectors in the Public Schools. Mr. Mundella withheld the prohibitory regulation; and by far the largest number of the public schools report that the "Tonic Sol Fa" system is the one which they have adopted.

What is the reason that conservative, steady-going England has surrendered to the advocates of the new method, while in America they have not been able to obtain a single marked triumph? We believe the reason is not far to seek. The conquest in England is a glorious victory of the Teacher over the Professor of Music. The battle has not been between systems, or notations, so much as between teachers and musicians. It was natural that teachers should succeed best in teaching. There is nothing wonderful in that; it would have been simply disgraceful to the teachers had it been otherwise.

In America the case has been quite different. Music has been taught in its chief cities in the same way as other subjects. There has been no mystery thrown around it. The same principles that have been found to be correct in teaching arithmetic have been applied with equally good results in the teaching of music. A knowledge of music has been regarded as essential *on the part of the teacher*, but a more thorough knowledge has been required of the true principles of teaching.

Many simple, progressive, and developing manuals have been issued for the guidance of teachers in teaching this subject. Did ever any one see such a book issued in England? There are an endless number of learned treatises on the subject, and very many valuable collections of songs, but not a single simple and systematic work on the *method of teaching* the staff notation. In this respect Mr. Curwen and the other "Tonic Sol Fa" teachers are far in advance in England.

There is probably another reason for the comparatively easy victory of the Sol-fa-ists in the "old land." There they had to attack the Hullah or "Fixed Do" system, while in America the "Movable Do" held sway, except in Ontario. In the Toronto Normal School the Hullah system was long recognized, but has been wisely abandoned during the past few years, in reality if not in name.

We hold, therefore, that the "Tonic Sol Fa," which has many excellent points, achieved success in England not so much on account of its own strength, as the weakness of those who opposed. It overcame a weak system of staff notation, presented by men who understood music well, but knew little of teaching. We hold also, and the experience of many American cities, notably Boston, Cleveland, and Cincinnati, clearly proves, that the staff notation may be easily, naturally, and most successfully taught in the public schools, if the teachers have a fair knowledge of music combined with a practical acquaintance with correct methods of teaching.

We would much prefer the "Tonic Sol Fa" system if presented by a *teacher*, to any staff notation taught by a *professor* who is not a teacher. Much teacher with little music, rather than much music with little teacher. Mr. Curwen himself said that if he had been previously acquainted with the Boston system of teaching music, he would not have considered it so necessary to found the "Tonic Sol Fa" system.

#### OUR COLLEGE CLUSTER.

McMaster Hall, the new Baptist Theological College, named after its generous founder, which has just been opened in Toronto, promises to take a high position among the educational institutions of Ontario. The building is magnificent in size and style, and convenient in arrangement. No pains or expense has been spared to secure the best known systems of heating and ventilation. The staff of Professors guarantees practicability and thoroughness. Professor Castle is the President of the College, and he is to be assisted by Professors McVicar and Newman. We are very glad to welcome Professor Malcolm McVicar on his return to Canada. He will be missed in the United States, where he has resided for several years. The college is to be in connection with Toronto University, where its students will complete their course in Arts, before entering upon Theology.

It is very encouraging to see so many educational institutions clustering around our national University, and in affiliation with it. Standing in the centre (and what a centre it makes), it has to the east St. Michael's College; to the south are the School of Technology and the new Episcopal Divinity School in course of erection; on the west stands Knox College; and on