

# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

FOR THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Book Notices. We continue to receive the monthly numbers of Berlin's "Magazine." We are happy to see that this justly popular periodical continues to merit the well earned confidence of Magazine readers. The matter is instructive and entertaining.

The Rhode Island "School Master," published in Providence, R. I., the "University Monthly," the "Educational Monthly," the New York "Teacher," the "Journal of Education" for Ontario and Quebec, and the "Journal of American Education," are received. These works are valuable contributions to the cause of Education, and if possible should be in the hands of those engaged in Educational work, especially are they commended to Trustees and Teachers.

**THE SCHOOL LAW.** We have not been able to supply the Manual of School Laws and Regulations to Trustees and others who have applied for it. Early in the year the first edition was exhausted and we delayed printing a second till the Education Law, as amended at the last Session of the Legislature, could be officially published. To meet immediate demands we are about to issue a temporary unbound edition of the Law which will be ready in a few days. Inspectors and Trustees will be supplied with this until a new edition of the School Manual can be prepared.

**HANDBOOK OF WORDS.** Mr. Gossip has placed upon our table a small book, entitled a "Pronouncing Handbook of words often mispronounced, and also of words as to which a choice of pronunciation is allowed."

The purpose of the book is to report the current usage of the best speakers with regard to such words as are most liable to be mispronounced, and also to record such words as may be pronounced in either of two ways without any offence to good taste.

The design and plan of the work are good, and especially in the hands of our teachers it will be of great service; we do not, therefore, hesitate to commend it to a favorable consideration.

The Book contains three thousand words. The price is sixty cents and is for sale at the Book Store of Wm. Gossip, Granville Street.

## THE WINTER TERM.

**T**HE Winter Term of the Common Schools, throughout the Province, is now about commencing; and this fact suggests some ideas which we would like to impress upon the School Trustees, the parents and guardians of children who attend, or ought to attend School,—and indeed upon the friends of education generally. They may be very common place ideas; but nevertheless they seem to be too much lost sight of.

As a general rule, a lesser number of young, or small, children attend our schools during the Winter, than during the Summer Term. It is during the latter that the larger number of older and more advanced pupils attend School. The obvious reason of this is, that, during the open or Summer season, it is considered indispensable that the time of the youths of our laboring classes, especially of the young men, must be employed in the vocations to which they respectively belong. It is argued that the needs of the class in question make this necessary; and it is probable that, in many instances, this argument is irrefutable. If so, we find in this fact the greater necessity for making due provisions for the educational wants of those young people who can only attend school for a part of the year.

Trustees should endeavour to secure the services of first-class male teachers to meet the requirements of these older and more advanced pupils; and since the Winter Term is the time during which alone a large proportion of them can attend school, extra pains should be taken to secure the services of teachers of the class just named, during the Winter Term. We have frequently, in these columns, lamented the propensity—we fear the growing propensity—of Trustees, to employ inferior teachers because they could obtain their services at a low salary. The bad policy and the downright evil of such a course, have been, again and again, pointed out in the Annual Reports of the Educational Department. We shall now only once more protest generally against the folly of such a procedure, whether the provision to be made is for a Summer, or a Winter Term.

During the Winter Term, however, and for the reasons already intimated, it is especially important that care should be taken to provide first-class teachers for our schools. It is extremely to be regretted that, for the sake of a pecuniary consideration, trivial at the most, when distributed over the rate-payers of any ordinary School section, those schools should be rendered insufficient to provide the competent instruction for our young people comprising the older and more advanced pupils. When such is

the case, our Common School system fails to meet the requirements which it was intended to meet.

Let us consider the case of one single class of pupils alone. A very large proportion of the young men and boys of Nova Scotia, are intended for a seafaring life. They begin their virtual apprenticeship at an early age. It is their habit to go to sea during the Spring, Summer and Autumnal months, or the greater part of them. In Winter they usually remain at home; and this is the only time they have for attending School. When the opportunity is afforded them of doing so, a large proportion of them avail themselves of this opportunity. But as most of them are, as pupils, advanced comparatively in years, and many of them in attainments, it is utterly useless for them to attend, a cheap School kept by a woman, or a boy, or by any teacher of inferior attainments. In fact they will not attend such a one at all; and in such case the time which might be most valuable to them is lost. These young seafaring men can never reach the higher, and more responsible, and more remunerative stations of their profession—they can never even put themselves in a position to qualify for them—unless they have first obtained a first-class Common School Education. We doubt not that every Nova Scotia seafaring youth, when the first goes to sea, hopes, and certainly he ought to hope, that he will one day command and perhaps own the ship that he sails in. It is his right to be provided with the facilities for acquiring an education which will qualify him for such a position. We have taken one class of what are usually among our older and more advanced pupils, as an illustration. We might take any other class of them, and argue, with equal force, upon their claims to be provided with facilities for first-class Common School Education.

We must recur to the general subject of Teachers' Salaries. It is one which will bear being harped upon; for it is one to which, we regret to say, a large number of our people do not attach due importance. There would really seem to be almost an infatuation upon the subject. During the Summer now just passed, a number of our first class teachers have left Nova Scotia. Why? Simply and solely because the remuneration which they could here obtain for their services was inadequate to support their families. The only way in which we can retain the services of our first class men in the teaching profession, is by giving them fair salaries. In truth they, if any people in the world, ought to be dealt with even generously. Men who are only half supported in any profession, or business, will, as a general rule, leave it as soon as they can. Those who do not leave it can scarcely be expected to exert themselves very strenuously in the line of their duty. Whether it is expected of them, or not, there is not one in a thousand who will do it. It is not human nature that they should.

Where, in the teaching profession, people are constantly performing "dying views," it is impossible that we can have many experienced teachers, and perhaps there is no other profession in which experience is so great an element of value as it is in that of teaching. Certainly this fact should not be overlooked. We wish that we could impress upon trustees everywhere the value of this truth; that low class and what are held to be cheap teachers, are after all, by far the most expensive, as they are the most inefficient, that trustees can employ.

In this matter some few School sections of our Province are setting worthy example. Yarmouth, for instance, always—candor compels us to say—in the first rank in useful and generous enterprises amongst the communities of Nova Scotia, takes a lead here too, we find. We know of one teacher in a public school there to which an annual salary of \$1200—twelve hundred dollars—is given. We have no doubt that the people find it